

Washington State Bar Association Pro Bono and Legal Aid Committee

April 12, 2012

In attendance: Andrea Axel, Catherine Brown (Staff), Andy Guy, Rory O'Sullivan, Esther Park, Gail Smith, Dan Young, Lew Zieske

Attending via telephone: Joanna Boisen, Michael Cressey, Brian DeFoe, Diana Singleton, Jen Werdell (Guest),

Unable to attend: Reagan Dunn, Brian Flock, Rebecca Glasgow, Andrew Krawczyk, Joanna Otero, Randy Winn

March Meeting Minutes were approved.

WSBA License Fee Reduction After an overview of the license fee referendum, members discussed the impact that the elimination of WSBA's reimbursement for volunteer travel would have on PBLAC. The Committee values the opportunity for in-person meetings and recognized that telephone access is not ideal. The Committee will draft and submit a letter to WSBA President Steve Crossland in support of maintaining PBLAC and its staff support.

Access to Justice Conference will be held in Yakima June 8-10. The conference theme is, "Our New Economic Reality: The Legal Profession's Role" and committee members are encouraged to attend!

Celebrate Pro Bono (October 21-27, 2012) Members discussed past events and whether PBLAC should organize anything in 2012. Although PBLAC is not an event-planning body, the committee could encourage a culture of service through volunteer recognition and appreciation efforts in conjunction with Celebrate Pro bono week. Joanna Boisen will discuss this with the Seattle Area Pro Bono Coordinators and Counsel group to gauge their interest in organizing a volunteer recognition event. She will report back to PBLAC in May.

Subcommittee Reports

- 1) **CLE Credit for Pro Bono Service** subcommittee members will submit the proposed rule and regulation changes to the MCLE Board at the Board's May 11 meeting. The subcommittee is gathering letters to support the proposed changes which they will present to the MCLE Board. The subcommittee expects to provide an update about the May 11 presentation at PBLAC's June meeting.
- 2) **Bookends** workgroup connected with individual organizations that provide mentorship. Members heard from these organizations that, in general, mentorship is a staff-intensive undertaking. The organizations reported that most mentoring was done by staff and that it was a challenge to line up a consistent and sustainable volunteer mentor program. The subcommittee feels that PBLAC is not the best vehicle to develop and sustain a state-wide mentor initiative due to the staffing such a project requires.
- 3) **Outreach** subcommittee is still planning to meet with pro bono coordinators from around the state at the Access to Justice Conference. Committee members also recruited a pro bono coordinator to apply to sit on PBLAC for the next committee term.
- 4) **Long Distance Lawyers** (LDL) subcommittee sent LDL volunteer attorney and interpreter names and contact information to the pro bono program in Walla Walla. Subcommittee members are working with the pro bono program to introduce the LDL concept to the Walla Walla County Bar.

PBLAC Liaisons to the Access to Justice Board Two committee members, Joanna Otero and Esther Park, agreed to liaise with the ATJ Board, although this will likely begin happening at the ATJ Board's September meeting since the June meeting will be at the ATJ Conference in Yakima and the Board will not meet again until the fall.

The next PBLAC meeting will be Thursday, May 10 from 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. at WSBA.