

NIBA MEETING

June 12, 2003

In Attendance: Ron Whitener
Gabe Galanda Tate London
Rion Ramirez Phil (clerk for Judge Zilly)
Patty Ferguson Leona Colegrove
Lisa DeCora Suzanne Townsend (via telephone)
Ben (NNABA via telephone)

SCHOLARSHIP POLICY

NIBA is working on a scholarship application.

Tate discussed that the early “pioneers” of NIBA named a scholarship the Fred Paul Memorial Scholarship after an Alaska Native attorney. There was discussion as to whether NIBA would fund more than one scholarship and whether we would attach a title to it. There was a suggestion that a name be attached to one scholarship. Rion reminded NIBA that it might want to recognize tribal contributions to the scholarship funds.

A discussion followed about concerns that NIBA is “putting all its eggs in one basket” by giving one student \$10,000. Ronnie commented that UW NALSA thought it was a good idea but other local Native students wanted money available to them. The question was posed as to what was available to other law students who attended Seattle University, Gonzaga, Willamette, and Lewis & Clark. These could be major policy concerns if NIBA continues to fund students.

Tribal Affiliation

NIBA discussed a question on the NIBA scholarship application regarding indigenous affiliation. There were concerns about narrowing the potential applicants to only those in the Northwest and concerns about global indigenous people (there are indigenous people in Japan). The NIBA application should remove any requirement for Northwest tribal affiliation. The applicant pool should include those Native law students who are attending school in the Northwest and who intend to stay in the Northwest. Rion said he would look into the mission statement from the 1993 Scholarship Application purpose and attempt to incorporate it into the 2003 NIBA mission statement.

Patty thought that an application requirement could be transcripts and Gabe hoped to revise the application within two weeks. Email any policy/criteria language to Gabe or Rion for the scholarship applications.

Pre-Law Summer Institute (PLSI)

The BIA paid for the summer program this year. NIBA’s scholarship would pay for travel and misc. expenses. In light of this recent occurrence, NIBA will not be funding a PLSI student. A NIBA member thought it might be a good idea to give a scholarship to someone coming out of PLSI but many disagreed with that idea.

Alaska Funding

There was a discussion about asking Alaska Native Corporations but there are no law schools in Alaska. Tate believed that Alaska corporations set up foundations to assist their shareholders.

Scholarships, in general

There was discussion on what NIBA could do this year regarding scholarships. NIBA has \$2500 that could have funded a PLSI student but if NIBA put \$500 with that funding, NIBA could give three \$1000 scholarships this academic year. Questions that were asked: Does NIBA want to decide how many scholarships to give

away each year? What about scholarship dates? Should the dates be institutionalized? Tate commented that a NIBA scholarship should not replace other dollars acquired by a law student. NIBA will send out information on NIBA and scholarship applications to all Northwest law schools late this summer or early fall. If members had an idea of a date for the scholarship deadline, send an email to Gabe or Rion.

POLITICAL OUTREACH

Gabe questioned whether NIBA has the “horsepower” to even take advantage of outside assistance.

Ronnie responded that we don’t know until we try. NIBA has to do something though such as searching for other sources of money besides Appendix X funds.

Gabe also reminded the attendees that NIBA will be changing its Governing Council in the fall.

Ronnie said that NIBA should adopt the funding and media relations firm that was discussed at the NIBA meeting on April 29, 2003. He looked into Indian-owned PR consultant groups but none were available in the Northwest.

It was also stated that Savvy Strategies is affiliated with Moxie Media and that Moxie and Savvy are anxious to help NIBA. Also, tribes trust Moxie. Also, Mayor Nickels group liked working with Underwood Consulting during his mayoral election campaign.

Gabe suggested that NIBA form a two-three person committee that would be willing to meeting with Savvy and Underwood to discuss forming a relationship with them. NIBA agreed that the funding cap was \$5000. Gabe volunteered. Rion and Ronnie also wanted to be involved in this activity.

NIBA voted and approved the motion to move forward with the PR and fund-raising firms Savvy Strategies and Underwood Consulting.

“FULL FAITH AND CREDIT” STATUTE IN WASHINGTON STATE

Gabe discussed the full faith and credit statute adopted in 1995. He thought NIBA could be involved in a rule change and that the Arizona statute could be compared to the Washington statute. He requested help and Ronnie, Rion and Lisa volunteered. Gabe thought NIBA and the Native American Law Center could work on this issue. Someone also stated that Debra O’Gara (spelling?), at Puyallup, offered full faith and credit seminars.

PROTOCOLS

Gabe acknowledged that NIBA members have rightly expressed some concern that we are moving too fast with many of its recent activities including: Savvy/Underwood issue, scholarships, and elections. Leona expressed concern that the “President-elect” position was established and filled without proper notice and opportunity to comment. There were concerns that NIBA could not create a “President-elect” position and then have an election for this position without anything changed/submitted into the bylaws. The bylaws were not changed and the policy regarding elections was not followed. NIBA policy states that elections are to be held in September. Therefore, the election for the President-elect position is invalid. NIBA members were aware that an election was to take place and therefore, missed out on an opportunity to run for a position on the Governing Council.

There was an acknowledgement by NIBA that the President-elect position was invalid and therefore, the election of that position was invalid. At this time, the President-elect position is null and the vote invalid because there was no amendment to NIBA’s bylaws.

A motion was made to send the NIBA bylaws to the Governing Council to discuss the fee amendment and the President-elect position.

UW LAW UPDATE

Ronnie submitted that the UW Law School will have six or seven 1Ls this fall. NIBA should look to a mentoring program for these students. Also, the October reception might be a good time to offer scholarships. Additionally, the Native American Law Center is working with Ann Johnson and Costco to secure \$1 million dollars in funding for the Center. More information as it becomes available.