

PRO BONO AND PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

July 13, 2021 – 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Attendees – Christine Kuglin, Michael Addams, Erin Fortney, Bonnie Rosinbum (Aslagson), Natalie Reber, Nicholas Larson, Yuan Ting. WSBA Staff: Diana Singleton, Tyler Washington, Saleena Salango.

Introductions and Welcome to New Equity and Justice Specialist Saleena Salango

New Equity and Justice Specialist Saleena Salango will be the new WSBA staff liaison to support the PBPSC, and Diana Singleton will support transition.

Meeting Minutes

On motion by Nick Larson and seconded by Erin Fortney, the committee unanimously voted to approve the June meeting minutes.

Brief Workgroup Updates, Review of Accomplishments, and Solicitation for Input

Rules & Policy Workgroup – Erin reported the Rules & Policy WG did not meet. Proposed amendment to RPC 6.5 by Pro Bono Council was approved by the WA Supreme Court.

CLE Workgroup – No report.

Communications Workgroup – Christine Kuglin reported that the workgroup discussed the following from their last meeting. Christine Kuglin will be head of workgroup for FY 22. Nancy Chupp worked with an author for an article on voter suppression, which is ready to submit for publication. Pro Bono WA Portal: the workgroup pushed back article for the WA State Bar News on the newly redesigned portal to the December/January issue. Pro bono coverage for October Bar News issue: The workgroup connected with Kristine Abel, editor of the WA State Bar News magazine, for a pro bono work for October. Michael shared that his article draft on the Moderate Means Program will be submitted by August 1st for publication in the October issue of the WA State Bar News Magazine, which will cover interviews with two attorneys and three law students in the program. Future opportunities: Christine K and Jacqui hope to collaborate on an article about children/young adults aged out of foster care system.

Technology Workgroup – Diana shared that the Technology Workgroup had a very productive last meeting. Jacqui is working with Sam Harden with Pro Bono Net to make changes to the Pro Bono WA Portal. The workgroup hopes to make the Pro Bono WA site more engaging by adding a rotating slidedeck of photos and links for the home page that will be regularly updated. The workgroup plans to update information in the pro bono opportunities guide on the site by the next meeting. The aim is to launch the newly redesigned Pro Bono WA portal in October, which is pro bono month. Michael shared that the Technology WG is collaborating with the Communications Workgroup to write an article for the December/January issue of the Washington State Bar News magazine, which will be themed around New Years resolutions and share details about how to navigate the Pro Bono WA site.

Liaison Updates

Christine Kuglin shared that the Communications Workgroup may draft an email updating them on the committee's activities to get people updated after summer.

Erin reported liaison group as inactive, and asked if PBPSC members can reach out to other groups if original assignment is inactive. Christine K also asked for different liaison group or different contact, and suggested that PBPSC members reach out to their contacts and ask if there is a better time to reach out.

Natalie shared that Washington Women's Lawyers is holding ethics CLE about working from home. In September, WWL will host a combo CLE about how to handle access to justice issues in virtual world. Free for WWL members. Natalie also shared a speed networking mentorship event in October for law schools.

Nick shared that the goal for PBPSC liaisons is to connect to as many organizations across the state as capacity allows. Suggested thinking about if members want to continue reaching out to the same group for next year, or if multiple members would like to reach out to the same group, or if members would like to reach out to multiple groups.

Bonnie reported that Thurston County Volunteer Services hired a new program coordinator who will take over legal advice clinics. Many groups are preparing for right to counsel unlawful retainer evictions defense; they currently have 3 right to counsel attorneys. Bonnie is taking over for managing attorney for that. Evictions pilot programs: Bonnie reported that many counties will most likely move towards dispute resolution centers, landlord/tenant rental assistance fund and payment plans to avoid court congestion. Legal aid organizations will be needed to advise and represent tenants through that process.

Yuan reported that King County Bar Association has doubled in size and hired 9 staff attorneys in last month. KCBA is hiring two attorneys to address housing. HJP has now capacity to do superior court cases and appeal cases.

Diana asked if the WSBA can be helpful in any communications to let the public or members know how to access information about the right to counsel for evictions. Is there a point person to connect with? Yuan will follow up with Diana after the meeting. Natalie suggested an article about the Bridge Proclamation. Bonnie suggested that the public should be referred to county by county, local volunteer lawyer programs as they are best place to go.

Diana asked how clients are informed of their rights. Members reported that landlords are required to provide certain information before/while initiating process. EW website advertising. HJP – sending letters to tenants whose eviction case are being filed, HJP may be able to help you and contact info. Keep local services partners know that we exist. According to the right to counsel bill, the court cannot order an eviction order without counsel. Vacating the judgement no right to counsel as a defense.

Update on Member Recruitment

Diana provided update on recruitment. Sent 5 people to BOG nominations committee. We just submitted a memo to Paris Eriksen, who is passing it on to nominations committee. If they approve, it will be sent to BOG who then will approve nominations. All 5 people have a lot of

pro bono background. The PBPSA has space for up to 18 members; if all 5 people join, this will bring the PBPSA to 13. Next meeting or communications workgroup to discuss ongoing recruitment for more members.

Planning for Future Meetings

Bonnie suggested hybrid schedule, with mid-year and orientation meetings being in person and the rest being virtual. Diana suggested bring this topic to future meetings.

2021 Access to Justice Conference

Diana shared that the Access to Justice Conference will occur August 11 – 13 virtually. The content will be really amazing and the conference is free to everyone, with the option of getting up to 12 CLE credits for \$100, with options for different tracks such as immigration advocacy, intersection and criminal justice/reentry, community lawyering, and more. Diana reminded members that serving on the committee does not count as CLE credit, but does count towards volunteer hours.

Updates and Announcements – No updates or announcements.