

American Indian Law Section
Minutes of March 18, 2002 Meeting

Meeting called to order approximately 10:10 am.

Present: Melissa Pope; Mike Murray; Jon Siebers; Jacquie Hand; Ron Douglas; Donna Budnick; Larry Betz; Sheila Gaskell; John Lemire; Tom Silvia; Art Stine; Dawn Duncan

Approval of minutes of January 24, 2002 conference call meeting and September 13, 2001 Annual meeting: Corrections made to attendance roster and committee assignments.

Report of AILS Income/Expenses: Report provided by John Lemire received from State Bar of Michigan as of February 28, 2002. Approval of expenditures: chairperson reviewed bylaws for incurring expenditures.

- A. \$500 to UDM for ICW demonstration hearing tapes for distribution. Discussion concluded \$600 should be allotted. Motion by Ron Douglas, second Melissa Pope – carried. Discussion also included methods of distribution and dissemination.
- B. Postal costs for mailing VAWA model code to Tribal Courts. Though State Bar would not mail – section is allowed to do this. Discussion concerning methods of distribution as well as contents of cover letters. Motion by Mike Murray, second John Lemire – carried.
- C. Payment of expense for attendance at Bar Leaders Retreat by Chair-Elect Melissa Pope at Soaring Eagle May 3 and 4. Motion by Donna Budnick, second Jon Siebers – carried.

Report of February 13, 2002 Legislative Briefing – Melissa Pope reported on the content of the briefing. Discussion at the briefing centered on the effect of term limits on State Bar input on issues. Future plans of the Bar would be to speed up the process of commenting on issues in a more efficient manner.

Discussion within Section of method for comment by the Section on legislative matters of interest to Section. This would include amendment to by-laws allowing for conference call to speed up process for voting on issues of importance if appropriate. Dawn Duncan will work with Melissa Pope on language for vote at annual meeting as required by present by-laws. Motion made by Donna Budnick, second Melissa Pope to prepare language and submit to members through by-laws committee for said amendment. Motion carried.

Discussion for creation of legislative subcommittee to identify issues and specific laws to bring to Council and members for discussion. Motion to revitalize subcommittee with Melissa, Larry Betz and Jon Siebers. Carried.

Discussion of ICWA Hearing tape covered above.

Newsletter – proposed photograph for inclusion with acknowledgement letter. Target date for newsletter to Bar by June 1, 2002.

New Business – Review of job opportunity for Pokagon band tribal attorney. Non agenda item – inquiries about attorneys who are knowledgeable in Indian Law/Tribal Law and methods of referral. Use of newsletter, other referral services available through the State Bar.

ICWA training through and with MJI and the Children’s Law section. Discussion of various opportunities for training and programs already available through law schools and bar meetings and judicial associations. Donna Budnick, Jackie Hand, and Melissa Pope would revitalize committee. Motion to begin program for training and dissemination of material in ICWA etc., Mike Murray, Melissa Pope – carried.

Nominating committee for annual meeting – find those who are willing to serve on Council and also as officers. Donna Budnick reviewed a procedure for committee to follow, in order to have list available for annual meeting. Tom Silvia and Larry Betz and Bill Tanner comprise committee.

Memo from Rep Assembly Summary of Proceedings submitted.

Final Report of 3rd Invitational Bench Bar Conference submitted.

Planning of Annual Business Meeting

Discussion of topics for annual meeting. Must pay \$400 for room and provide photographer if photos wanted.

Topics discussed include tax issues affecting tribes such as gas, tobacco, economic development, environmental issues such as water quality and air quality, tribal courts and their organization and functions, including asking Courts to give codes to incorporate into a program ; and education issues involving quality, discrimination etc. Suggestion further identified possibility of exhibit tables on issues, and not having an annual program at all.

Motion to adopt tribal courts, origins and organization as program. Committee of Ron Douglas, chair, Melissa Pope, Jon Siebers, and Mike Murray. Melissa Pope as “point person” for deadlines, content, etc. Discussion of contents of programs, such as ICWA, evidence, tribal laws (and encouraging tribes to shares and reveal same). Traditional values within the tribal courts.

Tecumseh award discussion – should be awarded to someone from the “outside” to keep people outside section interested and involved. Motion to award to Michigan Indian Judicial Association. Motion by Sheilda Gaskell, second Melissa Pope – carried. Jackie hand to inform MIJA of decision.

Next meeting not determined. Adjourned without date – 12:15pm.

Minutes approved September 26, 2002