

Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2020

Members Present: Chair Michael Cherry, Michele Carney, Pearl Gipson-Collier, Brooks Goode, Amber Rush, Prof. Drew Simshaw, Gary Swearingen, Mir Tariq, and Joseph Williams.

Members Excused: Sunitha Anjilvel (BOG Liaison).

Also Attending: Michelle Lucas (ATJ Board Liaison), Ellen Reed (ATJ Technology Committee Liaison), Julie Shankland (WSBA General Counsel), and Kyla Jones (WSBA Paralegal).

PUBLIC SESSION

Chair Michael Cherry called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

1. Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the October 15, 2020 meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Updates

a. Operations

i. Recruitment and Onboarding

Chair Cherry reported that we are beginning to receive applications. He discussed our onboarding process and getting new members familiar with Box and Zoom. Chair Cherry and Kyla Jones will work to update our onboarding documents.

ii. Mission Statement

Chair Cherry opened up a discussion about formalizing a mission statement. It would be valuable to have a mission statement to refer to during the recruitment process. This mission statement would be similar to an informal, elevator speech, and would capture what the POLB does in a brief way compared to listing the responsibilities laid out in GR 25.



iii. Subcommittees

Chair Cherry asked interested members to step forward to form subcommittees for projects with deadlines.

b. Public Education

i. Legal Health Check Up

Chair Cherry gave an update on the Legal Health Check Up. The Legal Health Check Up will focus on housing and employment. Housing will focus on two subtopics: (1) legal help for renters; and (2) legal help for homeowners. Employment will focus on two subtopics: (1) unemployment insurance; and (2) loss of employment (temporary or permanent). The goal is to get the project working so that we can: a) see what it looks like; b) learn how to maintain this tool; and c) plan where this tool will live. POLB member Mir Tariq expressed interest in joining this subcommittee.

c. New Avenues for Legal Related Services

i. Access to Justice Technology Committee Workgroup

Ellen Reed reported on the Access to Justice Technology Committee's projects and ongoing work. The group is working on drafting a work plan for the next five years.

ii. Online Legal Services and GR 24

The Access to Justice Technology Committee Workgroup is working to re-draft GR 24 to include legal service providers. Currently, the group is still in the early drafting stages.

iii. Courthouse Facilitators

The Board briefly discussed the possibility of seeking grant money for the Courthouse Facilitator program.

iv. Washington Forms Online

The Board was notified that Washington Forms Online have recently launched a new version of their tool, Washington Law Help, authored by the NW Justice Project. The tool can be viewed here:

<https://www.washingtonlawhelp.org/resource/washington-forms-online>

v. LLLT Sunsetting

Chair Cherry will discuss with Chief Justice-Elect Gonzalez to see if the Court would like the POLB to review this.

3. Preparation for Meeting with the Court

Chair Cherry will schedule a meeting with Chief Justice-Elect Gonzalez.

4. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Thursday, December 17, 2020 from 10 A.M. – 12 PM.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made and seconded to enter Executive Session.

A motion was made and seconded to exit Executive Session.