

FEDERAL BAR ASSOCIATION
IMMIGRATION LAW SECTION
BOARD MEETING

MINUTES: June 1, 2016

Participating Board Members: Hon. Larry Burman, Barry Frager, Amy Gell, Regina Germain, Tina Goel, Hon. John F. Gossart, Hon. Amiena Khan, Prakash Khatri, Jan Pedersen, Christine Poarch, Eileen Scofield, Mark Shmueli, Elizabeth Stevens, Kimberley Sutton, George Terezakis, Dr. Alicia Triche, David Ware, Amelia Wilson, Hon. Earle Wilson

- **Call to Order** (Eileen Scofield, Section Chair) at 6:06 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 April 6, 2016: Judge Burman moved to approve the amended minutes for April 6, 2016; Amy Gell seconded. No one opposed the motion; it passed.

Minutes for May 12, 2016: Eileen Scofield moved to approve the minutes for May 12, 2016; Judge Khan seconded, no one opposed; minutes were approved.

- **Treasurer's Report / Budget Committee:** (Barry Frager) The ILS account has \$19,631 after a total of miscellaneous expenses of \$2416.

- Chapter, Section and Division Leadership Training Program, May 20-21, 2016, Washington D.C. – Judge Burman, Barry Frager, and Mark Shmueli attended; Eileen Scofield noted that anyone interested in potential national positions should attend, let her know if you are interested.

- **FBA 2016 Annual Meeting** and Convention, Cleveland, OH, September 15-17, 2016. Eileen Scofield submitted the ILS for a Section Award.

- **GAO SURVEY:**

- Mark Shmueli reported that the GAO survey was discussed at the National Leadership Training Conference, and offered congratulations to Christine Poarch for her work on this important issue. Lobby Day was addressed too.

- **COMMITTEES:**

- **Membership:** As of June 1, the ILS reached a record number of 584 members.
- **Nominating Committee:** Chair: Judge Earle Wilson – The Committee is now taking nominations for Secretary, the initial position on the ILS leadership ladder. Two newer members were added to the nominating committee: Christine Poarch and Amy Gell.

- **PROGRAMS:**

- Judge Khan noted that the NJ Chapter received the grant of \$500 to reproduce educational materials for their Annual Immigration CLE program which was held on

May 25, 2016 and to set up the electronic drop box. The chapter members and the attendees complimented the benefits of the drop-box funded by ILS.

- **DC Luncheons** (Prakash Khatri) The next luncheon is set for next week, June 8, featuring Jeff Chase. The luncheons will restart in September; 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 is ongoing; the initial launch was a success. There has been some back and forth with FBA national regarding CLE certification; Prakash Khatri is supportive of ILS funding its own webinar site and suggested that the DC Chapter may be able to co-fund a webinar site if ILS was willing to share.

Tina Goel suggested reaching out to YLD members to ensure the interest is there. Eileen Scofield suggested setting up a committee to investigate and come up with recommendation on how to set this up. Elizabeth Stevens moved to set up a committee to investigate, Judge Khan seconded, some discussion ensued regarding funding. The motion to investigate passed. Please email Eileen if you are interested in being on that committee.

- **2016 conference:** Final numbers remain pending; speaker costs were \$4,300, so ILS will cover \$1,300. Overall there were 390 attendees. Some sessions had people were sitting on the floors. 107 attendees completed the after-action surveys; notably, 63 of those who completed surveys were new attendees, first time to the FBA ILS national conference. Judge Khan noted two issues: Confirm “thank you” notes, and raised the issue of conference (or ILS) paying the room cost for the conference chair (most all supported that idea and all supported the idea going forward - and need to budget it into the budget). George made a very kind offer.
- **Conference planning:** Eileen will circulate a draft timeline for conference planning, and requests comments and redlines. Also, Eileen asked the board to anticipate in October 2016 picking three location options for investigation by FBA national for the spring/May 2018 FBAILS national conference. That time line made sense to all and that we move to a plannable healthy timeline for the future. 18 months ahead would also reduce costs and allow for people to be best able to plan.
- **Bylaws:** Judge Harbeck and Judge Burman provided proposed bylaws changes more than two weeks before the meeting. Judge Burman, elaborated at the May 2016 meeting and today, that these proposed by-laws were designed to allow for electronic voting, and some “clean-up” of the language (i.e. from “chairman” to “chair”); they did not include the prior contentious issues of prior years. Discussion ensued (Judge Burman presumed one line that was deleted in error) and after the discussion, Elizabeth Stevens moved to approve the bylaw amendments with one further amendment: deleting “The final list of nominees must be approved by the Governing Board.” Judge Gossart seconded the motion. After significant discussion, the motion passed and the Bylaw amendments were approved as amended by a unanimous vote. The entire Board voiced their thanks to

Judge Harbeck and Judge Burman for their work on this important task, including the efforts they undertook in prior years on these amendments.

- New Business:
 - Photographs of ILS officers
 - Outreach: Cuba Program—is still the goal of Eileen. She has gathered information from U.S. university professors regarding the ability of Cuban lawyers and law students to access the law, and is preparing a FBA-ILS liaison outreach to take place in late 2016 or early 2017.
 - The Green Card – excellent new issue; Always should include the new disclaimers, and altered titles. Next deadline for publication is July 1.

2017 Conference: Discussion of various cities based on the FBA's production of the membership survey results. The member survey was taken by 192 people, which is about 33%, or 1/3 of the section. Discussion included positive and negative points, and comments on a number of locations/issues, including, but not limited to: D.C., George Mason, Austin, Denver, Memphis, Arlington, "too cheap to travel", ILJ court location, ease of access, mid-country, new/first time attendees, convention friendly cities, dates of mid-April to mid May, conflicts with DC and AILA spring conference, gathering rooms/space, practical matters, enable opportunity for all to share, the unofficial ILS hospitality suite was used nightly, the official suite was used during the day. As a result, since Austin and Denver were the top two first choices, and the only cities that were consistently in the each of the top three choices, and on the factors discussed by all, the ILS board together selected Austin and Denver for FBA national to now investigate, for the spring 2017 annual conference. We anticipate the results in about 7-10 weeks for a final decision.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM Eastern time.

Next Board Meeting: Wednesday July 6