

FEDERAL BAR ASSOCIATION
DIVERSITY COMMITTEE MEETING

Agenda

February 5, 2025

Potential and Future Programming/Events

- Discussion of New Administration's impact on DEI initiatives
- Nuts & Bolts of ADA
 - Disability event with Judge Tatel (wrote a book)
 - Thoughts:
 - § 1983 event was 12-5 pm and was well-attended
 - Try to appeal to labor and employment crowd, discuss diversity obligations
 - EDMI L&E members: Carla Aikens, Bill Phillips, Heidi Sharp
 - Amir to reach out to clerk who worked for MSC Justice Bernstein, Jason Turkish
 - Current litigation about Wayne County Building accommodations; attorneys involved could discuss generally the issues from a personal perspective
 - Potential format:
 - Meet after noon and have panel with reception at the end (maybe 1-5 pm)
 - Substantive ADA training + panel conversation or Tatel Q&A + reception
 - Date: March or April 2025
- Michael K. Lee Bar Mixer – talk about in June/July
 - Update: SBM does not want to partner but is willing to assist with promoting events
 - Concern about attendance downtown
 - Usually in March on a Thursday
 - Potentially fuse with Bash at the Beach for a bigger event in the summer (late July/early August)
 - Issue with funding/tax write-offs because not part of an entity
 - Try to get sponsorships
 - Diversity Committee could take it over or sponsor it

- Could couple with an educational event for bar presidents
- Seminar about fostering religious understanding
 - Discussion of Muslim, Jewish, Hindu, etc. customs and holidays and the implications on the law
 - Examples: fasting during Ramadan, Shabbat, custom for Muslim women not to shake hands
 - To promote civility among attorneys
 - Could ask religious leaders to participate
- Just the Beginnings Foundation event
 - Collaborate with the foundation for an in-person event
 - Summer Legal Institute
 - If event is in Chicago, could do an online presentation
 - Virtual ConnectEd Seminar in 2022 about imposter syndrome
 - Judge Parker is a good contact
- Past committee events:
 - Schmooze Cruise (walk along Riverfront and dinner)
 - Diggin' Our Diversity (tree planting event, [Greening of Detroit](#))
- From Mindy: Walking Library
 - "In Denmark, there are libraries where you can borrow a person instead of a book, to listen to their life story for 30 minutes. The aim is to help people overcome prejudice. Each participant has a label that they identify with - "unemployed", "refugee", "bipolar", etc. - by listening to the other person's story, the participants are able to realize how much you shouldn't "judge a book by its cover". This innovative project is active in more than 50 countries and is called "The Human Library."
 - Smaller groups would be best
 - Envision a speaker at each table for 30 minutes. Then attendees choose a different table
 - Participants can meet new speakers/moderators and mingle with other attendees
 - Other ideas: tie-ins with other groups (like pro bono)

New Membership

- We'd love to add to our group if possible!
- Potential candidates: new clerks, AUSAs, federal defenders, associates