

FEDERAL BAR ASSOCIATION
IMMIGRATION LAW SECTION
BOARD MEETING

MINUTES: April 2, 2016

Participating Board Members: Bob Beer, Hon. Larry Burman, Barry Frager, Regina Germain, Tina Goel, Hon. John F. Gossart, Prakash Khatri, Kristen Kimmelman, Jan Pedersen, Christine Poarch, Mark Shmueli, Elizabeth Stevens, Kimberly Sutton, George Terezakis

1. **Call to Order** (Judge Burman, Section Vice Chair) at 6:04 pm.
2. Minutes for March 2, 2016: Prakash Khatri moved to approve the minutes, Jan Pedersen seconded, no opposition, minutes approved.
3. Treasurer's Report / Budget Committee: Nothing to report from CLE; no financials report received from national, no budget expenses approved by committee
4. Please note there are lots of FBA programs and events on the calendar.
5. **COMMITTEES:** (Judge Khan)
 - Kristen Kimmelman will step up as the chair of the Liaison Committee
 - Judge Harbeck and Judge Burman are working to ensure that the bylaws are up-to date.
6. **PROGRAMS:**
 - **DC Luncheons** (Prakash Khatri) Next luncheon is scheduled for April 13 – Dave McConnell from the Department of Justice's Office of Immigration Litigation, Appellate Section, is the featured speaker. The new lunch venue (at Carmine's) is working out well. The March luncheon made over \$600.
 - The luncheon committee, as always, is looking for table sponsors.
 - The committee is open to suggestions for featured speakers from the public sector; feel free to email either Betty or Prakash with suggestions (and if they are not FBA members, contact information is appreciated).
 - **The Diversity Committee and the Young Lawyers Committee's** webinar series initial launch was a success. The first three webinars are free for ILS members. Four future topics are being confirmed. We invite suggestions.
 - The webinar set for April 27, on the topic of family-based immigration, will feature a panel consisting of ILS's Kimberly Sutton, Reena Parikh from USCIS-OCC, and Jeannie Kain (NGO-Boston)
 - The Diversity Committee is also working on a membership survey and will circulate a draft of that when possible.
 - The Committees hope to get the membership survey results shortly.
 - Rome conference: ILS is a co-sponsor of the Rome conference; Ray Fasano and Peggy McCormick are co-chairs

7. **ILS National Conference – New Orleans**

- Mark Shmueli: registration so far stands at 172, not including speakers (137), which is twice what we had at this time last year. The registrants include numerous non-members.
- Sponsorships have reached \$7K. Please keep pushing for sponsorships, and advertising by word of mouth.
- 20 have registered for the port tour, and 8-12 for the luncheon at Eden House
- Panels are going well, and meeting deadlines. Please check schedules for changes
- Marriott has opened up Saturday night in the hotel room block
- We'll have book signings at the conference
- Still some openings for law school volunteers

8. **GAO SURVEY:**

- Christine Poarch: GAO will be doing a survey as to the feasibility of Article I immigration courts; she will be on a call 4/26

9. **ELECTIONS:** please contact Judge Wilson with questions, nominations, etc.

10. **ANNUAL SECTION MEETING:** is set for Thursday, May 12 after the Keynote; lunch will be served

11. NEW BUSINESS

- Judge Burman wants the section to strongly consider Arlington, Virginia, as the location for next year's conference, due to the ability to get significant agency participation. Others raised concerns about top agency personnel appearances interfering with the ability to provide basic ILS education. Suggestions to consider more regional/local conferences, which are more accessible. Another suggestion is to accommodate both sides – return to a high-profile DC for a day and have the annual CLE elsewhere. Deferred for further consideration.
- The Border Law Conference will be held in Tucson during January/February 2017 – watch for further announcements.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM Eastern time.

Next Board Meeting: Wednesday May 4