

FEDERAL BAR ASSOCIATION  
IMMIGRATION LAW SECTION  
BOARD MEETING

**MINUTES: August 3, 2016**

Participating Board Members: Hon. Larry Burman, Bob Beer, Justin Burton, Amy Gell, Tina Goel, Hon. John Gossart, Linda Kenepaske, Hon. Amiena Khan, Prakash Khatri, Jan Pederson, Christine Poarch, Eileen Scofield, Mark Shmueli, Elizabeth Stevens, Kimberly Sutton; George Terezakis, Dr. Alicia Triche, Hon. Earle Wilson

Guest: Karen Silberman

- **Call to Order** (Eileen Scofield, Section Chair) at 6:07 pm.
- **Mission Statement:** The mission of the Association is to strengthen the federal legal system and administration of justice by serving the interests and the needs of the federal practitioner, both public and private, the federal judiciary and the public they serve.
- **Minutes:** Minutes for June 1, 2016: Justin Burton moved to approve the draft minutes for June, 2016; Judge Khan seconded; none opposed, motion passed.

Minutes for July 6, 2016: Tina Goel noted a typo, Secretary Stevens amended the minutes, Linda Kenepaske moved to approve the minutes as amended, Kimberly Sutton seconded, no one opposed, all votes in favor, motion passed, minutes approved.

- **Treasurer's Report / Budget Committee:** Barry Frager was not present.

**NATIONAL:**

- **FBA Government Relations Committee Request for Opinion:** Amy Gell informed the GRC that significant potential conflicts existed to make endorsement of an ILS position problematic; the issue is tabled for now.
- **FBA National Conference:** Cleveland, September 15-17. Eileen Scofield placed several ILS initiatives under consideration as Super Ideas, including the webinar series, the NY asylum seminar, and the University of Maryland program on Race and Sanctuary Cities seminar. Anyone who plans to attend should let Eileen know.
- **Karen Silberman from FBA National** provided information on the 2016 financials

**2016 Conference:**

- The 2016 conference increased attendance by 125, from 325 to 450.
- Conference revenue was 32,000
- Expenses were over budget. A/V expenses went over due to late submissions on the lunch panels and mic needs. Preplanning for next year should reduce this figure. Some ideas for cutting costs are to no longer have unlimited open bar; drink tickets were suggested. For example, Wednesday's reception used to be a ticketed event
- Eileen praised the YLD event as great fun and filled with energy; a big success.

- Mark Shmueli reported that the conference brought in lots of new people, received quality reviews, and the buzz created is a big plus.
- The sound at the Thursday reception at the 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals Great Hall was a bit of a problem, but the venue was beautiful.
- Judge Burman asked National whether speaker travel (which was not indicated in the provided financials) exceeded \$3K; the answer was yes. National was reviewing to determine whether ILS would be covering the overage as indicated would be done before the conference. National will follow up.
- Judge Khan praised Mark Shmueli for an excellent job
- The conference survey results are a great baseline for moving forward with the 2017 conference; they will make good marketing materials.

### **2017 conference:**

- The Embassy Suites in Denver is the site for 2017. There are direct flights into Denver from everywhere. Capacity will be 450. AN RFP is out for three tracks, we may be able to add a 4<sup>th</sup> track. The key is keeping balance with volume, intimacy, and profit.
- The current 2017 conference committee – made up of those who emailed Eileen with interest: Jeff Joseph (wants to join Board), Mark Shmueli, Brandon Lowy, Betty Stevens, and Judge Khan.

### **PROGRAMS:**

- **Pro Bono Effort:** If you are interested in working to facilitate coordination of funding for pro bono programs, contact Eileen.
- **Webinar series** is ongoing. The YLD Committee is looking into cost issues.
- **Rome conference:** registration has opened
- **Outreach Cuba:** Fall 2016 suggested timeline to work on setting up book access program
- **2018 conference:** discuss in October

### **COMMITTEES:**

- Need to update committee member lists for the next year
  - Membership: now 577
  - Nominating Committee: Chair: Judge Earle Wilson – The Committee met and considering 2 individuals for the Secretary position. The content of the email from National that arrived August 3 was unanticipated, but won't change this year's slate. The committee will meet next week to finalize its recommended slate.
  - Communications: Dr. Triche: ILS has been invited to do an immigration issue for the Federal Lawyer. It will be the May 2017 issue – just 1 time for the conference. Deadlines for submissions January 1. There will be space for 6 articles, 3-8K in length. Contact Dr. Triche if you want to submit an article.
  - Latest Green Card – kudos to Larry.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 PM Eastern time.

**Next Board Meeting: Wednesday September 7**