



A Meeting of the Young Lawyer Committee of the National Native American Bar Association (“NNABA”) was held on **Tuesday, December 2, 2014** via teleconference. Attendance of the Board of Directors and Young Lawyers Committee was as follows:

Present:

Mary L. Smith, President
Lawrence Baca, Treasurer
Jennifer Williams, Administrative Assistant
Makalika Naholowaa, NNABA ABA YLD Representative
Lauren Van Schilfgaarde, NNABA ABA YLD Assembly Representative
Colleen Lamarre, NNABA ABA YLD Assembly Representative
Alvina Earnhart
Samuel Kouri
Thomasina Realbird
David Powell
Leah Sixkiller
Forrest K. Tahdooahnippah
Valery Giebel

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER by President at 2:05 p.m. CST.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

All of the participants in the call introduced themselves.

III. YOUNG LAWYERS COMMITTEE INTRODUCTION

President Mary Smith and ABA Young Lawyer Division (YLD) Representative Makalika Naholowaa reported on the desire to start a new NNABA Young Lawyers Committee. On October 29, 2014, President had a call with YLD Representatives Makalika Naholowaa, Colleen Lamarre, Maria Jones, and Lauren Van Schifgaarde to discuss possible activities of the committee. The purpose of the call today – which is the inaugural call of the Young Lawyers Committee – is to discuss possible activities including outreach to the National Native American Law Student Association (NNALSA), including resume review and mentoring, and a possible networking social event at Fed Bar.

IV. INTRODUCTION TO NNABA

President Mary Smith also gave an overview of NNABA’s activities including the launch of the Native American Attorney Research Initiative during a plenary session at Fed Bar on Thursday, April 9, 2015. Treasurer Lawrence Baca gave an update on the activities of the Judicial Committee. President also discussed



NNABA's participation every year in the Coordinated Bar Associations of Color (CBAC) lobby day in which all the bars of color present resolutions which become joint resolutions on behalf of all the bars of color. President encouraged the young lawyers to prepare resolutions. The deadline for drafts of resolutions for next year is early January 2015. She noted that Lauren Van Schlifgaarde is going to help draft some resolutions in the next month or so. Jen Williams discussed her role, and offered to provide support to the new Young Lawyers Committee. President encouraged everyone to join NNABA.

V. COLLABORATIVE BAR LEADERSHIP ACADEMY (CBLA)

President Mary Smith also reported on the CBLA. The CBLA is a coordinated effort to strengthen the pipeline of diverse bar association leaders by providing leadership training and development programs, which will benefit current and future leaders, the bar association community, and the legal professional overall. The program has been held the last two years in Minneapolis in June, and it is targeted to lawyers from 5-15 years out of law school. President reported that CBLA will take place in 2015, but that planning has not yet started. Leah Sixkiller talked about her experiences as a participant in CBLA. President encouraged everyone to participate once the applications for 2015 are available.

VI. ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTIONS

President Mary Smith also reported that the NNABA Annual Meeting will take place on Wednesday, April 8, 2015, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Talking Stick Resort in Scottsdale, Arizona. The NNABA Annual Meeting is always held in conjunction with the Fed Bar Indian Law Conference.

President and Treasurer Lawrence Baca also noted that NNABA Elections for all offices will be held during the Annual Meeting. Elections for NNABA President-Elect, Secretary and At-Large Directors will take place at the 2013 NNABA Annual Meeting. President-Elect Linda Benally will assume the presidency at the close of the Annual Meeting. The newly elected NNABA board will also begin their two-year terms at the close of the Annual Meeting. The NNABA treasurer position is appointed by the Board.

President Smith and Treasurer Baca encouraged participants to run for a Board position.

VII. YOUNG LAWYER ACTIVITIES

The following possible activities of the new Young Lawyer Committee were discussed:



A. Next Meetings of Young Lawyer Committee

It was agreed to hold a second conference call in mid- to late February. It was also agreed to have an in-person meeting after the NNABA Annual Meeting at Fed Bar. The NNABA Young Lawyers Committee Meeting will meet in the same room as the NNABA Annual Meeting, and the Young Lawyers Meeting will be from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

It was also discussed to have the Young Lawyer Committee to meet with NNALSA at Fed Bar, and that they will work to get on the NNALSA agenda.

B. Mentorship Program

Colleen Lamarre discussed the idea of a mentorship program with two levels. One level would be with the members of the new Young Lawyers Committee mentoring NNALSA members, and the second level would be to have a mentoring program for the members of the Young Lawyers Committee with more experienced Native American attorneys as mentors.

C. Retention and Tool Kits

Leah Sixkiller talked about using the results of the Native American Attorney Research Initiative to help retention of Native American attorneys at law firms. There is a need to educate employers. There was also a discussion about developing toolkits from the study.

D. Pipeline Programs

President Smith talked about the goals of the new NNABA Foundation to develop pipeline programs for Native American high school and elementary school students. She suggested that the Young Lawyers Committee could take the lead in developing these programs. One idea discussed was teaching during Law Day and hosting mock trials for high school students.

E. Professional Development

Thomasina Realbird discussed the possibility of programs and other activities to help the professional development of young Native American attorneys.

F. NNALSA Moot Court

The University of Arizona's NALSA Chapter, in partnership with The University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law and the Indigenous Peoples Law & Policy Program, is pleased to host the 23rd Annual National Native American Law Student Association Moot Court Competition. The competition will be held on March 6-7, 2015, at The University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law campus in Tucson, Arizona.

VIII. NEXT MEETING DATE

- Teleconference in mid- to late February 2015



- In-person meeting on Wednesday, April 8, 2014 at 5 p.m. MST at the Talking Stick Resort in Scottsdale, Arizona.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the board it was adjourned a 2:50 p.m. CST.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Smith, President (2013-2015)