



WSBA

PRO BONO AND PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE
Thursday, November 12, 2015, 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.
WSBA Office, 1325 4th Ave., Suite 600, Seattle, WA
MINUTES

In Attendance: Governor Elijah Forde, Sara MacDuff, Kevin McGuire, Beth Leonard, Judy Lin, Angeline Thomas

Staff Liaisons: Jennifer Small, Dana Barnett, Robin Nussbaum

Attend by Phone: Kristina Ralls, Alyssa Melter, Pam Feinstien, Charlotte Grist Smith, Jordann Hallstrom, Adam Yeaton, Dawn Cortez, Bruce Conklin, Emily Nelson

Unable to Attend: Leslie Blankman, Chris Lybeck, Guy Knudsen, Amanda Williamson

Approval of Minutes: Minutes were approved. Angeline motioned and Beth seconded, approval was unanimous by the Committee.

Welcome New Member, Kristina Ralls, and WSBA Program Coordinator, Dana Barnett

Kristina Ralls lives in Spokane, admitted to the Bar in 2011 and has taken pro bono cases with Volunteer Legal Services Programs. Dana Barnett is the new Programs Coordinator for Public Service, Mentorship, and New Lawyers. Dana formerly worked at KCBA with Volunteer Legal Services and the Neighborhood Legal Clinics.

Committee Recruitment and Vacancy: Jennifer Small: If you are not reapplying for this PBPS Committee, or if you have a question contact Jennifer. If you are reapplying there is no need to do anything until you receive the form to re-apply. Committee members are encouraged to recruit lawyers who are under-represented in WSBA committees. The deadline for applications is March 1st. The nominations will go to the BOG and the final selections will confirmed in July. Our committee is allowed one member who is on emeritus status.

Subcommittees

- Moderate Means Program – Emily Nelson: There first of several live CLEs on the Tapping the Middle webinar is scheduled. The target are counties with low participation, such as Central WA and the SE counties. The first CLE is scheduled for February 22 in Moses Lake from noon to 3:00. The program will show a webinar and facilitate discussion. The intention is to put a program together that can easily be recreated especially for rural counties. Emily wants to start with recruiting attorneys in Grant County.
Angeline: Clay Wilson (Moderate Means Staff Attorney for Seattle U and UW) and Catherine Brown (Staff Attorney at Gonzaga) would like to be included on the next subcommittee conference call.

Jen: Ana and Jen can talk to Clay and Catherine and provide their email addresses to Emily and the subcommittee.

- Bar Exam Question Subcommittee – Beth Leonard: They need more info from WSBA Admissions staff. Jennifer and Beth met with Bobby Henry and Gus Quiniones, and were encouraged to submit a request with examples of questions and an argument for it. Submission is due by March 15th to be on the 2017 exam. Beth is optimistic the Board of Bar Examiners would consider a proposal to add a question that relates to the RPC concerning pro bono service by attorneys. RPC 6.1 which recommends 30 hours of service per year for each attorney. The purpose of adding such a question means that students preparing for the Washington component would become aware of the need for attorneys to provide free or reduced fee legal services. The subcommittee will present a draft proposal via email to the PBPSA seeking input. We will have a quick deadline for responses in order to vote on the proposal at the March whole committee meeting
- Pro Bono WA Subcommittee – Kevin McGuire. Pro Bono WA is a website that is a clearinghouse for pro bono opportunities, and currently not many attorneys know the site exists. The committee is developing a list of stakeholders to get a list of ideas for ways to make it more useful. **They ask members of the PBPSA to; think about what tools would be helpful to add to the website.** Beth: The subcommittee should come to a monthly meeting of the Pro Bono Council. Pro Bono Net hosts the site for organizations; WSBA owns the content and does monitor the site. Kevin has an email out to Pro Bono Net for advice on best practices.
- Pro Bono Barriers Research/Workshop Subcommittee – Sara MacDuff. The Workshop/Stakeholders Conference subcommittee merged with the Research subcommittee. This subcommittee hopes to gather stakeholders to assess the unmet needs of WA residents. They will also research what barriers lawyers experience for taking pro bono cases. Pam: The Legal Foundation of Washington and the Alliance for Equal Justice have a workshop after the Goldmark Lunch. In 2017 this afternoon program may be a good place to bring stakeholders together. Angeline sent the subcommittee results of the ABA survey.
The subcommittee is also looking at creating a “bank” of generic pro bono protocols for private and government entities to recruit volunteer. Each county and municipality may have different restrictions.
- **Update on Emeritus Status Fee Waiver:** Ana is meeting with Budget & Audit in April. Bruce Conklin sent the Barrier subcommittee the protocol.

- **Announcements**

Judy Lin: Call to Duty is at Starbucks on Saturday, January 23rd. Email has been sent out by WSBA.

- **Diversity Presentation:** Diversity Specialist, Dr. Robin Nussbaum led an engaging presentation on Diversity & Inclusion She discussed the WSBA efforts both internally and within the bar. The

materials were attached to the January 14th Meeting Documents email. Possible follow up activity for the committee: One idea is for this committee to taking a word/phrase from the Diversity Dictionary to discuss each meeting. Another way to value these concepts is in our recruitment efforts for WSBA committees.

2015-16 Meeting Dates | All meetings @ WSBA, 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

November 12th	March 10th	July 14th
January 14th	May 12th	September 8th