

**INDIAN LAW SECTION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

December 5, 2003 @ 9:00 AM
Law Offices of Modrall, Sperling, Roehl, Harris & Sisk, PA
500 4th Street NW, Suite 1000, Albuquerque, NM 87103

MINUTES

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call:
 - A. Present: Steffani Cochran; Rosemary Maestas-Swazo; Doug Nash; Pam Ray; Lynn Slade; Kevin Washburn; Germaine Chappelle; Aaron Frankland; Karl Johnson.
 - B. Absent: Joan Kozon; Larry Ruzow; Marte Lightstone.
3. Approval of Agenda: The agenda was amended upon request of Kevin Washburn to hear agenda the Writing Competition agenda item at the beginning of the "Old Business" section of the meeting. Motion made by Lynn Slade; 2nd – Rosemary Maestas-Swazo. Unanimous.
4. Approval of September 5, 2003 Minutes. Unanimous.
5. Welcome and Introductions: of old and new board members.
 - A. New 2004 Board Members: There was no contested election. All of the new members were therefore elected by acclamation as provided for in the bar bulletin and state bar website. The new members are:
 - (1) Germaine Chappelle;
 - (2) Aaron Frankland;
 - (3) Karl Johnson; and
 - (4) Marte Lightstone.
 - B. Members leaving the board are:
 - (1) Lynn Slade; and

(2) Kevin Washburn.

6. State Bar Updates:

A. CLE Update:

(1) Jini Wimmer, Acting Interim CLE Director reported that the state bar is in the process of hiring a permanent director. Jini said she had received feedback from others of interest in putting on a ½ to full day CLE program on Indian Law. Discussion regarding MCLE services ensued. Steffani Cochran and Rosemary Maestas-Swazo, as Chairs of SB-ILS and NM Indian Bar Association (NMIBA) have included in the newsletter a membership survey that requested feedback on what topic areas and kinds of CLEs members are interested in attending. The SB-ILS and NMIBA will work in conjunction with UNM law school to coordinate efforts and co-sponsor a CLE for 2004 since these organizations have overlapping membership and past CLEs held at the UNM law school have been successful.

B. Section Information

(2) Chris Halter Morganti, Director of Member and Public Resources, State Bar Center gave an overview of procedures regarding section interaction with the state bar.

7. Old Business:

A. Committee Reports

(1) Writing Competition – Kevin Washburn will continue to chair the ILS writing competition. The board discussed its desire to continue with the writing competition with prize amounts of 1st prize \$500 and 2nd prize of \$250. Kevin agreed to send out an

announcement before the end of the year for the 2004 writing competition. He will coordinate sending out an email to the section members requesting their participation to be possible judges for the writing competition. Kevin asked for formal board approval of continuing with writing competition and prize amounts.

1st – Kevin Washburn, 2nd Lynn Slade. Unanimous approval.

(2) Newsletter

a. Lynn Slade requested that the board thank Maggie Coffey-Pilcher (Modrall) and others who helped put together the draft newsletter. The Board thanked all involved for a job well done.

b. Lynn asked the board members to review the draft newsletter and submit any responses and corrections by next Wednesday, December 12, 2003. The newsletter will be submitted via email and print copies will be sent to those who don't have email addresses. Also a copy of the newsletter will be posted to the SB-ILS website.

(3) Website – Pam Ray reported again that the website is up and running. The tribal court handbook is available on the website. Updates will be made to the handbook. Karl Johnson and Steffani Cochran expressed interested in working on the Website.

B. Bylaws Amendment for Student Membership Fees – Steffani Cochran has drafted language to the SB-ILS bylaws to reflect the changes approved by the Board of Bar Commissioners which would now allow the creation of a new membership class to include students. Students may also become

members of specific sections and divisions of the state bar, including the SB-ILS. The board of bar commissioners requested that the individual state bar sections and divisions waive their membership fees.

Motion: Lynn Slade, 2nd Pam Ray. Unanimous approval. Approve the insertion of the language allowing students gratis membership in the Indian Law Section into the SB-ILS bylaws.

8. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

A. Inform Tribal Judges and Governors of the SB-ILS website.

After discussion, the board decided that a letter be sent after the new year. It was suggested that the board wait until the new tribal leadership is installed in January before sending the draft letter.

The letter would essentially inform tribal judges and leadership of the SB-ILS website, and the possibility of having links to the tribal codes, web pages and other tribe-specific information. The letter would also make them aware of the tribal code handbook and ask for their assistance in keeping the handbook updated. The tribes would also have access to the web page and handbook.

B. Tribal-State Judicial Consortium Appropriation Endorsement - A motion was made to seek approval from the SB-ILS membership to support of the Tribal-State Judicial Consortium's request for 2004 appropriation from State Legislature of less than \$15,000 by Lynn Slade; 2nd Pam Ray. Unanimous approval.

The SB-ILS will provide notification in the December 18th bar bulletin and by email to its members that the board of directors SB-ILS board of directors meeting on Jan. 9, 2004.

9. Announcements

A. Amicus Brief and Oral Arguments for United States v. Lara – NARF

has all the briefs available on their website.

B. Court of Appeals Decision in *New Mexico v. Del E. Romero* – NCAI has all the briefs available on their website.

C. Conference on Commonality: Partnerships & Opportunities for a Diverse Legal Community. Rosemary Maestas-Swazo provided information about the conference which is to be held on Saturday, January 24, 2004 at the State Bar Center from 10am to 4pm. Essentially, the conference's goal is to bring together representatives from virtually every New Mexico minority organization. Each organization is requested to send three (3) members of leadership who can represent the varying views of the respective organizations. The Conference will address pressing concerns and common interests that include: mentoring of young lawyers and law students, bar exam preparation, leadership training and development, judicial representation and lack thereof, local and state bar participation, and solo and small firm resources.

10. Next Meeting Date : Friday, January 9, 2004 at 9:00 am
State Capitol Building, Rm 411, Conference Room

11. ADJOURNMENT