Minutes of the LGBT Law Section Meeting  
January 21, 2014  
Held at the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Southern Nevada

1. Came to order at 12:10 p.m.

2. Reviewed and approved Minutes of November 19, 2013, meeting.

3. Old Business
   a. The Nevada State Bar approved the creation of the Section at the November meeting of the Nevada State Bar Board of Governors.
   
   b. The Section has not yet submitted its application to join the National LGBT Bar Association. There is an upcoming deadline. Tara to circulate requisite paperwork (bylaws, etc.) to the Board for approval.
   
   c. Section meetings shall be held at the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada for the next 6 months.
   
   d. Voted to have a conference call dial-in number available for Northern Nevada Committee members and those in Southern Nevada who cannot attend in person going forward. Will be paid for with Section dues once money is transferred from the State Bar.
   
   e. Elected the following Committee Co-Chairpersons:

   (1). Legislative: Kim Surratt (Northern Co-Chair) to join Steve Amend (Southern Co-Chair)

   (2). Membership: Peter Goatz (Southern Co-Chair) to join Todd Eikelberger (Northern Co-Chair)

   (3). Amicus Curiae: Kim Surratt (Northern Co-Chair) to join Michael Nuñez (Southern Co-Chair)

   (4). Social/Networking: Todd Eikelberger (Northern Co-Chair) and John Krieger (Southern Co-Chair)

   f. The Section will not likely present at this year’s Family Law Conference in Ely since the program has been set. Voted to plan on participating in the 2015 Family Law Conference. Kim Surratt will be presenting a legislative and case update at the Conference which will touch upon the repeal of DOMA, the Windsor decision and the new parentage law. Kim and Jim Davis will announce the creation of the Section at the Conference and provide information regarding registering for the Section. Voted to create promotional materials to handout at the conference.
g. Marek Bute provided an update of the Sevcik v. Sandoval matter. The Answering briefs were to be filed today. Marek will circulate the Answering briefs to the Section members upon receipt. There is currently no date set for oral argument.

h. Marek Bute also discussed the recent Smithkline Beecham Corp. v. Abbott Laboratories decision out of the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals holding that heightened scrutiny should be applied to claims brought under the equal protection clause concerning sexual orientation; specifically that the 14th Amendment precludes using peremptory challenges to strike prospective jurors because of their sexual orientation. This could have implications in the Sevcik v. Sandoval matter.

4. New Business

a. Now that the Section has been approved by the Nevada State Bar, everyone must formally register as a member of the Section through the State Bar of Nevada website, nvbar.org. The cost is $25.00.

(1). The Section was approved after the renewal forms were printed, so online registration is currently the only available option.

(2). Brian Eagan will circulate an email reminding people who originally signed up for the Section to register.

(3). The Section will also submit a blurb regarding the Section to be printed in the State Bar newsletter.

(4). The Section will only circulate notices of future meetings through the March, 2014, meeting and then hand over such duties to Lori Wok of the State Bar. At such time, only people that have registered as members of the Section will receive notices of meetings.

(5). Tara Newberry will look into how provisional members (e.g., law professors and fellows) can register for the Section.

b. Voted to extend the deadline to submit committee reports outlining what each committee would like to accomplish in 2014 until the next meeting in order to enable the co-chairs to discuss the same.

c. Voted not to hold a February Section meeting. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 18, 2014, at 12:00 p.m. at the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada. A board meeting may be held in February and the entire membership is welcome to attend. If the board meets, a notice shall be circulated to the entire Section.

d. The State Bar would like the Section to participate in its 2014 Annual Meeting.
(1). Tara Newberry will attend on behalf of Section.

(2). Discussion regarding presentation topics. Suggestion that it be broad in scope. Further suggestion that it concern sensitivity training for lawyers with LGBT clients/potential clients. Idea to address making intake forms more LGBT friendly (e.g., gender neutral, status neutral). Kim Surratt has materials regarding such topic from an earlier Lavender Law presentation.

(3). Voted to have the CLE/Education Committee work on this presentation. Caren Cafferata-Jenkins and Kevin Kampschror are the Co-Chairs of that committee.

(4). The meeting is scheduled for July 10-14, 2014, in Newport Beach, California.

e. General Discussion.

(1). Section discussed requesting an endorsement of SJR13 in the 2015 Legislative session (the proposal to amend the Nevada Constitution to require the recognition of all marriages, regardless of gender).

(2). Kim Surratt discussed process of submitting amicus briefs on behalf of a Section (requires State Bar approval) and requiring permission from Board of Governors prior to lobbying legislature as a Section on a particular issue.

(3). Voted to organize a retreat for Section members to be held in Southern Nevada on a Saturday in the Spring. Voted to have both the CLE/Education Committee and the Social/Networking Committee organize the retreat. Caren Cafferata-Jenkins, Kevin Kampschror, Todd Eikelberger and John Krieger co-chair those committees.

(4). Blake Johnson discussed the upcoming Junior Faculty Development Workshop and 2014 SALT (Society of American Law Teachers) Teaching Conference which takes place October 9-11, 2014, at UNLV Boyd School of Law. It is a national conference for new and aspiring law faculty covering a broad range of topics with an eye to networking progressive academy professionals in developing their pedagogical style, scholarly agenda, and career plans. Section members interested in learning more about the Conference can contact Blake at bjohnson@saltlaw.org.

(5). Steve Amend discussed the formulation of a new non-profit organization in Nevada to work on the passage of SJR13 and the resulting ballot question in the 2016 election.
(a). A coalition of national (including HRC, Freedom to Marry, ACLU) and state groups (including the Progressive Leadership Alliance) will be establishing the yet-to-be named non-profit which will be looking for advisory board members and local donors/fundraisers.

(b). At this time, the non-profit is looking to hire an executive director to lead the organization through the 2015 legislative session with the option of continuing through the 2016 election cycle. The salary for the position will be approximately $70,000. Section members interested in learning more about this group can contact Steve at steveamend@me.com.

(6). A budget for the Section will be created by or before March 14, 2014, after the Section receives information from the State Bar regarding registration.

f. Agenda for March Meeting will include committee reports. It will be held on March 18, 2014, at 12:00 p.m. at the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada.

g. Meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.