

MEETING MINUTES

January 18, 2018

The Practice of Law Board (PLB) met on January 18, 2018 at the Office of the Washington State Bar Association. PLB members attending were: Hon. Paul Bastine, ret., Chair, Trena Berton, Michele Carney, Professor Emeritus George Critchlow, Brooks Goode, Amber Rush, Sarah Sumadi, Gary Swearingen, Jennifer Unger, and Doug Walsh. Michelle Lucas, ATJ Board Liaison; Sherry Lindner, OGC Paralegal; and Julie Shankland, Assistant General Counsel, also attended. Julie Shankland acted as secretary for the Board.

Public Session

Minutes

The minutes were approved by consensus with one correction.

Legal Health Check Up

The Board reviewed the draft “two pager” and discussed the format, specific content, and comments received to date. The Board likes the format and will provide input on the content based on the comments received. The Board discussed how this document will be translated into languages other than English.

GR 25 Amendments Update

The most recent GR 25 amendment draft was provided to the BOG as an information item. The next step is to send the rule draft to the Court.

New Member Recruitment and MentorLink Mixer

The Board briefly discussed the process for applying to serve on the Board. All members were encouraged to reach out to interested potential members. Chair Bastine explained that the MentorLink Mixer is an event planned to help WSBA members learn more about volunteer opportunities. The PLB will be participating in this event.

Consideration of GR 24 Amendments to authorize web-based document preparation services while protecting the public.

The Board continued to discuss this concept. The Board started with the premise that the rule must include regulation, supervision, and licensure for these entities. The Board also discussed whether the Consumer Protection Act (CPA) provides the necessary protections, or whether additional entity regulations are needed. The Board continued to discuss whether (1) regulation is necessary, (2) whether the CPA protections are simple and quick enough to provide prompt remedies for unrepresented consumers, and (3) how to provide needed regulation without creating unnecessary barriers to innovation. The Board decided that a board work group would continue to develop these concepts. The work group members are Critchlow, Walsh, Berton, Rush and Lang. The goal is to present a model for discussion at the February meeting.



Other Board Projects

The Board also discussed other possible projects, including:

Innovative ways to increase access and user-friendliness of courts

Kiosks for court.

Skype or Facetime hearings, especially for people in custody

Video conferencing for all court hearings

More accessible, lower cost access to court documents and decisions

Court sessions evenings and weekends

Remove family issues or child issues from court system

Provide ways for people to solve problems from their homes. How can this idea be translated into rules?

Train and license Notarios

The Board will continue to discuss other project ideas at the February meeting.

The Board entered executive session to deliberate on unauthorized practice of law complaints.

Executive Session Ended.

The meeting was adjourned.

