

**PRO BONO AND PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE**  
**March 8, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

Present: Michael Addams, Sandy Garcia, Natalie Reber, Erin Fortney, Thuy Nguyen, David Weafer, Jacquelyn Merrill Martin, Tacy Gillespie, Ritu Jain

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

Meeting began 1:08 PM

**February Meeting Minutes**

David Weafer made a motion to approve February meeting minutes, seconded by Sandy Garcia. Approved with no amendments.

**Subcommittee Updates**

*Communications Subcommittee* – Michael Addams reported that efforts to update the community liaison position list are still in progress. David Weafer reported that an article related to Individual Education Plans (IEP), legal rights and how people should approach them is currently being written for the July August issue or the September issue of the *Bar News*. Michael Addams also reported that the subcommittee is working on a feature for the October issue to highlight public service organizations and individuals.

*Rules & Policy Subcommittee* – Thuy Nguyen reported that the subcommittee is gathering feedback on the proposed rule changes to QLSP eligibility and Pro Bono/Emeritus status. Deborah Perluss is attending the Pro Bono Council meeting to get community feedback from Volunteer Lawyer Programs, which are all Qualified Legal Services Providers. Saleena Salango shared that the expansion of QLSP eligibility would ensure that government-sponsored pro bono programs can access Bar resources, however, the preliminary feedback offered is that expanding the definition too broadly might cause frustration with volunteer lawyers and pro bono organizations.

*Technology Workgroup* – Jacquelyn Merrill Martin shared that the technology WG did not meet. They are awaiting a decision from WSBA General Counsel on the legal limitations of the Cases/Opportunities feature. From there, the workgroup hopes to enable this feature.

*CLE Subcommittee* – Erin Fortney shared that this subcommittee met on February 24<sup>th</sup> with the WSBA CLE Department Barbara Del Mar Robles and Shanthi Ragu to plan for the October Legal Lunchbox. They are hoping to offer a program that will fill a gap in the current public service education library offerings. They also discussed free programming options and found that CLE programs cannot be offered free live and in the free public service education library, unless it is a Legal Lunchbox. The subcommittee will meet next Tuesday to discuss opportunities for partnership with Sections or other groups on another CLE. Erin



Fortney reported that the February Legal Lunchbox done in partnership with the Diversity Committee on voter suppression and voting rights went very well. Bonnie Rosinbum and Erin Fortney moderated Q&A portion of the Legal Lunchbox.

*Strategic Planning Subcommittee* – Tacy Gillespie reported that the Strategic Planning Subcommittee met the previous week. This meeting consisted of Bonnie Rosinbum and Saleena Salango. A key discussion took place on the challenges with staying community informed and making changes to the community liaison position.

### **FY 23 New Member Recruitment**

Saleena Salango shared the application deadlines for members applying for re-appointment, and urged members to invite at least one other person to join the committee.

### **In-Person Meetings Discussion**

Multiple members expressed an interest in meeting in person. Saleena Salango shared budget limitations and COVID-19 guidelines. The guidelines for in-person meetings currently require that all people be fully vaccinated or have an appropriate exemption; a measure to require booster vaccinations is also under consideration. We will consider dates for an in-person meetings at a future date.

### **BOG Liaison Update**

Matthew Dresden shared that the next BOG meeting is Thursday March 10<sup>th</sup> and Friday March 11<sup>th</sup> in Olympia, WA. One agenda item is related to revisiting vaccination requirements for volunteer, staff, board members. Jacquelyn Merrill Martin shared support for continuing to require vaccination with accommodations for whom it is not appropriate. Creation of committee to explore and advise the BOG on the future of all committees, workgroups, sections, etc. and the structure of the work in response to constitutional challenges to integrated bar. This will be a meta-committee to look at all WSBA committees to review mission, whether they are living up to mission, and what can be improved (evaluating mission drift). If committee members feel strongly about these items, please email Matthew Dresden to provide comments.

### **ATJ Board Liaison Update**

Lindy Laurence reported that the Access to Justice Board is focused on Access to Justice Conference in 2023. Currently, they are in the process of selecting co-chairs to lead and develop conference – please reach out to Lindy Laurence if interested in being a chair for this conference. Lindy also shared that there is a Board meeting coming up on Friday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.

Meeting adjourned 1:50 p.m.