

PRO BONO AND PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
October 13, 2020 – 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.
Meeting Minutes

Present: Nick Larson, Bonnie Aslagson, Sandy Garcia, Christine Kuglin, Yuan Ting, Christine Anderson, Michael Addams, Nancy Chupp, Naiomy DeLaRocha-Minckler, Althea Paulson, Mike Liebert

ATJ Liaison: Michelle Lucas

Guest: Natalie Reber

WSBA Staff: Diana Singleton, Paige Hardy

Meeting called to order at 1:05 PM.

Introductions

Members of the committee shared what they do professionally, why they wanted to join the committee, and identified other groups they are connected with that could relate to the work of the committee.

Context Setting

Paige shared an overview of the WSBA, including its governance structure and other WSBA entities (such as sections, boards, and committees). Paige also shared the [Volunteer Toolbox](#), a resource for all WSBA volunteers.

Nick went over the recent history of the Pro Bono and Public Service Committee; shared recent successes like model pro bono policies, comments to rule change proposals, and the newly updated *pro bono* attorney status; and identified OPMA requirements, such as needing a quorum to hold a meeting.

Paige provided some additional information about the [Alliance for Equal Justice](#), the Access to Justice Board, the [State Plan for the Coordinated Delivery of Civil Legal Aid](#), and the [Race Equity Justice Initiative](#).

Overview of Ongoing Projects, Workgroups, and Workgroup Assignments

Bonnie went over each workgroup and the work of each group. Bonnie shared that the committee meets monthly, but these meetings are check-ins. 90% of the work happens in the workgroups. These workgroups meet monthly, sometimes more. Each workgroup has a lead to report back at the full committee meetings and coordinates workgroup meetings. The leads of each of the workgroups provided an update about current and future projects.

Rules & Policy Workgroup:

Bonnie shared that these were separate workgroups. The policy workgroup focused on developing model pro bono policies. These policies were approved the Board of Governors. They are now available as a resource. The rules workgroup handles proposed rules. Most recently, the rules & policy workgroup worked on changes to the Emeritus Pro Bono license status (now just the *pro bono license*), which was recently approved by the Washington State Supreme Court.



Althea shared a future project for the workgroup to consider. RPC 1.8(e) prohibits lawyers from advancing financial assistance to clients. Other jurisdictions have determined this can be problematic for non-profits that might need to provide resources to pro bono or legal aid clients. For example, a DV survivor client might need financial resources. New York has a great revision to this rule that specifically addressed indigent clients.

CLE Workgroup:

Christine shared that the CLE workgroup organizes the October Legal Lunchbox. The upcoming legal lunchbox will cover family law. Nick shared that October is Pro Bono month, which is why we help organize this particular CLE program.

Communications Workgroup:

Bonnie shared that this workgroup, formerly known as the “publications” workgroup, developed and wrote articles for the WSBA magazine and WSBA blog. Nick noted that this group (1) writes articles (in blogs, magazines, etc.); (2) when committees need to connect with stakeholders, this workgroup drafts email communications that liaisons can use to send out.

Technology Workgroup:

Paige shared that the technology workgroup is working on revamping the probonowa.org website, a clearinghouse for pro bono opportunities in Washington. Once the website layout changes are finalized, this workgroup will focus on updating content of the website, to include resources and information.

Strategic Workgroup:

Nick shared that the strategic planning workgroup focuses on the long-term efforts of the committee and identifies ways to best utilize volunteer time to meet goals of the committee. All committee members can participate.

Committee members decided what workgroup they wanted to be a part of, Paige to send out a final list.

Additional Strategic Planning

Nick shared that this year each committee member only has to connect to a single entity as a liaison. Nick shared the roles of liaisons and encouraged everyone to identify the entities and email their preferences to Paige.

Nick also shared that the committee generally has a longer mid-year meeting. The goal will be for this group to meet in April for two hours, instead of the usual one hour.

Next Steps

The committee discussed the monthly meeting schedule. People agreed to continue having meetings on the first Tuesday of the month at 1:00 PM. However, the meeting in November will take place on the second Tuesday due to Election Day.

Nick asked workgroup leads to initiate the first workgroup meeting.