



## WSBA Professionalism Committee Meeting Minutes

January 13, 2012

### Present

Gretchen Leanderson, Chair  
Nancy Isserlis, BOG Liaison  
Hunter Abell  
Mark Arthur  
Jackson Bennett  
Jacob DeGraaff  
Linda Frischmeyer  
Sean Gamble  
David Gardner  
Judith Lonnquist  
Christine Palmer

Suchi Sharma  
Sims Weymuller  
Jim Yand  
Pam Inglesby, staff liaison

### Absent

Paul Gill  
Sarah Lee  
Tina Mares  
Matthew Pierce  
Juliana Wong

Chair **Gretchen Leanderson** called the meeting to order and welcomed WSBA staff members Executive Director Paula Littlewood, Director of the Office of Disciplinary Counsel Doug Ende, and Director of Regulatory Services and Interim General Counsel Jean McElroy.

### WSBA Member Referendum

Paula Littlewood reported that there will be a member referendum to reduce license fees, the result of a petition circulated by a WSBA member. Voting will begin March 7th, and the referendum will pass or fail by a simple majority of those voting. If the referendum passes, the WSBA's budget would be reduced by \$3.6 million, more than 25%. WSBA staff are creating a fact sheet that will be posted on the website. Independent committees have been formed to support or oppose the referendum. The cost of holding the election is more than \$100,000.

### Law School Outreach Subcommittee

Chair Hunter Abell provided some historical context to the discussion: Presentations have been made to the Professional Responsibility classes at all three of the state's law schools since 2008 by WSBA teams consisting of staff members and members of the Professionalism Committee. The PowerPoint presentation we have been using now looks dated and we are transitioning to the Prezi format. A draft Prezi has been prepared by the Law School Outreach Subcommittee and is close to being finalized in consultation with the WSBA staff who are also presenters.

Sims Weymuller noted that the presentation varied quite a bit when the PowerPoint was being used, depending on the presenter, but that use of the prezi will require sticking more closely to the taking points and thus more advance preparation on the part of presenters. The subcommittee plans to recruit four or five committee members who are interested in presenting and train them, including having them observe a presentation before they participate in one.

Paula Littlewood noted that the law school presentation differs from the member outreach presentation because it takes place as part of a class, and thus a high standard is expected. It is important that the presentation incorporate interaction, which will be included in the talking points as there are logical places to stop and engage students. The staff involved in the presentation stress the points that (1) day one of law school is day one in the profession, (2) law is a self-regulated profession which requires high standards that must be lived up to 24/7, (3) lawyers have the responsibility to protect the public from harm. The phrase "self-regulated profession" has several important implications, chiefly that the profession of law, through the judiciary, is one of three branches of government and thus a cornerstone of democracy. The rest of the presentation focuses on how to navigate through the profession which is not easy because of the adversarial model. Where the PowerPoint focused on civility, the new presentation also discusses competence and community involvement.

The question arose at the last committee meeting of whether presentations might be made at Oregon law schools because many students there will later practice in Washington. As a first step Jim Yand has contacted Lewis & Clark in Portland. Paula will follow up by asking the Executive Director of the Oregon State Bar Association if they are interested in partnering with us.

### **Committee Business**

Minutes of the December 2011 meeting were approved. Pam Inglesby reminded members whose terms are expiring that if they wish to remain on the committee after September 30th, they should reapply now via myWSBA.

### **Member Outreach Subcommittee**

Chair Jacob DeGraaff reported that the subcommittee met on January 3rd to discuss two projects: (1) A professionalism survey of WSBA members in collaboration with Paula Lustbader, who will email the subcommittee a draft. The survey will ask members if they perceive professionalism as a problem, where and why, and if they have any solutions. Timing will be late spring or early summer. (2) CLE presentations in collaboration with other organizations. Subcommittee members are talking with three specialty and county bar associations as a first step. There are some policy questions to be worked out with the WSBA regarding whether a committee can request CLE credits and/or charge fees for a CLE.

Other news from the subcommittee: (1) Committee members can attend the Robert's Fund civility CLE at Seattle University February 24th/25th for a greatly reduced fee. Further info will be sent by email. (2) The subcommittee will add a talking point to its presentation on civility related to unrepresented parties. (3) The subcommittee will meet the 4th Friday of every month at 4:00 but the February meeting will be on the 3rd Friday (the 17th). (4) Subcommittee members will be making presentations on Professionalism at other CLEs which we will keep track of as committee activity.

### **Random Acts of Professionalism Subcommittee**

Chair Judith Lonnquist reported that the committee will soon start drafting pieces for Bar News and will consider whether the name of the initiative should be changed.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Inglesby