

INDIAN LAW SECTION

December 17, 2004 @ 9:00 AM
State Bar of New Mexico, Conference Room
Albuquerque, NM

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Pam Ray, chair at 9:10 a.m. at the state bar center.

Attendance:

Present: Steffani Cochran; Robert Gruenig (phone); Karl Johnson; Joan Kozon (phone); Rosemary Maestas-Swazo; Helen Padilla; Pam Ray; Larry Ruzow; Gloria Valencia-Weber; and

Absent: Aaron Frankland; Marte Lightstone; Doug Nash.

Approval of October 22, 2004 Minutes

On motion made by Karl Johnson and second by Joan Kozon, the minutes were approved unanimously.

I. Old Business

A. CLE Committee Report

--Rosemary Maestas-Swazo and Rob Koonce, Director of the CLE program of the state bar of New Mexico foundation, reported on the October 9, 2004 CLE sponsored by the Indian Law Section in cooperation with the School of Law, the Indian Bar Association and the Navajo Nation Bar Association and the state bar foundation. Rosemary expressed her disappointment that not as many members of the section participated. The planners had hoped the attendance would reach 80, but it fell short of that number.

Rob Koonce reported on the financial aspects of the CLE. The revenues were split with the school of law after expenses were subtracted. The total proceeds after expenses was \$731.54. That was split between the CLE office and the school of law, each receiving \$365.77. Expenses included \$277.04 for lodging of speakers and \$85.61 for lunches for the planning group. The Indian Law Section agreed to pay for

the planning group lunches.

A discussion about the kinds of future CLE's the section could sponsor ensued. Larry Ruzow noted that our CLE could supplement Canby's Indian law in a Nutshell. The section has a small membership, many members live a great distance from Albuquerque and many members are low income attorneys.

Mini-CLEs were also seen as a possibility, a CLE for one-half day. Joining with other bar sections such as the water law section or children's law. It was suggested that the CLE be given at the same time each year to allow for planning and so that members know when to expect the CLE to be given.

Rosemary noted that the team work among the planning group was impressive. The team worked hard. It appeared that not only was lodging difficult to find during balloon fiesta, it was more expensive.

No decisions were made about future CLEs.

B. Scholarship - Gloria Valencia-Webber

The Indian law section decided in May to discontinue the writing competition and to instead begin to sponsor a bar scholarship. Professor Valencia-Webber suggested that the section develop criteria for award of the scholarship such as requiring that a person explain their commitment to both practicing Indian law and practicing it in New Mexico. The Hispanic bar has built up its scholarship to around \$25,000 per year that is raised through an aggressive fund raising effort that includes a big awards dinner. The Hispanic bar also provides scholarships for books for students still in the 2nd and 3rd year of law school.

Rosemary Maestas-Swazo expressed her concern that the ILS has a very limited number of people in the section when compared to the number of members of the Hispanic Bar. Discussion included:

- § that such a scholarship could be at most \$1,000 at our current membership level;
- § the scholarship could bring the section added goodwill and might help increase membership;
- § over time the scholarships would be expected and could be a good vehicle for fundraising.

A motion was made to establish a subcommittee to look into how a scholarship

beginning in 2006 should be structured. Karl Johnson made the motion, Pam Ray seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Karl will chair the committee on the scholarship, Bob Gruenig and Pam Ray will serve as members.

II. Announcements

A. Larry Ruzow asked the section to send a letter of condolence and appreciation to the family of Claudeen Bates Arthur for her years of service as an attorney and counselor to Indian people and especially tribes. It was agreed that the section would do that and Rosemary and Pam would sign the letter.

B. Pam Ray discussed a request by a woman named Rebecca Azen who is an archivist and librarian who has worked with tribes who has requested the Indian Law Section to send her resume to members of the section. Keith was going to look into the possibility of doing that.

C. Keith was asked to look into the manner in which room charges are made by the state bar, for what purposes will charges be made and for what groups.

III. Next Meeting Date:

Time: January 14, 2005 at 1:30 p.m.

Location: State Bar

IV. Adjournment

Time: 10:00 a.m.