



## Access to Justice Board Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2020, 10:00 am – 11:00 am

Washington State Bar Association, 1325 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, #600, Seattle, WA 98101

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**Present:** Sal Mungia, Judge Laura Bradley, Esperanza Borboa, Michelle Lucas, Mirya Muñoz-Roach, Hon. Frederick Corbit, Terry Price, Lindy Laurence, and Francis Adewale

**WSBA Staff:** Diana Singleton, Carolyn MacGregor

**Guests:** Caitlin Davis, Emily Van Yuga, Will Livesley-O’Neill, Nick Larsen, Linda Inagawa, Merf Ehman

**February Minutes:** The minutes were approved without edits.

**ATJ Board Priorities:** Esperanza was filling in for Dave Keenan to introduce this action item – seeking Board approval of Proposed ATJ Board priorities for 2020-2022. The committee started looking at priorities from 2017-2019. They needed to get feedback from Alliance members to see where the Board should put its energy, so they created a survey to solicit input, and received 77 responses. The listed priorities in the report are not in ranked order, and some new priorities were added based on discussion within the Board and at Board meetings.

Each goal is attached to a priority. These are definitely goals and may not be attainable.

Espy asked for concerns regarding these priorities. She shared that the priorities committee made the decision to take extra time to be thorough in getting input from stakeholders. Sal is greatly in favor of new priority #2, regarding legal needs of folks with unlawful immigration status. Sal says that if the Board adopts these goals, it should be committed to achieving them by the end of the 3 years, rather than seeing them as aspirational. Laura says other groups she’s involved with are looking at #2 as well.

The vote to approve passes unanimously.

**LFO Remission Rule:** Francis was filling in for Dave Keenan to introduce an action item regarding LFO remission rule GR 38, which addresses post-conviction relief from LFOs, helping to bridge the gap between the criminal and civil justice divide. Francis made a motion that the Board support GR 38. Currently counties can do whatever they like, and GR 38 would apply the same rules across the state. Lindy seconds the motion. Terry agrees that this is very important—it’s also an issue nationwide. Sal is in support. State legislature allows for relief from LFOs, but this creates uniformity in application across the state. The vote to approve: passes unanimously.

**Equal Justice Coalition Update:** Will Livesley-O’Neill reported that OCLA held a listening session on its budget development process. EJC came to the meeting with stakeholder priorities. He thought it was a productive meeting and the stakeholder consensus was supportive of the addition of 32 additional attorney positions, as well as other assistance. Initial comments are due on March 15. EJC plans to submit comments to ask for an additional \$500K. Will work with OCLA over the course of the month as it creates a new budget draft by April 15, with a final draft submitted to the WA Supreme Court by May 15. There was not a

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lot of physical participation in the room at meeting, but many called in to voice their support. Laura noted that the state is establishing an Office of Equity and the budget includes support for it.

Jim Bamberger sent out a good summary of the meeting, including a record of attendance. There was a good cross-section of providers. Will doesn't think that there is a plan for another listening session, but he would like to share with stakeholders about the next draft to incorporate responses into the feedback he will give by April 30. He will formalize that process.

An update on the federal budget: the ABA has canceled in-person advocacy day in DC. They plan to ramp up digital advocacy, and Will is point person to share info with the Alliance when he has it. The ABA is planning to give the Justice Champion Award to Senator Murray and EJC would like to assist with that. It should happen later this year. Sal says it would be great to arrange to celebrate with her on one of her trips home. Will will keep the Board apprised.

**LFW update:** Caitlin Davis wanted to preview her communication to grantees next week in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The foundation is preparing for the reality that client services will be impacted and creating a plan to maximize health compliance and creative means of service delivery. A longer-term concern is the economic impact, especially on hourly wage workers. Interest rates have already been cut, and the Fed will cut them back to almost zero, as they did in 2008. The Foundation will be able to honor grants for 2020, but grant cuts will be necessary, and there is rough water in ways that haven't been thought of yet. We all must be prepared to be flexible.

Lindy asked if any providers have begun tracking legal issues specific to COVID-19. Caitlin said that they are already tracking unemployment numbers, and comparing client problem codes between last year and this year. Are there new issues arising from current situation?

Espy and ELAP are getting requests regarding healthcare, landlord/tenant issues, and employment. The tidal wave is coming, with businesses shutting down and work hours being cut back. ELAP is trying to get ahead of it, but really just to be as informed as possible, with contingency plans in place. They have moved to phone consultation.

**Announcements:** Caitlin shared that all LFW fundraising events have been postponed through the end of May.

The meeting adjourned at 10:47 am.