



WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

Taxation Section

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – March 18, 2023

Zoom Meeting due to COVID-19 Pandemic

March 18, 2023: Meeting of the WSBA Tax Section

Persons in Attendance by Zoom or Telephone:

1. Kristi L. Richards – Chair
2. Megan Tahl- Vice-Chair
3. Jason Harn – Treasurer
4. Bob Mahon
5. Jessica Bejerea
6. Brent Williams-Ruth
7. Darin Jensen
8. Richard Johnson
9. Ellen Tung
10. Al Sierra
11. Daniel Sito
12. Dan French
13. Carolyn MacGregor
14. Jennifer Gellner
15. Tuan Ngo
16. Reed Jones
17. Brett Durbin
18. Darek Jarski
19. Aaron Johnson
20. Dan Jenson
21. Claire Taylor
22. Logan Westerman

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- 8:03 a.m. The meeting was called to order
 - Cat unavailable; Meeting minutes delayed, so we will vote on the minutes from February at the April meeting.

Treasurer's Report (Jason Harn)

None

New Items Discussion:

- Zoom Account for Taxation Section
 - Should we have a joint zoom account?
 - Would be in violation of the Zoom terms



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- Section @gmail account which then links to a zoom account.
- Personal Zoom account reimbursement versus a joint account
- Non-profit Law Revisions?
 - The issue was taken up with the non-profit chair but it doesn't appear clear that there was a specific non-profit chair.
- Appointing Treasurer for next year.
 - We need to appoint someone who has been on the board for 2.5 years.
 - The president can do a special appointment if there is no one that fits the criteria.
 - The Past-Chair, Chair, and Vice-Chair appoint the Treasurer.
 - Al Sierra expressed an interest in being appointed as Treasurer and going through the election process.
 - Al Sierra
- Annual Luncheon
 - There are issues with the contract with CTC
 - Mutual indemnification agreement as was agreed to in prior years.
 - This is the deal breaker issue.
 - Non-negotiable for the WSBA insurance
 - An addendum has been sent to corporate for their approval
 - Venues that have been used in the past 6-8 months.
 - Rainer Club
 - Washington Athletic Club
 - It does not seem like we will be able to host at Columbia Tower Club.
 - The terms seem unreasonable on behalf of the WSBA
 - The CTC has accommodated these issues in the past, but it was begrudging and now they seem to be unwilling to provide these accommodations.
 - Direct an email to Kevin (Plachy?) at WSBA.
 - Would it be possible to schedule a call between the CTC counsel and the WBSA counsel.
 - Even if we are unable to use CTC for this event, we want to continue the conversation so that we are not blocked from this conversation forever.
- Carolyn wants someone to appear at the recruitment event today at 9:30am or on April 6th at Noon.



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Individual Committee Reports

Estate & Gift Tax (Cat Connell & Reed Jones)

- No updates
- There was a meeting two weeks ago and there will be a meeting in April.
- The meeting in the summer will be moved.

International Tax (Tuan Ngo & Al Mullins)

- No updates

Transactional Tax (Dan Sito)

- No updates

IRS Liaison (Logan Westerman)

- Were not able to get a meeting/reception/lunch with Judge Halpern
- Judge Gokey will be in town so we will look into getting a meeting with him.
- Logan will be taking a leave of absence from the IRS to serve in the Navy Reserve. Logan will look for a replacement.

DOR Liaison (Dan Jensen)

- Proposed WTD program.
- Look into the possibility of having public comments posted on the DOR website but that will not be possible. Public comments can be requested through a public records request.
- Working families credit in Washington.
 - There are appeals in Washington and they need Pro Bono representation.
 - Informal appeals rather than APA appeals.

Legislative (Brett Durbin)

- There are a few Bills at issue but the major bills like the margin tax have not been moving.

Communications & Website (Jay Jetter)

- Working on website updates

Young Lawyers (Daniel French)

- What are acceptable dates for the Young Lawyers breakfast
- Seattle U Law School graduation is May 13th.
- Late April or maybe late September for the event?



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Outreach/Scholarship (Jennifer Gelner)

- Only one scholarship applicant
- Needs to reach out to the schools to tell them they should advertise the scholarship to students.
- Send requests for scholarship funding.

Pro Bono Committee (Darin Jensen)

- Working to get a notification out from the Bar to the listerv
- Looking for volunteers to help advise taxpayers via the UW clinic at tax court.

State & Local Tax (SALT) (Aaron Johnson)

- Reminder that the save the date for the Washington State Tax Conference is July 13th and 14th. The event will be in Pullman.
- Attempting to have a discussion regarding DOR compensation and retention.
 - Retention is largely tied to compensation.
- Washington is the number one penalty state
 - Penalties are a fiscal note; therefore, reducing penalties reduces the WA revenue amount.

CLE (Jason Harn & Sofia Meglioli)

- No updates

DEI (Ellen Tung & Jessica Bejerea)

- Hoping to meet with students to encourage them to study tax.
- Potential mentorship program?
- Working Families Tax Credit
 - This is a program that will provide \$1,200 up to low/moderate income families that qualify.
 - Hoping to host a CLE event to promote this credit and provide information on the credit program.

Board of Governors Report (Brent Williams-Ruth)

- The BOG recommended continuing forward with a regulatory board for non-lawyers practicing law.
- Corporate travel as a method to centralize WSBA event planning??

Meeting Adjourned at 9:08 AM