



WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

Taxation Section

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – March 19, 2021

Zoom Meeting due to COVID-19 Pandemic

Persons in Attendance by Zoom or Telephone:

Brett Durbin -- President

Claire Taylor -- Vice-President

Kristi Richards - Secretary

Sam Barnes -- Treasurer

Bob Mahan

Richard Johnson

Cat Connell

Reed Jones

Jason Harn

William Richard

Dan Jensen

Al Mullins

Megan Lowe

Taun Ngo

Jennifer Gellner

Daniel Sito

Sandra Veliz

Anyone open to changing time?

- 8:07 a.m. The meeting was called to order.
- A motion to approve the prior meeting minutes was made and passed.

Treasurer's Report (Sam Barnes)

- Sam Barnes
- Not a lot to report; performing as expected for circumstances; budget surplus

Discussion/New Items

Cat Connell – DEI Mission Statement/goals comments

- Reviewed DEI proposed statement
- Seeking diverse membership and input from historically underrepresented voices
- Cat to circulate mission statement for comment/thoughts
 - Requesting goals



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- Requesting suggestions for moving toward goals
- Welcomes additional support
- Will be on agenda for April as committee starting next year

Mission Statement/Strategic Plans for each Committee

- Suggest mission statement for tax section as a whole
- Considering changing federal and state tax landscape, should we update
 - ID medium term goals
 - Update strategic plan
- Please email Brett with ideas/suggestions on 3 part plan
 - What is purpose/mission/core (1-2 paras)
 - Then enumerated goals (tangible/specifics for what to do in support of)
 - Then outline of strategic plan: Mission → Goals → strategic plan to accomplish

Current bylaws purposes: The purposes of this Section will be to further the knowledge of the members of this Section and the Bar in areas of the law involving federal, state, and local taxation, and to form an available working unit to assist in the activities of the Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) and otherwise to further the interests of the WSBA and of the legal profession as a whole.

Annual Tax Luncheon / Annual Meeting

- Normally hold in May
- Suggestions for holding meeting/luncheon
- Online luncheon/meeting suggestions
 - Breakouts for “what you’d like from tax section”?
 - Networking only / programming event
- not required to have official in-person meeting; voting can be via writing
- Possibility – push to in-person event in fall?
- Also present scholarship for LLM student
- Also present grant to tax clinics (\$1K each)
 - Budged into special projects?
 - \$2500 generally for scholarships, donations, and grants
 - Also have special projects budget of \$6K (none used)
- Jennifer Gellner to circulate proposal in terms of providing grant to UW/Gonzaga



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Scholarship (LL.M student)/Student Stipend

- Still like to add to luncheon
- Donations / fundraising question
- Criteria for scholarship? Add approach to advance DEI goals (consider if LLM is correct focus for diversity in practice)
- Outreach for scholarship
 - For scholarship
 - Engagement from general tax membership
 - (NOTE: recognition at annual meeting / luncheon)
- Awarding in June? Need to get process started in April to find applicants and award.
- Discussion regarding stipend program; Finances in summer for JDs is toughest time; stipend program for summer would be ideal

Any important updates on committee reports ?

Individual Committee Reports

Pro bono Committee (Jennifer Gellner)

- Jennifer Gellner
- Invited John Colvin to help with tax court calendar; also want to invite him to be co-chair

Estate & Gift Tax (Cat Connell & Reed Jones)

- Reed Jones
- Estate tax bill going forward is essentially dead at this point

International Tax (Tuan Ngo & Al Mullins)

- No report

Transactional Tax (Dan Sito)

- No report

IRS Liaison (William Richard & Tyler Jones)

- No report

DOR Liaison (Dan Jensen)

- No report



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Legislative (Brett Durbin)

- No report

Communications & Website (Rich Johnson)

- No report

Young Lawyers (Megan Lowe)

- No report

Outreach/Scholarship (Jill Fairchild)

- No report

State & Local Tax (SALT) (Aaron Johnson)

- No report

CLE (Alison Warden & Jason Harn)

- No report

Meeting Adjourned at 9:06 AM