



WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

Taxation Section

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – NOVEMBER 18, 2016

Perkins Coie, 1201 Third Avenue, Suite 4900, Seattle

Persons in Attendance:

Tiffany Gorton – President	Brett Durbin – Legislative
Vijay Gosalia – Secretary	Bob Mahon – At Large
Joe Terrenzio – WSBA Liaison	Claire Taylor – IRS Liaison, Pro-Bono
Sam Barnes – Website	Nick Nilan – IRS Liaison
Miriam Woods – SALT	Rob McCallum – At Large
Yesica Hernandez – Transactional	Anna Cashman – Estate & Gift
Darek Jarski – At Large	Jim Hunt – CLE
Corey Johnson – Immediate Past President	Megan Tahl – International

Persons in Attendance by Telephone:

Jennifer Gellner – Newsletter
Richard Johnson – Treasurer

- 8:00 a.m. The meeting was called to order.
- A motion to approve the prior meeting minutes was made and passed.

Motion to approve shutting down constant contact. Approved

Treasurer’s Report: Strong fund balance of about \$57,000. No new expenses coming in and the BAR accepted our 2017 budget for the fiscal year.

Individual Committee Reports

1. Legislative (Brett Durbin):
 - a. No new information to report.
2. DOR Liaison (Jeff Mahan):
 - a. Not present.
3. State & Local Tax (SALT) (Miriam Woods):
 - a. Committee meeting to be held on Tuesday Dec 13th, 2016 at Garvey Schubert – post-election debrief.



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4. Estate & Gift Tax (Anna Cashman):
 - a. The first committee meeting will be held on Friday January 20th 2017 at K&L Gates.
 - b. Additionally, the Tax Council is now requiring all committees to post notices on the WSBA Tax Section's listserv to ensure only Section members receive such emails. After next week's meeting, no further emails will be sent directly and you must subscribe to the list serve for future meeting notifications.
5. International Tax (Elizabeth Crouse & Megan Tahl):
 - a. Working on putting together the first committee meeting, and in general, working on setting up a continuous meeting schedule.
6. Transactional Tax (Yesica Hernandez):
 - a. Jessica stated that the committee is working on the planning for the first meeting of 2017 and that a speaker had not been secured yet.
7. IRS Liaison (Nick Nilan & Claire Taylor):
 - a. Brown bag cle
8. CLE (Jim Hunt):
 - a. Agenda finalized for December 15th CLE to be held at WSBA office. There will be a presentation on the new partnership rules and regulations.
 - b. Jim and Jennifer met to discuss holding a CLE in Spokane (Mac and Tax?). Likely will not move forward because Jim is concerned that there is no ability to set up a webcast. Indication is that there was also a capacity issue (could only hold 40 people at the resort), and without the webcast it may not be worth spending the money. If held at Gonzaga law school, the webcast would be available, but needs to be planned in advance.
 - c. Tiffany suggested opening up the CLE to other sections (i.e. business law) to discuss broad tax topics. Jim will look into the option more.
9. Website (Adam Blake & Sam Barnes):
 - a. No significant update to report. Looking at ways to update the website; perhaps an update to the functionality of the calendar. Open to any suggestions.
10. Young Lawyers (George Munro & Joe Terrenzio-WSBA liaison):
 - a. Not present.
11. Outreach/Scholarship (Allison Foreman):



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- a. Not present.
- b. Jennifer mentioned that there was an open sections night for Young Lawyers where Jennifer represented the Tax Section. There were about 40 people in attendance and the bar indicated there were 20 new sign ups (not clear if for the Tax Section or not).

12. Newsletter (Jennifer Gellner):

- a. Received final changes to be made and will get it out within the next few days. Joe is going to discuss what the BAR offers as opposed to just using Constant Contact. Joe discussed that sections are paying a monthly fee for constant contact, which hasn't been used yet, and that the bar offers a similar option.
- b. Joe What does the section hope to get out of the service? If want to imbed newsletter or be able to track individual recipients (open clicks), then Constant Contact works, and should transfer the K over from Colvin & Hallett to the Bar. If only need a way to manage the email list, then Joe can take care of it so that we always have an updated email list, and then do not need Constant Contact. Discussed a new format that the email would have a link where you would click on to open the newsletter. Would be able to track where the links would be open geographically.
- c. General discussion on the pros and cons of using Constant Contact.
- d. Cory brought up the issue as to whether the newsletters have to go through the same approval process as opposed to just sending emails out through the list serve, which would be faster since it does not have to go through the same approval process. The concern is that if it takes 2-3 weeks out to send a newsletter, the information will no longer be timely.
- e. Joe indicated the editing process for the newsletter is typically 10 days from the time the Bar receives the newsletter draft to the point it is sent out. The dissemination process is very fast if using a platform like Constant Contact. If using WSBA to send out the newsletter, then it goes back into the communications queue and this is where all official communications are placed, and this may cause an additional delay in getting the newsletter published.
- f. Bob and Cory brought up the point that if the Section sent out an email once a month that included a list of announcements (not a newsletter), then the Section



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could avoid the approval process since this is not something the Bar would have to review.

- g. Jennifer suggested we just allow the WSBA to send out committee communication emails – emails would not go through the WSBA review process as oppose to each committee chair and the newsletter trying to maintain a separate email list.
- h. Items that go through the review process it's substantive items. Schedules of meeting are available to the public, whether it's website or email and this is not reviewed. Cory indicated that it still has to go through the process if it is a newsletter.
- i. Joe discussed three types of communications:
 - i. Substantive articles – Must go through WSBA review process;
 - ii. E-blasts (goes to entire section) Schedule of meetings – should be available to the public and does not require the WSBA review process E-blast (official announcements);
 - 1. Joe reiterated that if it's just an email with committee events and cle meetings it would not have to go through the review process
 - iii. Use committee list serves which does not go through the WSBA review process.
- j. Joe stated a new website is being developed to include section content. The rough target date is January/February of 2018. Committees will be able to include more information on the website.
- k. Darek suggested that there should be a communications liaison to the WSBA. Tiffany suggested the website chair could also serve as the liaison.
- l. Discussion on social media (Twitter, Facebook, etc.). Joe stated that committees are not allowed to have social media accounts.

13. Pro Bono Committee (Claire Taylor & Emily Yamada): No new information to report.

MEETING ADJOURNED