



# AMERICAN SAMOA

BAR ASSOCIATION

PO Box 23  
Pago Pago, AS 96799

## MINUTES February 22, 2012 Toa Bar & Grill - Tafuna

- I. Opening: Meeting called to order at 6:06pm by President Sean Morrison at Toa Grill with 17 members present:
  1. Sean Morrison (President)
  2. Mitzie Folau (Vice President)
  3. Kevin Kornegay (Treasurer)
  4. Charlie Alailima
  5. Michael White
  6. Leslie Cardin
  7. Marian Rapoza
  8. Jay Sayles
  9. Kelly Dixon
  10. Bensy Benjamin
  11. Sarah Sayles
  12. Sharron Rancourt
  13. Nate Mease
  14. Joe Everett
  15. Cable Poag
  16. Cecilia Reyna
  17. Terry Bulinger
- II. Minutes for 11/2011 discussed. Motion to approve both minutes adopted unanimously.
- III. Agenda proposed. Motion to adopt agenda passed.
- IV. Officers' Reports
  1. President
    - It is the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. There will be a number of events with this theme in the coming months, leading up to the annual meeting.
    - The Secretary (Blake Hanley) had a baby, so was unable to attend.
    - Memo went to CJ regarding things the Court can do, as discussed during last meeting. No response yet.
  2. Vice President
    - The Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) will be holding a law conference on culture, church, and the law in April or May. ASBA may want to team up with them and sponsor it.
  3. Treasurer
    - This will be the treasurer's last meeting. He is leaving island. Vote for new treasurer – Tina Hanley wins.
- V. Committee Reports

1. CLE Committee
  - No members of this committee. No volunteers at this meeting.
2. Ethics Committee
  - Committee is reviewing the disciplinary procedures. Hopes to produce suggested rules.
  - Jennifer Joneson has met with Judge Patea, who stated that the court is open to the Bar's suggestions.
3. ASR Volunteer Team
  - After a request from CJ to create a volunteer team to assist with finalizing the ASRs, the Bar put together a team.
  - The team was provided to CJ. However, no response was ever brought forward.
  - After talk with Clerks, they told us that CJ would not work with a team, and the entire project would be held in-house.
  - The Clerks did indicate that they would like to send us opinions as unpublished so that we can post them on the website.

## VI. Old Business

1. ABA update from Charles Alailima
  - The ABA mid-year meeting was held in New Orleans at the beginning of February. Charlie was present for American Samoa.
  - It was the first day of mardi gras there, so it was a great time to arrive.
  - A number of issues were put to the delegates for vote. Resolutions that pass the house will get the backing of ABA lobbying power.
  - Resolutions of interest included:
    - i. Res. from the Puerto Rico bar. The PR legislature had disbanded the bar due to a political fued. Resolution to assert ABA power to ensure independent bar associations. Charlie pointed out that this similar situation almost happened to ASBA during the fight on a federal district court.
    - ii. Res. on criminal justice standards relating to third party records.
    - iii. Creation of a uniform legal authorization act for online documents.
  - Law day is May 1, the theme is support the courts. The ASBA should really participate in any way possible. The ABA may be able to assist.
2. Website updates
  - The website is coming along and could have a beta in a month or so. The focus is on searchability.
  - 6 and 8 ASR 3d will be part of the new site.
3. Mock trial updates
  - Not much progress. Unclear whether it will be possible this semester.

## VII. New Business

1. Review nominations of the Bar Justice Award
  - There are nominations, but due to suggestion from Sharron, the Bar will open nominations to the public.
  - Press release and ads will go out in the coming weeks.
  - New deadline – March 19.
2. Comments of Strategic Plan

- In Feb, the Bar hosted a strategic planning retreat, which laid the groundwork for a strategic plan.
  - The plan outlined 5 goals, each with measurable objectives and possible actions for implementation.
  - Comments:
    - i. Interpreter certification usually done by courts, not bar.
    - ii. There should be a mentoring program for new attorneys who plan to stay a while.
    - iii. Really need the court's help with implementation, particularly with forms.
    - iv. Friend of court office shouldn't be part of LSC, but LSC should help with pro se stuff.
    - v. There needs to be a wireless network within the court.
    - vi. ADR needs to be a part of a future bar.
    - vii. The Bar can create a conduct commission to review judicial conduct
  - An update of the plan will be available for comments next month. The final plan will be voted on during the annual meeting in April.
3. Law conference with MDT
- Conference will be on culture and the law.
  - Will be held April 12-13, right before flag day in the hopes of getting off island speakers already in town.
4. Advanced directive form for LBJ.
- The form combines two forms into 1 and shrinks it from 14 pages to 2.
  - Many voices expressed concern about the Bar adopting legal forms, which may later be under attack or create liability.
  - A Samoan version of this form is very important.
  - The Bar will not recommend to anyone that they should fill out the form.
  - These kind of decisions have a unique impact in Samoan culture.
  - Motion to have the bar provide comments to LBJ regarding the form, but no explicit approval – Motion passes.

VIII. Adjournment