

**Washington State Bar Association Pro Bono and Legal Aid Committee**  
**May 10, 2012**

In attendance: Andrea Axel, Catherine Brown (Staff), Dan Ford (BOG liaison), Andy Guy, Jodi Nishioka (Guest), Rory O'Sullivan, Joanna Otero, Gail Smith, Dan Young, Lew Zieske

Attending via telephone: Michael Cressey, Rebecca Glasgow

Unable to attend: Joanna Plichta Boisen, Brian DeFoe, Reagan Dunn, Brian Flock, Andrew Krawczyk, Diana Singleton, Randy Winn

**April Meeting Minutes** were approved with one change.

**Washington Attorneys Assisting Community Organizations (WAACO)** Program Manager Jodi Nishioka provided information about WAACO's services. Attorneys interested in volunteering with WAACO and clients interested in WAACO assistance should visit [www.waaco.org](http://www.waaco.org). WAACO's current work includes:

1. Connecting non-profit organizations with pro bono transactional assistance: To be eligible for help, an organization must have a charitable, community-based purpose and not have a budget for legal assistance. 90% of requests for service come from King County. WAACO would like to move toward a state-wide service area and pro bono panel. Jodi will connect with individual committee members to explore outreach opportunities.
2. Coordinating pro bono consultations for low-income microenterprise business owners: WAACO provides clinic consultations and pro bono legal assistance for microenterprise clients of Washington Community Alliance for Self-Help and StartZone.
3. Offering CLE training sessions about non-profit law to pro bono and private attorneys.

**WSBA License Fee Reduction** After an update about decisions made by WSBA's Board of Governors (BOG) at their April meeting, the committee discussed PBLAC's letter to the BOG requesting continued staff support. Committee members were reminded about opportunities to communicate with the BOG and WSBA President Crossland, including the May 10 town hall forum and May 21 live chat.

**Celebrate Pro Bono** (Oct. 21-27) Joanna Plichta Boisen will help to organize a pro bono fair at Davis Wright Tremaine in October. She will provide updates as they develop, including how PBLAC might be involved.

### **Subcommittee Reports**

- 1) **CLE Credit for Pro Bono Service** Dan Ford and Dan Young will present the proposed rule and regulations changes at the MCLE Board's May 11 meeting. Joan Fairbanks reported that the Supreme Court would like statistics demonstrating the efficacy of the current rule/regulation to support PBLAC's proposed increase.
- 2) **Corporate and Public Entity Pro Bono Preference** The committee discussed the policy at some large firms which prohibits the firm's contract attorneys from engaging in pro bono work. Subcommittee members will fold this discussion into their work toward developing a pro preference in the corporate and public entity RFP process.
- 3) **Outreach** Becca Glasgow will share information about PBLAC's accomplishments at the pro bono coordinator meeting on Friday, June 8 at the Access to Justice Conference.
- 4) **Bookends** Andy Guy asked the Seattle Area Pro Bono Coordinator and Counsel group to provide input about how PBLAC might facilitate partnerships between new and experienced lawyers. The subcommittee will consider the new ideas Andy gathered at their next meeting.

**The next PBLAC meeting will be Thursday, June 14 from 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. at WSBA.**