

**American Indian Law Section
State Bar of Michigan
Meeting Minutes
March 19, 1999**

Council Members in Attendance

Donna Budnick, Ron Douglas, Bruce Havens, James Keedy, John Lemire, Barry Levine, Melissa Pope, Thomas Silvia

Special Guests

Stanette Amy; Bruce Hinmon, Saginaw Chippewa Appellate Judge; Chris Hurlburt, Intern, Michigan Commission on Indian Affairs

Adoption of Meeting Agenda

The agenda was adopted

Approval of September 18, 1998 Minutes

Minutes must be approved at Annual Meeting in September

Review of Financial Reports

There is currently \$5,102.89 in our account.

Annual Program

There were two suggestions for the Annual Program during the State Bar of Michigan Annual Meeting in September: 1) a program on Peacekeeping and 2) a program on lobbying for issues affecting American Indians. The Council voted to go with the latter, with the program comprised of approximately three lobbyists that will give updates on both national and local issues. Suggested speakers included Bill Cross and Rick Alsner, as well as a representative from Karoub Associates, the lobbyist for the Pokagon Band. Donna Budnick will contact the chair of this committee, Sheila Hackett Gaskell to convey the Council's decision and assist in program planning.

Newsletter

Barry Levine expressed frustration with the lack of articles submitted for inclusion in the newsletter, in particular that the tribal judges have not submitted any opinions. Barry Levine and Donna Budnick will send out a letter to the Michigan Tribal Court Judges Association, requesting information on tribal court decisions, stressing the importance of utilizing their great body of wisdom and the benefits to other tribal courts in sharing this wisdom.

Donna Budnick will provide a list of legislation affecting American Indians to Barry Levine for the Newsletter.

All submissions for the newsletter must be to Barry Levine by the end of March.

Tecumseh Peach Keeping Award

Ron Douglas suggested that Congressman Dale E. Kildee (D-Flint, District 9) receive the 1999 Tecumseh Peace Keeping Award for his tireless efforts in protecting American Indian rights through his work as a United States Congressman. Members unanimously agreed, suggesting George Bennett for the presenter. Ron Douglas will contact Congressman Kildee's office.

By-Laws

Donna Budnick will send a copy of the by-laws to our new Commission Liaison.

Lobby Licenses

Stanette Amy researched the policies and requirements for the Section to become a lobbyist. With regard to the State bar, there is no paperwork that needs to be submitted. In order to take a position on an issue, all of the members must be notified and a vote must be called. A Section may only take a position on an issue if it has passed by the majority of voting members. Further, the Bar asks that the Section inform the Bar if taking a position. The Bar does permit Section dues to be used for hiring a lobbyist. Finally, the Bar suggests that a Section only need to become a registered lobbyist. Stanette Amy reported that, according to State law, the Section only needs to become a registered lobbyist if it spends \$425.00 on lobbying. Stanette Amy will submit all paperwork on behalf of the Section. A special thanks to Stanette Amy for this informative report and continued involvement in completing the process!

The Council expressed that a primary goal for becoming a lobbyist is to create a resource for the State Bar to consult when addressing issues affecting American Indians.

Donna Budnick requested email addresses from the Council so that she may keep the Council informed of pending legislation.

Annual Report

Donna Budnick will submit the section's Annual Report to the State Bar.

Mandatory Continuing Education

The Michigan Supreme Court still has not considered the issue of whether the State Bar can require continued education. If it upholds the State Bar's requirement, each attorney will have to acquire 12 hours. If the section hosts courses, both the presenters and the attendees will receive credit. The Section will become actively involved in creating courses once the Michigan Supreme Court issues an opinion.

Announcements and Notices

Stephen J. Tresidder will no longer be serving as Commission Liaison. Ronald D. Keefe of Kendricks Bordaues, P.C. was appointed to fill this vacancy.

Adjourned at 3:00 pm.