

PRO BONO AND PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE
February 8, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Present: Michael Addams, Natalie Reber, Yuan Ting, Sandy Garcia, Erin Fortney, Ritu Jain, Thuy Nguyen, Deborah Perluss, Tacy Gillespie, David Weafer, Jacquelyn Merrill Martin, Bonnie Rosinbum

WSBA Staff: Saleena Salango
BOG Liaison: Matthew Dresden
ATJ Board Liaison: Lindy Laurence

Meeting began 1:02 PM

Welcome New Member Tacy Gillespie, Quick Intros

January Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve January minutes by Bonnie Rosinbum; Seconded by Thuy Nguyen; Approved with no amendments.

Subcommittee Updates

Communications Subcommittee – David Weafer reported that he and Christine Kuglin are working on an article on IEPs, as well as another about public service. The subcommittee is working to update contact information in our community liaison positions, and using the outreach to collect information about folks to highlight for the article on public service.

Rules & Policy Subcommittee – Deborah Perluss shared a draft memorandum and some proposed changes to APRs. The subcommittee has worked to understand if proposing changes to QLSP status make sense, to open up eligibility and help organizations receive benefits to QLSP status. They have reached out to ACLU and Legal Voice, who do public interest work, as well as OMVLA in the AG's office. Legal Voice and OMVLA are both interested in becoming a QLSP. ACLU withdrew request with the understanding that QLSP rule is to expand access to justice for low-income people directly, not just to promote pro bono participation (while they withdrew request, they are interested in reconsidering the language in context of being included for pro bono status attorneys). Deborah Perluss reported that the subcommittee is working to propose changes to pro bono status. Currently, pro bono status does not allow people to practice law except for pro bono services to QLSPs. Some attorneys are not aware of this rule. The possible solutions are to 1) propose changes to APR 1.8 to allow a governmental entity who is sponsoring an in-house pro bono program to be considered a QLSP; and 2) propose changes to pro bono status rules to authorize legal professionals on pro bono status to provide legal services for no fee through a QLSP or through a not-for-profit public interest organization that provides services to individuals or entities without charge. The subcommittee is seeking input on the proposed changes in the attachments to the memos. Members noted the need to look into malpractice insurance requirements,



and reaching out to QLSPs for input on proposed changes to pro bono status rules. Matthew Dresden shared that because the BOG voted on this last year, we would need to contextualize what has changed or why the changes are being brought forward once again.

Technology Workgroup – Jacquelyn Merrill Martin reported that the subcommittee met January 20th to review the direction of the workgroup and whether it makes sense for the Workgroup to continue working as a standalone workgroup. Saleena Salango shared that WSBA is looking into legal limitations to host cases/opportunities on Pro Bono WA site. If we cannot, we should consider consolidating this workgroup with the communications subcommittee and communicating/marketing without sharing specific case information.

CLE Subcommittee – Erin Fortney reported that the CLE Subcommittee met on January 19th. The subcommittee has done a gap analysis of the WSBA CLE Public Service Portfolio. The subcommittee is using that information to inform what topic we choose for the October Legal Lunchbox. Some needs for the Public Service Portfolio include programming centered on immigration, representing clients with disabilities, being trauma-informed, housing and eviction, veteran’s issues, and representing youth who have aged out of foster care system. The next subcommittee will be next February 15th, 2022 and include CLE Programs Lead Barbara Del Mar Robles to get information about how to put on a CLE. Bonnie Rosinbum and Erin Fortney will do some opening remarks and moderate the Q&A for the February Legal Lunchbox, which will be led by Molly Matter and center on voting rights.

Strategic Planning Subcommittee – Michael Addams reported that the subcommittee met on 2/1 and discussed the pro bono and public service recognition. The subcommittee is hoping to focus the public service recognition efforts on writing an article for the Bar News as we continue to consider other ways of recognizing public service.

Pro Bono and Public Service Recognition Discussion

Matthew Dresden reported that the APEX Committee does not have a formal means of participation, but they strongly encourage the committee to put forth nominations and submit information to them. Michael Addams asked whether the committee is interested in creating some sort of award related to pro bono and public service. Natalie Reber shared that we could make members aware of public service opportunities in addition to thinking about recognition.

FY 23 New Member Recruitment

Saleena Salango shared information about the timeline for new member recruitment for FY 23. All positions are open if a committee member’s term is ending, even if you plan to apply for reappointment. All members interested in being appointed or reappointed must complete the application. Bonnie Rosinbum asked that all committee members invite one person to apply for the committee.

In-Person Meetings Discussion

Committee members shared a strong interest in meeting in person towards the end of this fiscal year. Saleena Salango will follow up with budget information, COVID-19 requirements for meeting.

BOG Liaison Update

Matthew Dresden shared that the BOG meeting, discussion on pro bono recognition resulted in allowing for to pro bono honor roll members to be able to request printed certificates. Matthew shared information about the BOG elections deadline and the districts with open seats (2, 9, 10, in addition to At-Large positions).

ATJ Board Liaison Update

Lindy Laurence shared that the ATJ Board met last January and heard from Judge J. Westley Saint Clair, the Chair of the Washington Sentencing Guidelines Commission, who reported that they have invited formerly incarcerated folks to provide guidance on how sentencing impacts community. Lindy shared details about the Goldmark Luncheon occurring on Friday, February 11th, 2022.

Meeting adjourned 1:59 p.m.