



WSBA Professionalism Committee Meeting Minutes

March 9, 2012

Present

Gretchen Leanderson, Chair
Hunter Abell
Jackson Bennett
Jacob DeGraaff
Linda Frischmeyer
Sean Gamble
Paul Gill
Tina Mares
Christine Palmer
Pam Inglesby, staff liaison

Absent

Nancy Isserlis, BOG Liaison
Mark Arthur
David Gardner
Sarah Lee
Judith Lonquist
Matthew Pierce
Suchi Sharma
Sims Weymuller
Juliana Wong
Jim Yand

Chair **Gretchen Leanderson** called the meeting to order and welcomed guests Thomas Mengert and Dan Ballbach, both WSBA members.

Committee Business

The minutes of the January meeting were approved.

Pam Inglesby reminded members that if their terms expire in 2012 and they wish to remain on the committee, they should apply via myWSBA by the March 12 deadline. There is a term limit of two terms (or four years). Exceptions may be requested.

The April committee meeting is rescheduled to Thursday, April 12th, 3:30-5:00. The law school prezis will be demonstrated at that meeting so in-person attendance is encouraged. Pam will investigate the possibility of members viewing the meeting remotely via videoconferencing.

Law School Outreach Subcommittee

Chair Hunter Abell reported that he, Gretchen Leanderson, and Pam Inglesby met with the three WSBA staff presenters to finalize the new law school prezis presentation. The written materials are also being updated. The spring semester presentation has been scheduled for Gonzaga. We are working on rescheduling the Seattle University presentation which was canceled due to weather. We did not make the presentation during the winter quarter at the University of Washington but are working on scheduling for the spring quarter.

A suggestion was made that the subcommittee look at the effects of law school on lawyer psychology. Pam will circulate a PowerPoint on this topic from a recent Robert's Fund CLE (discussed further below). The question was raised of when and where it makes sense to talk to law students about civility – should it happen in the first year? Pam noted that if the committee would like to expand the scope of its work it can propose this in the annual report it will submit to the WSBA Board of Governors later this year. She will circulate last year's report as well as sample reports from other committees.

Member Outreach Subcommittee

Chair Jacob DeGraaff reported that the subcommittee met by telephone on February 17th and confirmed with WSBA staff that the committee may present mini, no fee CLEs in partnership with other legal organizations (e.g., as part of a day-long CLE). If the other organization charges a fee, we need to consult with the WSBA about how to handle this. The next step is to develop a menu of mini-CLE topics related to professionalism/civility that can be offered to specific audiences. They will likely be tied to specific practice areas, and include a panel of speakers to offer multiple perspectives. They can incorporate best practices, and offer challenges to the audience (such as to mentor another attorney in leadership skills). One possible target audience is the WSBA's Young Lawyer Division.

Several members of the subcommittee and Pam Inglesby recently attended a two-day CLE on "Foundations of Civility in the Legal Profession" offered by Robert's Fund (see meeting materials). They shared a few high points that can be incorporated into the committee's mini-CLEs:

- Civility and effectiveness go together
- The rates of depression and substance abuse among attorneys are very high
- Lawyers can be asked both to identify their own incivility and to reach out and help others
- We need to present solutions to incivility, not just discuss the problem

For the good of the order

Gretchen Leanderson suggested that the committee nominate a specific individual [name omitted] for the American Inns of Court Professionalism Award for the 9th Circuit. The committee concurred. She will prepare the nomination materials.

Pam Inglesby reported that the King County Bar Association's Bar Bulletin is seeking articles on "networking" for its May issue. She suggested a committee member submit an article on civility/professionalism and social networking. She will forward the call for articles to the full committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Inglesby