



WSBA Professionalism Committee Meeting Minutes

December 2, 2011

Present

Gretchen Leanderson, Chair
Hunter Abell
Jacob DeGraaff
Linda Frischmeyer
Sean Gamble
David Gardner
Paul Gill
Judith Lonnquist
Christine Palmer
Sims Weymuller
Juliana Wong

Jim Yand
Pam Inglesby, staff liaison
Paula Lustbader, guest

Absent

Nancy Isserlis, BOG Liaison
Mark Arthur
Jackson Bennett
Sarah Lee
Tina Mares
Matthew Pierce
Suchi Sharma

Chair **Gretchen Leanderson** called the meeting to order and welcomed guest Prof. Paula Lustbader of Seattle University School of Law.

Committee Business

Minutes of the November 2011 meeting were approved. Pam Inglesby reported that a photograph of the committee "in action" will appear in the January issue of *Bar News* to illustrate the annual call for committee membership applications.

Law School Outreach Subcommittee

Chair Hunter Abell reported that a presentation is scheduled for Seattle University School of Law's Professional Responsibility class on January 17th. Presenters will be Sims Weymuller, Jacob DeGraaff, and Paula Littlewood.

The question arose of whether presentations might be made at Oregon law schools (such as Lewis & Clark). It was agreed the committee will explore this with the Oregon state bar. Prof. Lustbader noted there is a multi-state effort to bring law schools together to deal with professionalism issues. The related question was raised of whether there is a need among WSBA members for a CLE on Oregon/Washington reciprocity with respect to professionalism.

Can committee members receive CLE credit for presenting to law students? Probably not, as the audience does not receive CLE credit for attending.

Random Acts of Professionalism Subcommittee

Chair Judith Lonnquist reported that the subcommittee met and set a goal to write one piece a month for Bar News, focusing on both new recipients and those from up to two years ago.

The question was raised of whether Random Acts of Professionalism might be renamed to something more formal. The subcommittee will consider this.

Robert's Fund

Professor Paula Lustbader of Seattle University School of Law educated the committee about Robert's Fund, a nonprofit initiative that among other activities offers CLEs on civility in both Washington State and Italy. (For more information, see <http://www.robertsfund.org/cle/>.) She suggested the Fund collaborate with the committee on (1) small CLE presentations, (2) WSBA member outreach projects such as Bar News articles, and (3) a survey of the WSBA membership on the state of civility in the legal profession. It was agreed the Member Outreach Subcommittee (which has yet to meet) will work with Prof. Lustbader on the survey project. The following committee members will be added to the Member Outreach Subcommittee, in addition to Prof. Lustbader: Judith Lonnquist, Sims Weymuller, Jim Yand, Christine Palmer. Additionally, a link to the Robert's Fund will be added to the committee's web page (<http://www.wsba.org/Legal-Community/Committees-Boards-and-Other-Groups/Professionalism-Committee>).

Reviewing the Creed of Professionalism

The committee began reviewing the Creed of Professionalism for possible updating. Two preliminary additions were suggested:

- "I will not engage in behavior that disparages others because of race, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, religion, or national origin."
- "I will not put my own financial interest above the client's interest" (may need further wordsmithing).

The discussion will continue at the next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Inglesby