

MINUTES  
Access to Justice Board  
January 25, 2013  
Washington State Bar Association  
11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Present:

**ATJ Board members** Hon. Lisa Atkinson (by phone), Chair Kirsten Barron, Breean Beggs, Hon. Anita Crawford-Willis, Nick Gellert, Lynn Greiner, Andy Sachs, Aiko Schaefer; **ATJ Board committee chairs and members** Jim Bamberger, Caitlin Davis Carlson, Eric Gonzalez-Alfaro, Ana Selvidge, César Torres; **Guests** Naria Santa Lucia, Megan McNally; **ATJ Board staff** Joan Fairbanks, Allison Durazzi, Charles Dyer.

Approval of November 30, 2012 ATJ Board Meeting Minutes:

The Minutes were approved as drafted.

ATJ Board Chair's Report:

Kirsten Barron read a recent letter from Chief Justice Barbara Madsen congratulating the ATJ Board on receiving an American Bar Association ATJ Commission Expansion Grant.

She shared an announcement that the Practice of Law Board is looking for applicants to fill a non-attorney slot.

Select Spring ATJ Board Meeting Date: The Board will meet on Friday, April 5.

Children's Vision Care Resolution:

The ATJ Board approved this resolution 4-2 after discussion about whether the subject matter falls within the scope of the ATJ Board's mission. This request to the ATJ Board was generated by Children's Vision Project Director Helen Spencer, who made a presentation to the ATJ Board at its June 8, 2012 community listening session in Yakima. The ATJ Board at that time offered its assistance. The ATJ Board will develop a policy to assist it in considering similar requests in the future.

ATJ Board Appointment to the Judicial Information System Committee Court User Work Group:

The ATJ Board's Technology Committee is recommending the ATJ Board identify two people willing to share this appointment. On its recommendation, the ATJ Board appointed Brian Ledbetter, who has done a significant amount of technology work for the Committee and who is completing work on a grant from the state Attorney General's office. The ATJ Board also is looking to appoint a judge or bar leader with experience with the court system.

Status of Equal Justice Community Leadership Academy:

Breean Beggs reported that the first cohort has been selected and the first retreat was held on January 17-19. One-quarter of the people are not lawyers. The staff and Advisory Committee will be getting feedback and are in the process of finding funding for participants' travel expenses for the remainder of the year.

ATJ Board Vacancy:

Breean Beggs reported that the Nominating Committee has narrowed the applications to two people. The Committee had to consider the question of the definition of a non-lawyer for purposes of the ATJ Board, e.g., one of the applicants who was screened out does not consider herself to be an attorney even though she has a law degree. The Nominating Committee will work on developing criteria and a definition. The ATJ Board will consider putting this on the agenda for its meeting with the Supreme Court.

#### Funding Report:

**Office of Civil Legal Aid (OCLA):** OCLA Director Jim Bamberger reported that the Legislature has reconvened. He has been meeting with legislators to help them understand the funding cuts and loss of capacity in the last several years. The Northwest Justice Project currently is down 18 ½ FTEs from 2009. The legislative request is to provide an additional \$3 million to support NJP's increased costs of operation and to buy back 12 FTE lawyers.

OCLA will be publishing a Scoping Group Report outlining the imperative to move forward on an update to the 2003 Supreme Court Civil Legal Needs Study. The 16-member Scoping Group is now moving forward to the next stage of convening a blue ribbon oversight committee for the study. Justice Wiggins will chair the effort, and John McKay has agreed to serve as an ATJ Board representative. The goal is to have an updated Civil Legal Needs Study completed in two years prior to the next biennial session.

OCLA has completed and issued a final report of its fiscal and regulatory review of NJP. Jim noted that NJP has in place sound fiscal systems and systems and approaches to provide high quality legal services, and that the Alliance and clients are being well-served by NJP.

**LAW Fund:** LAW Fund Director Naria Santa Lucia reported that the Campaign for Equal Justice closed out another campaign year. Total proceeds were \$3.2 million, an increase from \$2.4 million last year. The attorney participation rate increased from 22% to 25% from last year. The King County Law Firm Campaign enjoyed its second highest year of revenues with 112 firms participating. The Endowment for Equal Justice is now over \$6 million, with a goal of \$10 million in three years. Skagit County is this year's recipient of the Rainier Cup. A record number of boards of directors achieved 100% participation in the Campaign, and Snohomish County Superior Court judges had full participation. LFW will be hiring a development coordinator in February or March of this year.

#### Update on February 15 Alliance-Wide Gathering:

Hon Anita Crawford-Willis, who also is chair of the committee planning this event, reported that planning continues for both morning and afternoon sessions, and for an afternoon reception. The Rainier Cup will be presented during the reception.

#### Report from the ATJ Board's Communications Committee:

Communications Committee Chair Marc Lampson addressed the ATJ Board to seek its approval to develop a new Communication Plan for the Alliance; to designate an ATJ Board representative who will participate in the planning process; and to support the convening of a Communications Committee retreat to kick off the planning process. The first and only Communications Plan was approved by the ATJ Board in 2004. The Alliance has accomplished many of goals, including establishing a "brand" (the Alliance); developing message training; and coordinating communication (EJC newsletter); and attracting volunteers. It is important to keep the Plan current: (1) it has been nine year since the Plan was reviewed; (2) the number of websites in the Alliance has proliferated and content coordination could be

improved; (3) technology has changed dramatically; and (4) we appear to be losing the communication battle on the national and state levels.

The goal is to have a retreat in February and a completed plan by the end of 2013. He is interested in the names of people willing to join the Communications Committee. The ATJ Board will appoint one or two members to work on the Communications Plan update.

The ATJ Board approved his request.

ATJ Board Delivery System Committee: DSC Co-Chair Nick Gellert reported that the topic of the January 22 DSC meeting was to build on the Northwest Justice Project and Columbia Legal Services presentations to the ATJ Board on their strategic planning processes. NJP Director César Torres' presentation to the DSC drilled down into prioritization of client services. John Midgley will make the CLS presentation at a future meeting. There also was a discussion about what the Alliance is doing to serve people with mental illnesses, recognizing the potential stigmatization of this population following the Sandy Hook tragedy. TeamChild has been focused on the issue of school safety and is interested in taking the lead on any Alliance-wide initiatives that might be envisioned. WSBA will make a presentation at the February DSC meeting regarding ideas for future public services projects coordinated by WSBA.

Legal Community Events: ATJ Board members volunteered to attend upcoming events, including:

February 15, 2013: Annual Legal Foundation of Washington Goldmark Award Luncheon, Westin Seattle, noon – 1:30 pm, [ATJ Board members: Kirsten Barron, Anita Crawford-Willis, Nick Gellert, Lynn Greiner, Breean Beggs, Geoff Revelle; staff Joan Fairbanks, Allison Durazzi, Charley Dyer, Burton Eggerstsen]

February 22, 2013: University of Washington School of Law Public Interest Law Association Annual Auction, 5:30 pm, The HUB. [TBD]

February 23, 2013: Skagit County VLP "Think Summer" Dinner and Auction, 5:30 pm [Kirsten Barron]

February 23, 2013: Seattle University School of Law Public Interest Law Foundation Dinner and Auction, 6 pm [Andy Sachs]

March 1, 2013: Gonzaga University School of Law Public Interest Law Project, 5 pm [Breean Beggs]

April 10-13, 2013: The Color of Money: Reclaiming Our Humanity, Sea-Tac [Allison Durazzi]

April 18-20, 2013: Pursuit of Justice Conference, Gonzaga University School of Law, [Breean Beggs]