

WSBA Professionalism Committee Meeting Minutes October 12, 2012

Present

Hunter Abell, Chair
Paul Bastine, BOG Liaison
Mark Arthur
Dan Ballbach
Jackson Bennett
Jacob DeGraaff
Ramina Dekhoda-Steele
Erin Fairley
David Gardner
Erin Jacobson
Gretchen Leanderson

Allen Unzelman James Yand Pam Inglesby, Staff Liaison

Absent

Linda Frischmeyer Sean Gamble Sarah Lee Tina Mares Raphael Nwokike Christine Palmer

Chair Hunter Abell called the meeting to order.

Committee overview

There is a committee mission statement on the committee's web page but Pam Inglesby noted that it is several years old and is superseded by whatever recent direction the committee has received from the WSBA Board of Governors. Last year the committee used approximately 10% of one staff FTE. Given recent staff reductions, it is unclear how much staff time will be available this year. The committee has a direct expense budget of \$1,000, mostly for member travel expenses. Hunter noted that he would like to conduct one meeting in Eastern Washington, perhaps to coincide with one of the law student presentations at Gonzaga University.

Hunter briefly described the recent work of the committee, which is summarized in the committee's annual report to the Board of Governors distributed before the meeting. Highlights:

• Presentations to all three of the law schools' Professional Responsibility classes. The committee worked on the presentation quite a bit last year and it is mostly finalized now. Interested committee members can be trained to make the presentation.

- Outreach to WSBA members by integrating professionalism messages or presentations into events organized by other organizations such as specialty and local bar conferences, WSBA section CLEs, etc. Question: How to use the prezi presentation. Also: Several members are assisting the WSBA's Education & Professional Development Department with professionalism material for its Civil Procedures deskbook. On hold: A civility survey of WSBA members in partnership with Paula Lustbader of Seattle University School of Law.
- Overseeing the WSBA's Random Acts of Professionalism program, including nominating recipients and publicizing them in NW Lawyer (formerly Bar News). The BOG would like to see the program expanded. Should it be renamed? Should it be merged into the Member Outreach subcommittee? What is the role of committee members versus staff?

Plans for 2012-13

Other/related ideas committee members are interested in:

- Public outreach
 - o the public's perception of the legal profession
 - o work with other WSBA entities regarding the public's understanding of the unauthorized practice of law, the new Limited License Legal Technician program
- Member outreach
 - o civility
 - o how to handle unprofessional behavior by other WSBA members
- Online discussion forum for WSBA members
- Mentorship program

Three subcommittees were formed:

- Law school outreach: Mark, Gretchen, Allen, Jacob, Jackson, Erin J., Dan, David, Hunter
- Membership outreach (including Random Acts of Professionalism): Gretchen, Ramina, Jacob, Erin F., Jim Y., Dan, Erin J., Hunter
- Public outreach: Ramina, Jim, Hunter

Committee Business

Minutes of the September 2012 meeting were approved.

The next meeting was set for November 9, 2012.

Respectfully submitted, Pam Inglesby