



WSBA

PRO BONO AND PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE

Conference Call: 1.866.577.9294 | Participant Code: 52111#

Thursday, May 11, 2017 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

WSBA Office, 1325 4th Ave., Suite 600, Seattle, WA

DRAFT MINUTES

In Attendance: Kevin McGuire, Judy Lin

Attend by Phone: Beth Leonard, Hilary Hibbeln, Paul Okner, Liz Lee, Chiedza Nziramasanga, Emily Nelson, Angeline Thomas, Bruce Conklin

Unable to Attend: Governor Bill Pickett, Na Crabtree, Priya Cloutier, Kristina Ralls, Lindy Laurence, Leslie Blankman, Adam Yeaton, Sara MacDuff, Jordann Hallstrom, Brendan Vandor,

Staff: Jennifer Small, Kelly Nee

PURPOSE STATEMENT: *The Pro Bono and Public Service Committee works to enhance a culture of service by promoting opportunities and best practices that encourage WSBA members to engage in pro bono and public service with a particular focus on services to underserved low and moderate income people.*

AGENDA

Thursday, May 11 – 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

1. Welcome and approval of Minutes (January & March)

Kevin McGuire called the meeting to order at 12:01. There were not enough attendees to approve the minutes.

2. Subcommittee Updates

a. Promotion

Emily Nelson reported that Sara MacDuff drafted an article for NW Lawyer as a review/promotion of the book “The Happy Lawyer” showing research between engaging in volunteer work and overall job satisfaction. Included is information about how to get involved with pro bono work. They are discussing having a pro bono feature in NW Lawyer on a more regular basis. Emily has also started participating on a committee that is evaluating Long Distance Lawyering, through the Pierce County VLP. Other members of this subcommittee are working on promoting MCLE credits for pro bono work – Kristina Ralls has been reaching out to the Spokane County Bar in order to get an announcement in their monthly newsletter.

b. Policies

Chiedza Nziramasanga reported that this subcommittee had made efforts to gather information on pro bono activity in a variety of organizations (small/large firms, govt. agencies, etc.). This information will help the committee decide where to focus efforts. Many small firms and govt. agencies either do not have concrete policies or no policies

at all. Angeline Thomas reported that they had asked for pro bono policies from the coordinators of the firms and the response rate was very low. Liz Lee suggested including small firm in-house attorneys when discussing policies, as an in-house attorney she stated her firm does pro bono, but there is no set policy regarding pro bono work.

c. **Barriers**

Bruce Conklin spoke about a new proposal, which other states have adopted, that would allow spouse/dependents of military stationed temporarily in the state to represent clients, if they have a license in another state. Kevin McGuire asked if there would be a relationship between that specific group and the Bar Association – would they pay license fee, would they be licensed, and would they be considered members if they are not taking the formal bar exam. Paul Okner spoke about other issues around eliminating fees for Emeritus status.

d. **ABA Survey**

Jennifer Small informed that April from the ABA will provide our specific state's survey results within the next couple months; they are currently compiling the data. The committee requested some raw data for specific questions.

Drawing of survey response winners: Kevin McGuire drew Diane Stokke (CLE prize), Robert Ellis, Elizabeth Fry, Jennifer Garber, and Jennifer Beyerlein (Starbucks prize)!

3. Diversity Programs & Public Service Programs Collaboration

Jennifer Small informed the committee about collaboration opportunities between these two committees. One of the collaboration opportunities involves the MMP Free CLE's and the Diversity Community Networking Events, the first one was in April in Bellingham. In the next fiscal year, there will be 4 more of these collaboration events between MMP and Community Networking.

4. Updates

Jennifer Small informed the committee about Call to Duty Day of Service – these are legal clinics that help veterans and military personnel, with a free 3 credit CLE on the clinic topic in the morning. The clinics are the same topic as the CLE, and volunteers of all experiences are welcome. Next fiscal year, there will be 4-5 Days of Service throughout the state.

Jennifer also informed the committee that the ProBonoWA website will be updated with the decisions made by the committee last year.

Jennifer also informed that the nominations for the FY18 committee have been made and announced, the BOG will approve these nominations in June and the co-chair for the next year in July.

Kevin McGuire suggested reaching out to LLLT's as volunteers for programming, such as Day of Service.

5. Announcements

Judy Lin announced that KCBA is currently accepting applications for the Pro Bono Services Director position.

Jennifer Small spoke about the ATJ Conference this year on June 2-4, 2017, in Yakima.

Kevin McGuire adjourned the meeting at 12:39 p.m.

2016-17 Meeting Dates | All meetings @ WSBA, 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

November 10th

March 9th

July 13th

January 12th

May 11th

September 14th