

PRACTICE OF LAW BOARD STATE OF WASHINGTON

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MEETING MINUTES May 18, 2017

The Practice of Law Board (PLB) met on May 18, 2017 at the Offices of the Washington State Bar Association in Seattle, Washington. PLB members attending were: Hon. Paul Bastine, ret., Chair; Michele Carney; Professor Robin Jacobson, Administrative Law Judge Dominique Jinhong, Andre Lang, Amber Rush, Sarah Sumadi, Gary Swearingen, Jennifer Unger and Doug Walsh. Julie Shankland, WSBA Senior Assistant General Counsel and Sherry Lindner, OGC Paralegal also attended.

Minutes

The April 20, 2017 minutes were adopted by consensus. Professor Jacobson did not participate.

Chair Report

Chair Bastine reported that the LLLT Board is presenting to the BOG tomorrow. They are continuing to work on the next practice area.

Board Nominations

The Board's nominations will be sent to the Court.

Work Group Reports

The Public Education Work Group is working on a communication plan for the Legal Check Up product and continuing to work on the Check Up product. The group is drafting answers to questions and locating places/resources for people to find answers. The Work Group also surveyed the public information and resources currently available on bar association websites.

The New Legal Professional/Modern Practice Work Group discussed ways to survey legal providers and consumers to determine what kind of interfaces consumers want and need. This may be a joint project with the Public Education Work Group. The Work Group is interested in concrete data from consumers to support future decision-making. The group discussed working with WSBA and/or companies like AVVO or LegalZoom to contact consumers.

Report from ATJ Board liaison (Amber Rush)

Ms. Rush reported on several updates and agenda items, including the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project (NWIRP) lawsuit against J. Sessions and request for temporary restraining order. EOIR is interpreting an immigration court rule to prevent limited scope representation and that prevents NWIRP from doing much of its work. The discussion was short because the court had already issued the TRO. They also discussed the hotline for people to report immigration agents appearing in courts, schools, hospitals, etc. and people detained by ICE. The phone number is 1-

844-RAIDREP. They also discussed, but did not decide whether to send, a letter to ICE about enforcement concerns.

The ATJ Board also adopted a new state plan focusing on (1) race equity; (2) educating people in the community to identify problems as legal issues; (3) working to provide legal assistance to all people who want assistance; (4) working to make certain that all legal services provided are client-facing; and (5) providing systematic advocacy.

The Board discussed Advisory Opinion 2223 and decided not to take a position at this time. (see below).

GR 25 Advisory Opinions

The Board discussed changes to the advisory opinion language in the draft GR 25. The Court suggested changes to the Board's suggested language. A motion was made and seconded to add the following language to the current rule draft "if the board is requested to provide an advisory opinion, the board may, in its sole discretion, decline to do so." The motion passed by a vote of 8-0.

The Board entered Executive Session to consider three unauthorized practice of law complaints. The Board voted to refer one matter to an enforcement agency for information purposes and to close two files with no further action.

CPE Advisory Opinion 2223

The Board briefly discussed Advisory Opinion 2223 and decided to invite members of the CPE to the next PLB meeting to discuss this opinion.

NWIRP v. J. Sessions

The Board again, without taking any action, briefly discussed this lawsuit.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

END OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting was adjourned.