

**Federal Bar Association, LGBT Law Section**  
**Board Meeting**  
**Wednesday, October 2, 2019 at 2:00 PM EDT**

In Attendance via teleconference:

|               |              |                  |
|---------------|--------------|------------------|
| Brandon King  | John Sellner | Christine Dieter |
| David Boyles  | Mario Choi   | Sergio Molina    |
| Laura Mulhern |              |                  |

**I. CHAIR’S WELCOME AND WELCOME TO SERGIO AND MARIO (BRANDON)**

**II. MINUTES (DAVID)**

- A. There was a discussion about the format of the minutes between the members on the call. There is agreement that this is a good format and that there is an expectation that the meeting minutes are circulated by the Secretary within a week of the meeting.
- B. Once approved by the Board, these minutes will be posted to the FBA website.

**III. TREASURER’S REPORT (CHRISTINE)**

- A. Item tabled. Treasurer’s report was not provided to Brandon. FBA changed the policy so that these are now quarterly reports. Laura stated that these would be distributed to the Chair and the Treasurer.

**IV. MEMBERSHIP REPORT (CHRISTINE/MARIO)**

- A. Report on latest membership figures and ongoing membership outreach.
  - A) 93 active members; 3 new members in August. 11 members are past due with a number who are going to be due in the next 30 days.
  - B) Mario will continue to send out reminders for those members who are coming up. Brandon initiated a discussion about whether we should send out a single email, or if we should send out a second reminder email if people do not renew. Mario reports that there is not a problem doing a second email. The Board also discussed whether we would want to make phone calls to increase membership renewals. The Board determined that phone calls were not needed.
- B. FBA Membership Challenge.
  - A) 100 year anniversary of the FBA in 2020 and the FBA has challenged its chapters, sections, and divisions to assist with increasing membership by 10% by the end of February 2020 to support the FBA’s push to have 20,000 active members during 2020. There are resources available on the website to assist with the marketing.
  - B) For our section, with 93 active members, we would only need to increase 9-10 people to achieve this benchmark. Brandon will forward the marketing materials to the Board to ensure that everyone is tracking the information.

**V. OUTside INFLUENCE (SERGIO)**

- A. Drafting new email to current Section members and non-Section members to solicit content for newsletter.
  - A) During the discussion about whether to continue to solicit articles from the membership, the Board clarified that shorter articles are better for the newsletter and that we should work to avoid law review articles.
- B. Drafting list of potential topics for people to write about.
  - A) Sergio recommends circulating a list of potential themes for the newsletter, but thinks that the list could be non-exclusive, so that additional ideas could be included.
  - B) Sergio will draft the email to circulate to the members providing guidance and potential issues for the next newsletter. Brandon will provide Sergio the newsletter guidelines from the FBA that will be useful.
- C. Circulate proposed “issue planner” for Board to use to coordinate content.
  - A) Board determined that it is premature to implement a planner.
- D. Write-up for Diversity in Tax Law Event on September 27.
  - A) Brandon participated in the event and reports that it was a successful event. Will provide photos and a write-up of the event for inclusion with our newsletter.

**VI. FUTURE EVENTS (BRANDON)**

- A. Possible event with FBA Minneapolis Chapter and Young Lawyer’s Division in collaboration with National LGBT Bar Association about diverse in-house counsel?
  - A) The Board discussed whether we should explore a collaboration with YLD for an event. John will work with the YLD chair and the Minneapolis Chapter to host an event. Brandon will provide the existing correspondence for the potential event.
- B. General note for everyone to look for suitable events in their home markets for us to co-sponsor.
  - A) Brandon asked the Board to look for potential events to sponsor or partner with other organizations. The ability to provide financial support is limited based on our size, but we would be interested in participating with the work and presentation of the event.
  - B) Brandon also encouraged the other board members to look for potential webinars that we could co-sponsor.
- C. General ask for anyone who is willing to host event (with funding) at your organization.

**VII. NEW BUSINESS (BRANDON)**

- A. Motion to change name of Board to “Steering Committee” with bylaws amendment.
  - A) The Board discussed whether we should change our name to the Steering Committee. Laura reports that most sections refer to it as the “Board” and that it

is only the Section on Taxation that uses “Steering Committee.”

- B. Coordination with FBA Diversity and Inclusion Standing Committee (“D&I Committee”) work and liaising with National LGBT Bar Association and other organizations to increase FBA diverse membership and establish pipeline for diverse leadership.
  - A) This was previously the D&I Taskforce for the FBA. There are quarterly calls for the D&I Committee. There was a suggestion of including one of our members as a representative of the D&I Committee.
  - B) The Board was in favor of working with this organization. David suggested using an *ex officio* position going forward to ensure continued work from the LGBT Law section officers. Brandon will reach out to the D&I Committee and express the interest of the Board to work with them and work to develop the position.
- C. Ideas for increasing our Section’s brand outside and within the FBA?
  - A) Brandon encouraged the Board to continue to consider ways to increase membership in different ways and that we should continue to communicate by email.

#### **VIII. OTHER BUSINESS**

- A. Regular call schedule will be on the first Wednesday of each month. Brandon suggested using video conferencing for future board meetings. Laura stated that this capability is being developed. Believe that the Zoom platform has the capability to have both video and dial-in.
  - A) David will look at the Zoom website and evaluate the options for potential options for our next meeting.

**IX.** Meeting adjourned at 2:43 pm EDT.

#### **X. NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday, November 6, 2019  
2:00 PM EDT