

**Washington State Bar Association Pro Bono and Legal Aid Committee**  
**January 6, 2011**

In attendance: *Andrea Axel, Sharlene Steele, Steve Larsen, Andrew Guy, Gail Smith, Reagan Dunn, Alison Holcomb*

Attending via telephone: *Joanna Plichta-Boisen, Michael Cressey, Randy Winn, Michael Kleps, Jim Bamberger*

Unable to attend: *Fiona Cox, Loren Etengoff, Brian Flock, Rebecca Glasgow, Joseph Marshall, James McCormick, Joanna Otero, Diana Singleton, Dan Young, Lewis Zieske*

The meeting convened at 12:05 p.m.

**Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes** – approved as submitted

**Implementation of GR 34 Update**

Publicity – Andrea circulated the email notice that would go out to WSBA members within a few days. Andrea, Randy, Steve and Reagan commented on possible options for publicizing adoption of GR 34 outside the bar, such as notices to allied service organizations (paralegals, interpreters, e.g.), and outside the legal profession, such as newspaper op-eds, and public radio stations, with an emphasis on reaching audiences that might be expected to have a higher GR 34 utilization rate.

Development of forms – Jim reported that he is working with Merrie Gough at the Administrative Office of the Courts and Judge Laura Middaugh, chair of the Washington State Supreme Court’s Pattern Forms Committee, on form development.

**Coordination with Young Lawyers Public Service Committee**

De Novo column and liaison opportunities – Andrea reported on a conversation with Ben Nivison, chair of the WYLD Public Service/Pro Bono Committee, about opportunities for that committee and PBLAC to keep informed of each other’s priorities and work, to share strategic thinking, and to complement each other’s efforts. Reagan volunteered to serve as the PBLAC liaison to the WYLD PS/PB Comm., and Sharlene volunteered to talk to Brian Holcomb, WSBA staff member assigned to the WYLD.

**Update on Ongoing Projects**

Marketing Pro Bono: May issue of *Bar News* – this is on track.

Urban-Rural Pilot Project – Andy provided detailed written and oral reports on the Urban-Rural Subcommittee’s work to date. A quick summary of key points:

- (a) This project necessitates careful coordination with our state’s QLSPs;

- (b) The Grant-Adams Volunteer Legal Services (GAVLS) and Lewis County Legal Services (LCLS) programs both seem receptive to hosting the pilot project;
- (c) The 2009 WSBA Membership Pro Bono Interest and Skills Survey allows us to identify attorneys in specific geographic locations who possess the experience or interests that best match the QLSPs needs; and
- (d) The subcommittee has questions, and issues to flag, for PBLAC:
  - (1) Should we do both locations, or just one? *Committee voted to prioritize GAVLS at this time.*
  - (2) Should we develop resource materials for representation in administrative hearings?
  - (3) There is a significant need for representation on landlord-tenant issues, and telephonic hearings of unlawful detainer matters raises a concern about face-to-face cross examination.
  - (4) There is a significant need for representation on family law matters, and perhaps we should segregate these matters according to anticipated complexity:
    - (A) Child support modifications and dissolutions w/o children (fairly contained); and
    - (B) Dissolutions with children.
- (e) Finally, one strategy for implementing the pilot project would be to develop a listserv for, or list of, attorneys willing to take cases through the targeted QLSP.

With respect to this final suggestion, Steve suggested a more detailed fleshing out of the specifics of how the pilot project would launch and operate before proceeding much further in light of the pending launch of the moderate means program and the Jan. 18 arrival of Catherine Brown in the new position of WSBA Public Service Program Manager.

RPC 6.1 – on track, nothing to report as of yet.

**2011 WSBA Committee Appointment Process** – Sharlene explained that PBLAC terms are now two years long, and the dates of expiration of current members' terms have been staggered as identified in the Jan. 6, 2011 updated roster circulated by Sharlene to the PBLAC email list on January 6. ***Please check your expiration date. Those members whose terms end 9/30/2011 must submit new applications for appointment by March 11.***

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.