



Protecting people's rights.

Hispanic Latino Legal Issues Division

Division Meeting Minutes

November 17, 2009 – 12:30 PM to 2:00 PM

Meeting Participants: Jorgelina Aranedo, Bill Breeze, Sarah Carr, Katy Chavez, Jessie Corwin, Andrea Davis, Clermont Fraser, Lindsay Granados, Rebecca Headen, Mercedes Restucha, Beckie Moriello (By phone: Joe DiPierro and Steve Monks)

AGENDA:

Spanish-language Social:

- Thurs 2/18, NCAJ Headquarters
- Because many members have been studying with Rosetta Stone, and many other members have been intending to study with Rosetta Stone.
- Party with food and beer.
- Combined with recruitment social.
- Unanimous agreement.

NCAJ June Convention:

- Rooms:
 - Katy noticed that hotel is mostly sold out of our blocks of rooms. No more suites or VIP level, and 3/4 of rooms are gone. All are encouraged to book early.
- Social:
 - Everyone likes idea of having social at convention.
 - Agreement to do so again.
- Kids:
 - Katy proposes some program where kids/adults could do things during meetings. In the past, expensive child-care has been only option. Maybe we could get a group and pay a teenager to play games w/ them in pool or something?
 - Bill volunteered his kids to help out supervising younger ones.
 - Since we'll all be in same building, it's not as worrisome to leave kids at pool.
 - Katy will talk with other sections to see if there's interest.
- Sessions:
 - Agreement to have another workshop session.
 - Agreement to have another update session.

NCBA's 4AII

- Info:
 - Friday 3/5
 - Located at NCBA in Cary (can't volunteer remotely)
 - They're trying to have a Spanish-speaking call center.
 - 90% of Qs that come in are the type that NCAJ attys handle.
- Volunteering:
 - Not many phone lines, so they only want attys, not law students.
 - You don't need to be member of NCBA.
 - 2-3 hr commitment
- The calls:
 - Not consultations.
 - Just issue spotting and give recommendations for courses of action.
 - No atty-client relationship
 - Anonymous (can't give your name)
 - Can't recommend any particular firm, but you can recommend organizations, ie. that NCAJ has ICE PAK and referral list.
 - Katy will post more info on listserve.
 - Mercedes already signed up through NCBA.

Legal Clinic

- Huge desire for info in the community.
- Would be a great way to get NCAJ a bigger name in the community.
- Topics:
 - immigration is the biggest underserved area
 - consumer/housing/employment attys had no clients at last year's clinic
- Maybe do quarterly clinic in different practice areas instead of doing a huge one that spreads recourses too thinly?

Community Presentations

- Jorgelina knows of one that was well-received in Charlotte (maybe put on by El Pueblo?)
- Topics:
 - Which counties have 287g/Secured Communities
 - Potential immigration reform
 - Cover Qs that we get repeatedly.
 - Employment issues
 - Often few/no Qs
 - Rebecca said there was a presentation for employment, and no one showed up.
 - Solution? Do 287g/employment law in one session!
 - Then again, once people have this info, what do they do with it?
(Few attys take cases of "my boss won't pay me")
- Individual consultations:



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- Attys can't run off after giving presentation.
- Do consultations individually so whole group doesn't have to sit through them.
- Location (churches):
 - They do all the work. We just have to show up.
 - We've already received interest from church groups.
- Info Presented:
 - Jorgelina suggested that presenters create a power-point and pass it along to future presenters.
 - Rebecca says ACLU has KYR script in Eng and Span. They do them with law students, but always an atty present.
- When?
 - The HLD will set one up, at earliest 3 months from now.
 - Katy doesn't mind doing presentations every 3 months.

Call for Volunteers

- Commitment can be as low as a few hours!
- Goals:
 - Fill some officer spots for this year
 - Identify potential officers for next year
 - Match volunteers with ways to contribute to NCAJ
- Action:
 - Indicate if you're interested in being more involved
 - Executive committee will decide who's the best fit for each spot
- Types of positions:
 - Officers
 - Committee members
 - Working on a project

Trial Briefs

- Katy thanks everybody from the bottom of her heart for all of their help.
- If you haven't read it, you should.
- Aim to have an HLD article every 2 months.
- Solicitation for ideas:
 - Advocacy article:
 - Our heart-wrenching stories of immigrant injustice.
 - Would make Trial Briefs less boring.
 - Next time you hear a heart-wrenching story, think of Trial Briefs and tell Katy.
 - Narratives are what's going to change the tide of opinion.
 - Access to higher education article:
 - Mercedes already wrote an article about it for something else!
 - Mercedes should contribute that article to Trial Briefs.
 - Black-listed farmworkers:
 - ex: FLOC worker who was killed in Mexico



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- ex: women sold as sex-slaves
- ex: Clermont knows of woman who filed EOC complaint, was later hired by different employer and was fired the next day upon discovery that she'd previously filed complaint.
- People don't speak up for their rights due to fear of black-listing
- Repeat articles:
 - Every NCAJ member might not religiously read Trial Briefs.
 - Repetition is okay.
 - Maybe a 287g/Secure Communities article in every issue.
- Weighing in on proposals re immigration reform.

CLE in Mexico or Colombia

- Colombia?
 - Concerns about safety.
 - Katy's Colombian friends says Colombia is safer than Mexico.
 - Maybe CLE abroad every 2 years. Look towards Colombia in 2012, and reevaluate safety then?
- Mexico?
 - Participants in 2008 had a great time.
 - 10 CLE hours (incl 1 drug hr) in 2 days.
 - Participants saw jail, courts, law school, and high-tech Big Brother-esque city surveillance system.
 - Bill likes idea. It's close, relates to our clients, and people who went last time can help sell it.
 - Helps us a lot with perspective. Katy used to get calls that she was confused about, but now understands.
 - ex: "Hey I just got fired and I want to sue."
 - (In Mexico, you can't just fire someone.)
 - ex: "This DV charge won't be a problem. The victim is withdrawing the charges."
 - (In Mexico, all charges except for murder and kidnapping are brought solely by the victim.)
 - ex: "You can't guarantee that you'll win the case?!"
 - (In Mexico attys charge more, but can also guarantee result.)
- Interest?
 - Sarah yes
 - Bill yes
 - Joe yes
 - Katy yes
 - Clermont would love to if her org would pay
 - We'll also reach out to the rest of membership, particularly the people who had strong interest last time, but ended up not being able to come.
- Cost:



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- Hotel:
 - luxury hotel on beach: \$85/night
 - options as low as \$8/night
- Flight:
 - Zihuatenejo: ~\$600
 - Cancun: ~\$200.
- Zihuatenejo vs Cancun
 - Zihuatenejo:
 - Located in the province of Guerrero, which is where the highest % of NC immigrants are from.
 - Sounds more rural, authentic Mexico-y
 - Cancun:
 - Knee-jerk negative reaction
 - However, "the strip" in Cancun is small. Most of it is just a regular Mexican city.
 - Katy's brother-in-law is a commercial fisherman there.
- Dates?
 - October:
 - Was our 2008 date.
 - We lost some people because between two major Jewish holidays.
 - Off-season = cheaper and less crowded
 - Nov-Apr:
 - Peak-season = flights to Zihuatanejo 2x/day

Next Meeting:

- Charlotte:
 - Gabe had strong interest in holding a meeting there.
 - We'll table that until he's here.
- Raleigh:
 - Maybe another meeting early Jan-ish.
 - Good time to talk about regional meeting in Charlotte.
- Triad:
 - We'd like to have regional meeting in Triad on a Fri afternoon in March-ish.
 - Seeking host in Triad.

CLEs we Could Offer:

- Lots of people tend to ask the same Qs over and over.
- Divorce with a Mexican national
 - Sarah gets a lot of Qs about this
 - ex: service of process, custody, child-support agreements, property division
- What happens to kids when parents are deported
 - Jorgelina got a call from a Spanish newspaper wanting info about this.



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- Beckie got a call from a church group wanting info about this.
- Misperception that ICE cares.
- Getting kids enrolled in Wake Co Public Schools is way more difficult than you could imagine, and is a common issue.
 - Jack Holzman at NC Justice Center has worked on this issue.
 - Would be a useful CLE, but attys won't pay to hear this stuff. So wrap in divorce, custody, POA issues (ex: banks sometimes want their own form, consent to travel, etc.)

HLD Document Bank

- We need to keep updating it.
- ex: bank-specific POAs, translations of AOC forms, traffic/alcohol school info, places to do community service
- Everyone should go look in their offices for stuff to add.

Listserve

- 2/3 of members (152 out of 420) aren't on listserve. Could this be anything other than a mistake?
- Opt-out: politically charged, but crim list did it and no negative backlash.
- Presently, when you join a section you have to affirmatively tell Andrea that you want to be on listserve. But many people never think to do it.
- We voted to take crim list approach.
 - A series of 3 emails will be sent to people in the section who aren't on listserve.
 - If they don't opt out, they'll be put on list.
 - Andrea will look into making this happen.

Legislative Committee

- Great job!
- Nothing toxic has happened in long session, so we can coast through short session.
- We'll need help with the US Congress to encourage reform.
- Everyone should look through legislative update.

Membership

- We need a membership chair. It's currently vacant.
- We got 10 new members as a result of Oct Trial Briefs!

Meeting Adjourned