



Minutes of Meeting of Women and the Law Section
State Bar of Texas
December 16, 2020

Teresa Schiller, Chair, called the December board meeting of the Women and the Law Section to order at 12:00 P.M. after it was determined that a quorum was present.

Council members in attendance via telephone or video: Teresa Schiller, Nikki Allen, Denise Alex, Betsy Johnson, Natasha Martinez, Laura Kugler, Jessica Mendez, Elizabeth Cantu, Deborah Cordova, Judge Maria Salas-Mendoza, Susan Kelly, Deborah Race.

MINUTES

Two sets of meeting minutes were offered for approval: one for an email meeting on October 18 and one for a videoconference meeting on November 18.

Motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes for the email vote of October 18, 2020. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes for the videoconference meeting of November 18, 2020. The motion carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Natasha Martinez, our treasurer, presented her report. The bank balance increased by \$7,263.35. Expenses were \$140 -- the cost of adding 2 CLE programs to the section's new, online CLE video library. Income was comprised of \$7,225 in membership dues and \$38 in bank interest. For the same period in 2019, income was \$1,400 less.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP SERIES

Laura Kugler, Business Development Workshop Committee member, shared information about the section's Business Development Workshop series. The November workshop had few participants, and the December CLE had only 2-3 registrants. The group

discussed the possibility of cancelling future workshops to preserve limited volunteer resources. Upon motion duly made, seconded, and carried, a cancellation of the rest of the monthly 2020/2021 workshops and the presentation of the workshop at the State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting in June 2021 was approved.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN JUDGES “SUPREME WOMEN” PROGRAM

Judge Maria Salas-Mendoza, our fellow council member, reported about upcoming National Association of Women Judges (“NAWJ”) “Supreme Women” Program featuring Texas’ four female Supreme Court justices. Judge Salas-Mendoza is a district director for NAWJ, and she is slated to moderate the program. She asked that the section co-sponsor the event, scheduled for January 21, 2021. Upon motion duly made, seconded, and carried, co-sponsorship of the NAWJ event was approved.

WALS LAWYERS NOW NEWSLETTER

Teresa updated the group about the section’s newsletter, *WALS Lawyers Now*.

The newsletter was redesigned at the beginning of this bar association year, and the section has been emailing it out monthly to section members. The September issue also is available to the public on our website, and other issues are available on our members-only webpages.

While Teresa has been doing the newsletter editing and layout each month, the goal is to train other Newsletter Committee members in January so they can take the lead on these tasks going forward.

Teresa encouraged the group to consider forwarding the monthly newsletter email to colleagues and encouraging them to join the section.

TEXAS LAW STUDENT WRITING COMPETITION

Judge Salas-Mendoza and Deborah Race reported that the Awards Committee has been communicating with law schools and law students about the writing competition. To date, only one entry has been submitted. The committee will continue to work on drumming up entries.

STATE BAR OF TEXAS AT-LARGE DIRECTOR NOMINATION

Teresa updated the group about the section’s nomination of Deborah Race for State Bar At-Large Director. On December 1, Deborah submitted numerous materials, along with the section’s nominating statement. The Affinity Section Group submitted a recommendation letter. The competition is unexpectedly fierce – 37 applicants. Teresa said that, if Deborah is not selected, the council should consider nominating her for other positions in the future since the nominating statement and other materials may be able to be spun off fairly easily.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion duly made, seconded, and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.



Betsy Johnson, Secretary