

PRO BONO AND PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING

June 2, 2020 | 1:00-2:00 pm

Present: Bonnie Aslagson, Nancy Chupp, Kristina Ralls, Brendan Vandor, Nick Larson, Althea Paulson, Andrew Phillips, Paul Okner, Naiomy Delarocha-Minckler

WSBA Staff: Paige Hardy

Meeting called to order at 1:08 pm.

Meeting Minutes

Nancy noted that the meeting minutes date needs to be amended to 2020. Althea moved to pass the minutes with the change, Bonnie seconded motion. Unanimous decision to pass minutes with amendment.

Emeritus Pro Bono Updates

Nick provided update about brief presentation to the BOG's Budget & Audit Committee. The Budget & Audit Committee was overall in support of bringing the emeritus pro bono proposal before the full BOG in June.

Althea shared that the comments received from the various QLSPs were positive. Althea noted that the perspectives regarding the number of hours issue are different from the regulatory services department versus the people "in the trenches" who want fewer hours. Financial concerns for lawyers who are providing pro bono services is a big issue that was another issue raised by the QLSPs. Bonnie noted that it was great to see such supportive comments from other organizations. Althea shared that the Regulatory Services Department was likely going to push 50+ hours. Nancy noted that given that the justice partners are strong about less than 30 hours that the committee might consider when presenting to the BOG could be supportive of the less than 30-hour requirement. Bonnie shared that in the memo currently, there is language explaining how the 30-hour requirement came from RPC 6.1, but that the committee recognizes this is still a barrier. The memo left room for other suggestions and proposals.

Nick shared that since we do not have it on the agenda for action we cannot vote on any changes; however, when this issue is on for first reading at the BOG meeting that can be a time for the committee to advocate for the other organizations.

Next BOG meeting is June 26 and 27.

Liaison Updates

No updates at this time.

Workgroup Updates

CLE: Brendan shared that the workgroup is in discussion with a Gonzaga University professor about presenting. Workgroup working towards finding a legal aid attorney from practice. The October CLE will likely focus on child custody/visitation, guardianship, or child support.

Technology: Paul shared that the workgroup is pushing forward with ProBonoNet with proposed changes to the website with a request for pricing and timing.

Strategic Planning: Nick shared that the workgroup is still welcoming committee members. Will be holding a workgroup meeting in June.

Policy/Rules: See emeritus updates above.

BOG's Request for Input on Northwest Justice Project's Private Attorney Involvement Plan

Nick shared that the BOG was looking for feedback for NJP's Private Attorney Involvement Plan. Nick and Paige had a conversation with Charlotte Keenan from the Northwest Justice Project.

Paige shared a little history of the funding for civil legal aid in Washington and restricts that receipt of federal funding has on clients that can be served.



Nick shared that the BOG requested the committee's input. Nick suggested that the committee draft a comment in support of the Private Attorney Involvement Plan to present to the BOG.

ACTION: Nick moves that the Committee draft a comment in support of the Plan. Paul seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

Recruitment

Nick shared that the Committee has open positions for next year and reminded people who are eligible to re-apply to apply as soon as possible. Interested individuals can go to their MyWSBA to apply for a committee.

Nick also reminded committee members that if anyone is interested in chairing or co-chairing the Committee can reach out to him or Paige.

Announcements

Members of the committee provided life updates.

No announcements.

Meeting adjourned at 1:51 pm.