

State Bar of Michigan
Committee on Libraries, Legal Research, and Legal Publications

Meeting Minutes

June 6, 2015

University of Michigan School of Law, Ann Arbor, MI

Present: Nancy Ballast, Kincaid Brown, Marlene Coir, Randy Davidson, Barbara Garavaglia, Barbara Goldman, Lynn Ingram, Laura Mancini, Joseph Novak, Ryan Painter, Virginia Thomas, Lance Werner, Erica Zimny

Remote Participation: Jan Bissett, Heather Simmons, Ruth Stevens, George Ward

Excused: Bernadette Bartlett, Kimberly Breitmeyer, Geraldine Brown, Audra McClure, Janice Selberg, Thomas Weiss

Committee Chair, Kincaid Brown, called the meeting to order at 10:00AM.

Agenda Items

1. Committee Business

a. Minutes of the February 14, 2015 Meeting.

The Committee considered the minutes of the February 14, 2015. The minutes were approved.

b. Monthly Bar Journal Column Status Update

The Chair presented *Michigan Bar Journal* column assignments through January 2017. The assignment list is provided as an addendum to these minutes.

Three topics on the list remained unassigned. Ericka Zimny volunteered to write for the May 2016 “Social Security” issue. Assignments for the September 2016 “Tax Tips” issue and the November 2016 “Labor and Employment Law” issue will be discussed at the next meeting.

c. Michigan Online Legal Resource Center (MOLRC) Update Cycle.

The Chair reported that the update cycle for all existing pages has been completed and that the Employment Law page now has an icon on the main MOLRC home page.

Laura Mancini provided an update on the Veterans' Law page. Mancini reported that she added 6 additional topics in response to feedback on her first draft: Tax Relief, Employment Opportunities, Divorce & Family Law, Criminal Law, How to Obtain Veterans' Records, How to Get a Veterans' ID Card.

The addition of these 6 topics makes the Veterans' Law topic 5 pages long which exceeds the length of all other topics on the web site. Mancini also noted that the additional categories are not all law-related and asked for feedback from the Committee as to whether this was appropriate. She also asked the Committee to consider a title change to Veterans' Law & Resources to more accurately reflect the content.

Mancini offered to email a draft of her revision to the Committee and make additions or corrections as advised.

Kincaid Brown reported that usage of the MOLRC web site is up, indicating that it is a valuable resource.

d. Committee Web Page

Kincaid Brown stated that he could not access the Committee web page after the SBM web site revisions had been implemented. There was no "re-direct" from the old to the new pages. Also, SBM articles are missing from the Committee web page. Next week he will submit updates for meeting minutes and articles and update the page with new information.

e. Committee Membership, 2015-2016

Kincaid Brown reported that Marlene Coir and Heather Simmons will rotate off the Committee for 2015-2016. Janice Selberg and Randy Davidson will return as full members.

Kincaid Brown announced his willingness to serve as Committee Chair for 2015-2016. He mentioned that he has reached his term limit in this 6th year of service, but that the Committee Chairs are usually offered an additional year. Brown also asked the Committee to consider whether there is interest in having a member serve as "Vice-Chair" for 2015-2016 to effect a smooth transition.

2. Word Limits in SBM Columns

Heather Simmons led discussion on word limits for the Committee's monthly MBJ columns. She mentioned that the MBJ will accommodate columns that exceed the normal 1200-word limit if the column is submitted early so editor Linda Novak has time to work on fitting them into the designated issue. One member submitted a column twice the normal word limit and Novak was able to include it.

Marlene Coir stated that in cases where a column cannot be included in the print MBJ issue, Novak will nonetheless be able to include it in the electronic version of the issue.

Columns that are shorter than the word limit have not been problematic.

4. Discussion Topic: Library Access to ICLE e-Books

Laura Mancini, Chair of the ICLE E-Books Working Group, reported. The Working Group reviewed the ICLE policy re library access to its online resources (particularly e-books) and ICLE's expressed concerns (i.e., loss of profits and its pledge to contributors to limit access). The Working Group concluded that the current policy raises access to justice issues.

Mancini communicated the Working Group's concern to the AALL vendor relations liaison (Margret Maes) who offered her support. Mancini also consulted with the current President of MichALL (Patrick Meyer).

The Working Group recommended sending a letter to the ICLE Executive Committee Chair to extend an invitation to initiate a dialog with ICLE and find common ground on the access for libraries' issue. The Working Group's draft letter was discussed. Specific comments from the Committee included:

- Question regarding whether the concerns should be expressed as affecting "law libraries" as opposed to "public libraries" or "libraries"
- Recommendation to shorten the letter to simply extend an invitation to start a conversation
- Recommendation to approach not only the problem, but offer solutions, i.e., present information on other nonprofit CLE organizations that are offering broader access to libraries successfully
- Question whether voting members of the Committee should vote on whether to send the letter
- Recommendation to offer SBM a chance to review the letter before sending it because the letter represents a position of the State Bar
- Recommendation to run letter by Cliff Flood, SBM General Counsel
- Recommendation to address the letter to Lynn Chard, ICLE Executive Director and copy the ICLE Executive Committee.

Kincaid Brown summarized the following "next steps" in the letter production process:

- Brown will email revised draft letter to the subcommittee this week;
- Brown will email finalized draft incorporating any further changes by the subcommittee to the larger Committee;
- Committee members will comment/vote on final version by return email;

- Brown will contact appropriate staff in the SBM to ascertain whether sending the letter raises a Keller issue. If yes, Brown will complete the necessary notifications before the letter is sent to ICLE.

4. Updates

a. Member Reports and Announcements

- Lance Werner announced that he was appointed Chair of the Michigan Library Association Legislative Committee for 2015-2016; he also was invited to serve on the Advisory Board for Wayne State University's School of Library and Information Science.
- Virginia Thomas announced that the WSU Library System is engaged in a national search to fill the position of Associate Dean of University Libraries.
- Barbara Goldman announced that paralegal students from Baker College have volunteered to assist individuals who need help navigating the michiganlegalhelp.org web site for the Macomb Legal Aid and Defender Association.

b. Next Meeting

The Chair announced that the next meeting will be scheduled after October 1 and will be held in Lansing.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia C. Thomas
Advisory Member

Attachments: MBJ Theme Articles List
ICLE Draft Letter