

**AMERICAN JUDICATURE SOCIETY  
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
September 27, 2018**

The meeting of the American Judicature Society (AJS) Board of Directors was held in the conference room of Carlsmith Ball LLP on September 27, 2018. The following directors were present: Lawrence Okinaga, Colin Miwa, Jack Tonaki, Ivan Lui-Kwan, Sylvia Yuen, Colleen Hirai, Lisa Ginoza, David Louie, Douglas Chin, Russell Lau, William Harstad, and, via telephone, Virginia Crandall and Avi Soifer. Also present were Daniel Padilla and Ian Wesley-Smith.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Lawrence Okinaga called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

**II. APPROVALS**

The minutes from the June 28, 2018 meeting of the Board of Directors were approved as circulated.

Treasurer Russell Lau walked through the Treasurer's Report, and submitted a revised report for May 31, 2018. For continuity and accuracy, the revisions tie into the end of the prior month, rather than the date of the board meeting. The Treasurer's Report was approved as circulated

**III. REPORTS**

Membership Committee – Virginia Crandall gave an oral report on the membership committee. They are working with committee members to add membership, and to get all board members to pay their membership fees. The possibility of adding committee members is being investigated. David Louie asked if we should increase the dues. Mr. Louie raised the possibility of seeking membership through the Bar Association to raise interest and membership numbers. Judge Crandall noted her committee was waiting for a budget as well.

Program Committee – Mr. Okinaga advised that Doug Chin and David Louie would be presenting at the Annual Meeting at a moderated panel discussion on Supreme Court Decisions' impact on Hawai'i.

Sidebar – Colin Miwa noted a successful Sidebar, with the best attendance in several years. He noted that attendees really appreciated the opportunity to meet with the Judges.

Criminal Justice Committee – A key issue was raised in a June 2018 Star Advertiser article on the congestion/delays in resolution of Domestic Violence cases; they checked with the courts, and noted that there does not appear to be any real congestion, though cases are continued for various reasons. Noted that there was a bill this summer that would permit a deferred judgment on domestic violence cases. Sailed through the legislature, until it hit the finance committee, where the bill was killed at the last minute. Query raised as to whether the AJS support another form of the bill, if it comes up. Mr. Tonaki advised that his committee is willing to do the legwork. Mr. Okinaga asked that Mr. Tonaki make a presentation (possibly with a write-up) for the December meeting.

Judicial Administration Committee – Lisa Ginoza sought a recommendation from the Board on a civic education initiative. The Committee had been talking about putting together a written proposal to see whether AJS would take the lead role in such an initiative, or someone else. Other states do it different ways; for example, in California, similar programs are administered under the Judiciary. Possibility of proposing a commission influenced through the judiciary a key issue is whether this is an AJS project or something that AJS promotes. Also have a list a people that they would like to invite to the Convention.

#### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Okinaga moderated a discussion about budgets, both for the Convention and for the organization in general. Russell Lau and Ivan Lui-Kwan noted that, in the past, AJS has never required significant fundraising or a budget. Judge Ginoza noted that Micah Kane of the Hawaii Community Foundation had expressed interest. Mr. Lau noted that most foundations/sponsors look at how willing the Board is willing to contribute. There was discussion of fundraising needs and potential uses of funds.

Mr. Okinaga provided an update on HR21, adopted unanimously by the House, but which did not pass the Senate. Mr. Okinaga led further discussion concerning the HR21 issue

“Judicial Independence in an Age of Polarization” is the topic of the Convention. Mr. Okinaga provided an update as to efforts at expanding on the mainland and getting law schools involved.

As to the Convention itself, LSO notes the steering committee has been very active, particularly on budget controls right now. Randy Tanaka – who did APEC – and Beth Lum are on board and will present proposal(s) to raise funds. We are trying to figure out the potential numbers. AJA has a resolution approving the

Convention, which is expected to be adopted. Development of the theme has really helped.

Mr. Okinaga noted a need to create state chapters of AJS as well. Feel the time is right for state chapters, in order to retain credibility. We also need speakers and program topics. Looking potentially to getting funding from various sources and potentially moving ahead with attendees.

Mr. Okinaga noted that it is important to have continuity and stability through the Convention, and that all officers and directors should, to the extent possible, extend for another year. Possibly need a President of AJS. Mr. Okinaga thanked everyone for their hard work.

## **V. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:36 pm.