**PRO BONO AND PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE**

**December 13, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

Present: Jacqui Merrill Martin, Michael Addams, Parvin Price, Ritu Jain, Gabriel Hinman, Tacy Gillespie, David Weafer, Paul Alig, Erin Fortney, Deborah Perluss, Yuan Ting

WSBA Staff: Saleena Salango, Nicholas Mejía

Absent: Elizabeth Baldwin, Thuy Nguyen, Natalie Reber, Evangeline Stratton

Meeting called to order at 1:02 PM

**November Meeting Minutes**

The committee approved the November meeting minutes with no amendments.

**Subcommittee Updates**

*Communications Subcommittee* – Ritu Jain shared that the subcommittee met in early December to discuss the goals for the next year. The subcommittee discussed plans to 1) build out ProBonoWA, including driving traffic and enabling the Cases/Opportunities feature on ProBonoWA, 2) Write two articles for the Bar News each year, and 3) do outreach to drive usage and content for ProBonoWA.

*Rules & Policy Subcommittee* – Gabe Hinman shared that the committee discussed mandatory pro bono reporting or mandatory pro bono hours and how that affects pro bono in other jurisdictions. The subcommittee discussed what pro bono should look like and how requiring pro bono work might affect that. New York requires 50 hours to be admitted to the Bar but does not require continued pro bono hours. Many states (including WA) have voluntary pro bono hours, and eight bar associations have mandatory reporting. Deborah Perluss shared that at the next meeting they will discuss proposed comments to propose rule change to RPC 1.8e, which allows pro bono lawyers or attorneys serving indigent clients without expectation of repayment to pay for certain items. The next meeting will be Monday, January 23rd.

*CLE Subcommittee* – Erin Fortney shared the subcommittee will put together CLE programming for pro bono conference. The subcommittee identified potential dates, goals, audience, format, and action items. The first year will be online, with future years hybrid. The currently proposed date is May 19th. QLSP roundtables and matching with different organizations to help people get connected and start their pro bono journey.

**Pro Bono Conference**

*Timeline* - Jacqui Merrill Martin shared a spreadsheet with a proposed Pro Bono Conference timeline that outlines different activities based on different subcommittees. Jacqui will send out the link to the Google sheet so that all members can access it.

*Platform –* Multiple members would prefer that this virtual event take place via Remo, which best reproduces an in-person conference experience virtually. The cost for Remo is $2,040 for 8-hour event with attendance of 1,000 people, including facilitator. The committee should partner with a law firm that has the license to see if they are willing to partner with the committee. The platform that would be used would be REMO. The cost would be $2,040 for an 8 hour event for an attendance of 1,000 individuals. Ideally it may be beneficial to reach out to individuals from both sides of the state for sponsorship. It would be beneficial to ask multiple requests for $1,500 to $2,000 for potential giveaways.

*Outreach -* Michael Addams shared that he reached out to law schools about the conference, who suggested April to accommodate law student schedules. However, this timeline is not doable, so they will move forward with May. Michael has reached out to the three law schools and so far Seattle University and the University of Washington would like to be involved. Once the Committee has a platform, date, sponsor solidified, the committee will reach out to different pro bono organizations to get input on the conference agenda.

*Discussion –* Deborah suggested changing the name of the conference. The title should hint that there is an all-day CLE and networking event and that it is for WSBA members *interested* in pro bono and not WSBA members already doing pro bono.

**In-Person Committee Meeting**

The tentative date for the committee meeting is Thursday April 13th, 2023, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the WSBA office. WSBA can reimburse volunteers for travel and ensure there is a hybrid option available for all to attend the meeting.

**Roundtable Items**

* Updated COVID-19 Volunteer Vaccination Policy - As of November 18th, there is no volunteer vaccination policy requirements at the WSBA.
* The 2023 Powerful Communities Grant application is now open and is due January 13th, 2023. Please consider sharing with community-based organizations that might qualify.

Meeting adjourned at 1:56 PM