

Meeting Minutes from ISB Diversity Section Meeting

November 30, 2018

Agenda

I. **Call to Order**

a. **Members, Guests Present:**

- i. Courtney Holthus
- ii. Jim Cook
- iii. Ron Bruce
- iv. Greg Bradford, University of Idaho Student Representative
- v. Diana Dejesus, University of Idaho
- vi. Brit Kreimeyer
- vii. Judge Sergio Gutierrez
- viii. Kinzo Mihara (via telephone)
- ix. Jason Gray (via telephone)

II. **Approval of Past Meeting Minutes (July, September)**

- a. Jim moved to approve past meeting minutes, seconded by Ron. All in favor, passed.

III. **Treasurer Update**

- a. Jim reported that we have a balance of \$3869 above budget as of 10/31/18. According to his records, in recent years, the last year was the only year we were significantly overspent. The other 3-4 years we would have a few hundred in black at end of the year. Jim believes that with where we are right now, assuming no major expenses, the Section will end year very positively.
- b. Analysis of this year's budget:
 - i. Grant revenue – at \$5445, much more than anticipated.
 - ii. Admin fee to bar – \$1349, much lower than anticipated.
 - iii. Grant Expenses - \$2129.
 - iv. Royalties – \$5500 budgeted, but at \$1290 right now – biggest difference.
 - v. CLE – budgeted \$3000, currently at 0.
 - vi. Sponsorships – budgeted \$2000, currently at 0.
 - vii. Will need to talk with the Bar about the overage. Will be some expenditures in the next month to help spend down our overage (Love the Law! expenses for event in December and expenses related to our CLE in December as well). We anticipate \$500 for the cost of the webcast for our CLE. We have decided not to take revenue off of our December CLE because of our overage, so will donate profit/revenue to the Access to Justice fund.
 - viii. As to the \$356 of special event expense in our financials, Jim believes that was for funds spent on our co-sponsored reception at the annual bar this past summer.
 - ix. Our financials also show a donation of approx. \$250 for Linda Palls' memorial scholarship donations.

IV. **Love the Law! Update**

- a. Kinzo reported on event in November in CDA – 2 classes, comprised of 50 kids total attended. Kinzo had arranged for 3 judges to be present: 9th Circuit Court of Appeals

Judge, Judge Nye from the Idaho Federal District Court, and Idaho (State Court) District Judge Cindy Meyer. Students observed 2 sentencing cases in front of Judge Nye. Kinzo, an Assistant U.S. Attorney and the Federal Court Clerk gave talks on their backgrounds, career paths, and what they do as attorneys, as well as what the federal court clerk does and the federal court system in general. The LTL Subcommittee/Section sponsored lunch for the students and presenters. Then, the Judges gave talks about their backgrounds, when and why they became judges, cases they preside over, etc. After a Q&A session, students were able to tour the courthouse.

- b. Courtney then talked about the LTL event in Caldwell/Canyon County event. Will be held on Tuesday, December 11, 2018. So far, 15 students have been signed up. The group discussed ways to combat the low turn-out rates. Boise events typically fill up at 80+ attendees. This event has not had as much success for turnout. Group discussed opening the event up to students from Boise, to ensure spots are filled, esp. schools in Boise with high populations of diverse students. Courtney would also follow up with a teacher in Caldwell to ensure the invites were received. Diana offered to provide her Trio representative contacts as well.
- c. Next LTL meeting is on January 10, 2019 at 12 PM MST.

V. LTL Scholarship Revamp:

- a. Group discussed that during our last meeting, it was pointed out that the latest list of bar passage results showed decreasing number of minority students. Section is hoping to coordinate with the Idaho law schools to identify what the specific barriers are for minority students when it comes to bar passage and how LTL/Diversity Section can better tailor its financial support to provide assistance. Is support needed for LSAT/entry into law school or more at the tail end, with Bar review courses, fees, and stipends for general financial support.
- b. Diana reported that at U of I, Barbri is now included with tuition for students.
- c. Kinzo had volunteered to help provide tutorials at the law schools on bar passage tips, as a bar exam grader. Could commit to do this in Moscow and perhaps 1/year in Boise. There may be other graders in the Boise area willing to do this. Maureen at the ISB may have names to provide.
- d. Judge Gutierrez shared that minority students frequently must work during college and law school and that working during bar prep makes passage incredibly difficult. He noted that that there were 4-5 Latino students from U of I who did not pass the bar this time around.
- e. Mahmood from the Bar added that he estimated that only 30-40% of minority students are passing the Bar.
- f. Diana shared that students from minority or low income backgrounds need financial assistance with books, so it would be helpful if there were funds available to assist with that – so students could start school off with the items they need to be successful.
- g. The group discussed the purpose behind the scholarship program. Judge Gutierrez shared that at the inception, it was to address the issue that only 1-2 Latinos were applying to Idaho's law school at the time. The Section/LTL Committee had thought perhaps LSAT scores/costs were the barrier. Now, there are increasing numbers of

students from minority backgrounds applying. The current hurdle appears to be bar passage. Perhaps it's time to shift our focus from LSAT to Bar Prep/support.

- h. Mahmood wondered if perhaps we could continue to offer some LSAT support as well, at least for the LSAC fees and LSAT testing fees, if LSAT prep courses are now being offered free of charge.
- i. Judge Gutierrez wondered if perhaps we should take the scholarship management out of the Love the Law! Committee and create a collaborative group with the law schools so that the Section can continue to financially meet the needs of both law schools students. He suggested that the larger, collaborative group have a development component to it so money is continued to be raised in support of the scholarship program. He would offer to continue to provide support for this program.
- j. Brit then moved to vote to revamp our scholarship program, so that such changes could be made. Jim seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

VI. CLE for Winter 2018

- a. Section's Winter CLE entitled: "Lost in Translation: Understanding the Importance of Overcoming Language Access Barriers in the Courts" is scheduled to be held next Thursday, December 6, 2018 from 2-5 PM. All revenues, proceeds are going to the Access to Justice Campaign.
- b. Mahmood shared that as of today, there were 10-12 registrants for in-person and 10-12 for website. An additional 3 registrants were added this morning.
- c. Judge Gutierrez was still slated to provide opening remarks at the CLE although the Supreme Court was currently finding his replacement on the language access committee due to his upcoming retirement.

VII. Membership Update

- a. Brit and Mahmood reported that our membership numbers are highest they have ever been. Currently at around 72-74 members.

VIII. Section Sponsor of the Advocate

- a. Brit reported that the Section is currently scheduled to sponsor the June/July 2019 Advocate. Deadline is April 10th for submission with final revisions due May 1st. Brit will reach out to members for interest in authoring articles. Will need to figure out advocate section title. Judge Gutierrez suggested that perhaps we survey membership for what issues/topics would be recommended for the article and what volunteers are interested in writing.

IX. Other Business/Updates

- a. Jim reported that Tanner Bean reached out to the Section regarding a religious freedom, LGBT, nondiscrimination event at Concordia to be held on Feb. 22, 2019. The school had invited Section membership to attend a planning meeting that was being held at the same time as today's Section meeting. He responded to let Tanner know that due to the scheduling conflict we couldn't attend today's meeting, but offered to go to a next meeting, if need be.

X. Close Meeting

- a. Brit moved to close, Courtney seconded. All in favor, meeting adjourned.