



## WSBA Professionalism Committee Meeting Minutes

### July 13, 2012

#### **Present**

Gretchen Leanderson, Chair  
Hunter Abell  
Mark Arthur  
Jacob DeGraaff  
Sean Gamble  
Paul Gill  
Sims Weymuller  
James Yand  
Pam Inglesby, staff liaison

#### **Absent**

Nancy Isserlis, BOG Liaison  
Jackson Bennett  
Linda Frischmeyer  
David Gardner  
Sarah Lee  
Judith Lonquist  
Tina Mares  
Christine Palmer  
Matthew Pierce  
Suchi Sharma  
Juliana Wong

Chair **Gretchen Leanderson** called the meeting to order and welcomed guests Jeanne Marie Clavere, the WSBA's Professional Responsibility Counsel, and Michael Badger, the WSBA's Associate Director of Lawyer Services.

#### **Subcommittee updates**

*Law school outreach:* Chair Hunter Abell reported that the committee is scheduled to present at the University of Washington on August 2nd. Summer term presentations could not be scheduled at the other two law schools.

*Member outreach:* Chair Jacob DeGraaff reported that he and Sims Weymuller are working on a Professionalism chapter for the WSBA's Civil Procedure deskbook. Sims reported that he is presenting on "Dealing with Challenging Clients" at the WSBA's Solo and Small Firm Conference and on bullying and litigation at the Washington State Association for Justice Conference. He noted that citing specific RPCs and discipline notices in presentation materials is helpful when applying for ethics credits. Sims will chair WSAJ's all-day ethics CLE in December; Jeanne Marie Clavere and Jacob volunteered to assist. Gretchen Leanderson has organized a panel discussion on Professionalism for the Tacoma Pierce County Bar Association's annual convention in September.

*Random Acts of Professionalism:* Mark Arthur and Tina Mares are writing up recent awards for publication in Bar News. Committee members are encouraged to make nominations before September 30th, the end of the committee year. Instructions are on the committee's web page. Next year the committee should consider how to publicize the program more broadly, e.g., to WSBA staff, sections, minority bar associations, etc.

## **Proposed changes to APR 11**

Gretchen Leanderson expressed the concern that changes recently proposed by the WSBA's MCLE Board to APR 11 might result in Professionalism CLEs being eligible for "developmental" credit rather than ethics credit. This would change the potential audience for such CLEs. It was moved and approved that the committee recommend to the WSBA Board of Governors that it amend the proposed rule or add a comment/clarification so that Professionalism CLEs can continue to receive ethics credit. The committee noted that they do like the idea of the new development category of CLEs.

## **WSBA's Professional Responsibility Services**

Jeanne Marie Clavere discussed the ethics presentations she makes to WSBA members on topics including social media and websites, marketing techniques, and diminished capacity clients. She also answers the WSBA's ethics line on questions such as what to do when a client lies, clients who don't want effective counsel, fee sharing with non-lawyers, how to deal with clients who can't pay, trust accounts, terminating the client relationship, and terminating the employer relationship. The committee can help publicize the ethics line which is free of cost and confidential.

## **WSBA's Lawyer Services**

Michael Badger discussed the Law Office Management Assistance Program and Lawyers Assistance Program, both of which are being reconfigured to meet member needs. One emerging focus is succession/retirement planning given the large number of WSBA members nearing retirement age. Demand for services comes from around the state. The Lawyer Services web pages offer separate areas for senior attorneys and students with specific resources for each. The WSBA Admissions presentation which all law students see includes information on Lawyer Services. The committee can help publicize these services through its law student and other presentations.

## **Committee business**

Pam Inglesby reported that the Board of Governors's Committee on Committees was particularly impressed with this committee's annual report and recommends that it "continue its new efforts to assist other entities with incorporating content on professionalism and civility in their CLEs, and should promote the Random Acts of Professionalism program around the state in order to increase recognition of WSBA members."

The minutes of the May, 2012 meeting were approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Inglesby