

PRO BONO AND PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE
January 11, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Present: Natalie Reber, Deborah Perluss, Thuy Nguyen, Ritu Jain, Jacquelyn Merrill Martin, Bonnie Rosinbum, Erin Fortney, Yuan Ting

WSBA Staff: Saleena Salango
BOG Liaison: Matthew Dresden
ATJ Board Liaison: Lindy Laurence

Meeting called to order 1:03 PM.

Welcome and Meeting Minutes

December Meeting Minutes approved with no amendments.

Subcommittee Updates

Communications Subcommittee – Jacquelyn Martin reported that the article written about young adults aging out of the system has been approved and will be published in a few months.

Technology Workgroup – Jacquelyn Martin reported that the workgroup has not met since last meeting. Jan 20th at 2:00p.m. will be the next meeting, which will include brainstorming for next year’s plan. All committee members are welcome to attend this meeting.

CLE Subcommittee – Erin Fortney reported that the CLE Subcommittee met on 12/21. The subcommittee is working on a gap analysis of the Public Service Education CLE catalog to identify opportunities for future WSBA CLE Programming. Erin, Bonnie Rosinbum, and Saleena Salango met with Diversity committee staff liaison Dominique Shannon to collaborate on the February Legal Lunchbox; Bonnie Rosinbum and Erin Fortney will do some opening remarks and moderate Q&A box during this program.

Rules & Policy Subcommittee – Yuan Ting reported that the subcommittee has not met since December meeting. The subcommittee is continuing work on determining whether proposing changes to the criteria for becoming a QLSP are a good use of time. One organization reported that QLSP status allows for emeritus status members to continue volunteering. The subcommittee is trying to determine whether rule changes to Emeritus/Pro Bono Status make sense over proposing changes to QLSP eligibility. Yuan Ting asked whether back to back rule change proposals are viewed less favorably by the BOG. Matthew Dresden reported that making rule changes after recently changed rules is not typically an issue. Based on that, Yuan shared that the subcommittee will continue to determine whether a QLSP rule change or emeritus status rule change makes the most sense given the organizational feedback received.

Strategic Planning Subcommittee – Bonnie Rosinbum reported that the subcommittee met on Tuesday 1/7 with David Weafer, Bonnie Rosinbum, and Saleena Salango. The meeting was short and mostly



discussed the community liaison position roles in efforts to stay community informed and solicit feedback. The subcommittee is also trying to strategize ways to incorporate public service into our work and recognize attorneys that are doing both pro bono and public service work in communities.

Saleena Salango added that this coincides with work to meaningfully honor Pro Bono Publico Honor Roll members. Historically, the WSBA has sent out customized certificates to all members that reported over 50 hours of pro bono, in addition to publishing the honor roll in the Bar News, blog, and Washington State Supreme Court website. The certificates used to be printed, but this year and last, they were sent digitally due to COVID-19. An ongoing question is whether sending certificates is a meaningful recognition, or if there are other ways to meaningfully recognize Pro Bono Publico Honor Roll members that are less taxing on the environment and on WSBA staff.

Jacquelyn Martin agreed that continuing to honor Pro Bono Publico Honor Roll members is important but it would be helpful to get feedback from WSBA members about what is meaningful to them.

Deborah Perluss suggested a free CLE for Pro Bono Publico Honor Roll members. Lindy Laurence offered that digital awards instead of certificates are still meaningful, and offering options for a digital vs print certificate would create less stress on the environment. Erin Fortney suggested developing digital badges for attorneys that they can publish on their website or put in their email signatures.

Bonnie Rosinbum inquired whether the committee would like to try and create an award or participate in the nominations for other awards that recognize pro bono and public service, such as APEX awards and Young Lawyers Committees. Deborah Perluss suggested that the Committee participates in nominations processes for APEX awards, to make sure that the Committee is not duplicating awards but rather functioning as a communications board to encourage community to make nominations and submit nominations for people who fit the criteria. Matthew Dresden agreed with Deborah and added that the APEX committee are regularly soliciting nominations; suggested ensuring that PBPSC should be a part of this nominations process.

BOG Liaison Update – Matthew Dresden reported that the next WSBA Board of Governors’ meeting will happen Thursday 1/13 through Friday 1/14. Matthew will report on the activities of this committee at the next Governor’s Roundtable item, including the Mission, Vision, and Values, pro bono and public service awards.

Matthew also reported that there is currently an examination of the future of the WSBA bar structure. The Supreme Court will work with BOG to determine whether an integrated bar structure will remain.

ATJ Board Liaison Update – No updates.

Meeting adjourned 1:52 p.m.