

PRO BONO AND PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING

May 5, 2020 – 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

The Pro Bono and Public Service Committee works to enhance a culture of service by promoting opportunities and best practices that encourage WSBA members to engage in pro bono and public service with a particular focus on services to underserved low and moderate-income people.

Present: Nick Larson, Brendan Vandor, Bonnie Aslagson, Paul Okner, Nancy Chupp, Naiomy Delarocha-Minckler, Althea Paulson, Christine Anderson, Yuan Ting, and Andrew Phillips

WSBA Staff: Paige Hardy

ATJ Liaison: Michelle Lucas

Guest: Laurie Shiratori

Meeting called to order at 1:06 pm.

Welcome Naiomy Delarocha-Minckler

Nick welcomed Naiomy to the Committee who resides in Walla Walla.

Nick introduced Laurie Shiratori, who will be applying to the Committee. She is participating in this meeting to get a sense of what the Committee does.

Meeting Minutes

Nancy shared that the minutes are posted publicly on the committee's WSBA website in case people want to view past action items.

- **Action:** Althea Paulson moved to pass the minutes. Paul Okner seconded motion. The minutes were passed unanimously without changes.

Emeritus Pro Bono Memorandum Update and Vote

Bonnie Aslagson shared that the most recent version of the Memorandum has been sent out to the Committee. The workgroup met with WSBA President Rajeev Majumdar and WSBA staff to go over the proposals. The goal is to have the proposal go before the Board of Governors (BOG) in June. Bonnie noted that the Committee had voted previously to approve proposed changes to the rules of practice, pro bono qualifying as active legal experience, changing the name to "pro bono status" instead of "emeritus pro bono," and clarifying that a volunteer can work with more than one Qualified Legal Services Provider (QLSP). The newest, additional proposal is a waiver of annual dues in exchange for completing a certain number of hours of pro bono work. Regulatory Services Department Director Jean McElroy recently reviewed the draft proposal and proposed changes in two areas: 1) the number of hours required for fee waiver (she suggested 50, instead of the proposed 30); and 2) the 5/10 year requirement of active practice (she suggested 3 years of active practice). Paige will be reaching out to the QLSPs to provide comments on the proposal. These comments will be submitted to the BOG. Jean will likely be submitting a second proposal with her suggested changes. The Committee discussed the overall feedback, anticipated responses from the BOG and executive management team, and other issues, including how to verify pro bono hours.

- **Action:** Bonnie Aslagson moved for the Committee to move forward with the proposal and recommendations as it currently exists and bring before the Board of Governors. Althea Paulson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

BOG's Request for Input on Northwest Justice Project's Private Attorney Involvement Plan



BOG is requesting input on the proposal from the NJP's Private Attorney Involvement Plan at the June BOG meeting. Nick suggested setting up a separate phone call for interested Committee members who want to be involved in developing input to provide to the BOG. Nick will send out an email after the meeting to join this call for those who are interested. At the next meeting, the Committee will need to discuss and take a vote on any feedback developed by this ad hoc working group. Michelle Lucas expressed an interest in being involved in the ad hoc working group.

Workgroup Updates

CLE Workgroup:

Brendan Vandor shared that the workgroup met to go through the CLE survey. Although the survey did not receive a high number of responses, the workgroup did receive feedback from several of the Committee's liaison entities. The workgroup was able to identify top family law topics. CLE workgroup will be working with WSBA CLE staff, Devorah Signer Hill, to move forward with planning the October Legal Lunchbox.

Brendan also shared that the Seattle U. Law School's Incubator Program has monthly CLEs for their attorneys. They are looking for potential presenters. The next CLE is scheduled for June 2nd in which they are looking for trusts & estates presenters. If anyone is interested or knows people who might be, Brendan requested that people get in touch with him.

Technology Workgroup:

Paul shared that the main point of the workgroup is to update probonowa.org. The workgroup is involved with probono.net and working to get some initial changes to the website. There are several non-committee members that are deeply involved in this workgroup.

Rules/Policy Workgroup

Bonnie shared that the RPC 6.5 proposed rule change is tabled due to the capacity of the Pro Bono Council (PBC). PBC withdrew its proposal for this year. The plan is to continue to work with the Committee on Professional Ethics. The proposed rule change will be re-submitted in the fall.

Strategic Planning Workgroup:

Nick shared that the co-chairs presented to the BOG's Executive Committee on May 4 and provided an update about the Committee's projects and tasks. The meeting went really well. Nancy shared that it was a very positive meeting and that the BOG was appreciative of the work of the Committee.

Liaison Updates

Nick reminded Committee members that the liaison assignments were attached to his April 10th email. Nick encouraged everyone to connect with their assigned entities, especially the Minority Bar Associations and the Qualified Legal Services Providers.

Nancy shared that she connected with Michele Fukawa at the Gonzaga University School of Law. She mentioned that one concern has been law students finding internship opportunities, especially pro bono-related opportunities. Michele is looking to connect her law students with events or programs throughout the state so if anyone has any ideas, please forward them to Nancy who will pass them along. Nancy also reported that Michele helpfully put one of her colleagues who teaches family law in touch with the CLE workgroup to possibly collaborate on the October CLE.

Bonnie shared that the Pro Bono Council has hired a new manager. She also shared that the ATJ Board's Delivery Systems Committee (DSCo) has a sub-committee addressing needs of the undocumented population. She also

shared the TCVLS still has high needs for volunteer attorneys, even though they no longer are having in-person legal clinics. Instead they are doing virtual legal clinics (phone consultations). VLPs are also having issues with fundraising. TCVLS is having a lunchtime Zoom fundraising event tomorrow. Committee members are invited to attend!

Nick shared that the ATJ Board's website has a lot of updates addressing the corona virus. Michelle Lucas shared that the ATJ Board is open to learning about ways to address unmet legal needs during this time. People that are interested or who have ideas can get in touch with Michelle.

Recruitment Updates

Nick shared that the Committee has received several applicants for open committee member positions and we have moved forward with recommending people. The committee still has a few open positions so Committee members should continue recruiting. open.

Announcements

Nick shared that we are looking for co-chairs for this next fiscal year. Nancy will be stepping down from her co-chair position starting in the fall due to work commitments. Nick is open to continuing as co-chair but is also open to having two other Committee members take the co-chair positions. People who are interested can contact Nick or Paige.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM.