

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

Washington Young Lawyers Committee

Washington Young Lawyers Committee | Seattle, WA
Saturday, December 8, 2018 | 10:00am – 2:30pm
Meeting Minutes Final

Present: Kim Sandher, Jordan Lee Couch, Brian Neuharth, Maha Jafarey, Catherine Holm, Nathan Beard, Zachary Davison

Phone: Mike Mocer, Chelsie Elliott, Ian McCurdy, Chelsie Elliott, Alixanne Pinkerton, Emily Ann Albrecht, Andrew Van Winkle, Molly Winston

Absent: Benjamin Hodges (excused), Alice Bagirova (excused), Colin McMahon

WSBA Staff: Julianne Unite, Tyler Washington, Dana Barnett

Board of Governors (BOG): Russell Knight (absent)

Introductions & Approval of the Minutes

Kim called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. On motion by Nathan and seconded by Jordan, the WYLC approved the October meeting minutes.

Chair-elect and WYLC nominations.

Kim shared that deadline to apply for the WYLC chair-elect position is December 31. Julianne asked that current members apply to the position as soon as possible so that staff can work on filling vacancies. Kim stated that WYLC member applications are due February 28 and encouraged current members to share the posting with their constituents.

BOG Report

Kim shared a written BOG report on behalf of Russell. It stated that the Supreme Court is forming a workgroup to examine the WSBA structure. WSBA will be now providing Fast Case as an additional free research tool. The letter also shared that Mandatory Malpractice insurance will be discussed at the March BOG meeting and asked if the WYLC has an interest in this topic. Mike stated that his subcommittee would examine this and asked if the WSBA has data on how many new and young lawyers have malpractice insurance, and Julianne shared that she will look into it.. Mike also expressed interest in how this would impact the Client Defense Fund.

Program Updates

Julianne provided WSBA program updates to the WYLC. She shared that Open Sections Night is on January 31. She invited WYLC members to serve as table coaches or provide recommendations for the Jan.10 MentorLink Mixer: Rainmaking in Bellevue. She also shared that participants are needed to serve as bailiffs and jurors for the Trial Advocacy Program Mock Trial on Feb 23. She also reported that health

care open enrollment will close soon and that the next BOG meeting will be held on January 17-18 in the WSBA offices and via webcast.

Regional Rep Report Outs/At-large Member Report Outs

King County – Zach shared that he has met with a few members for coffee since his introductory email. Kim asked if there was an opportunity for the WYLC to collaborate with KBCA and Maha stated that YLD chair has expressed interest in collaborating.

Greater Olympia Region – Catherine shared that she has met members for coffee since sharing her introductory email. She met with the TCBA chair who shared that they are planning social activity in February or March.

Pierce County – Brian shared that he spoke at Pro Bono Night and Crystal Judson Family Justice Center fundraisers and shared information on upcoming Pierce County Bar Association events. He is also working on survey to determine what young members want out of a mentorship program.

South Central – Alixanne shared that she has also been on coffee meets since the introductory email and there is an upcoming YCBA holiday party. Alixanne inquired whether the quarterly contact list is updated. Julianne shared that members might choose to opt out and if members state that they aren't receiving emails to advise them to verify that their mywsba.org info is correct.

Southwest – Chelsie shared that she sent out the introductory email and has been attending networking lunches with new lawyers. She stated that she has attended a Family Law Legal Clinic and shared information about upcoming events Lawyer Talk and Inns of Court.

Northwest Region – Ian shared that he organized Whatcom Young Lawyer Happy Hour in October and there was interest in holding it bi-monthly or quarterly. He also attended Skagit County Young Lawyers social hour and NW Legal foundation volunteer event.

Greater Spokane Region – Molly shared that Spokane has an active young lawyer division that hosts a bi-monthly mentoring activity. Spokane County Bar Association is hosting a holiday party and there will be more upcoming young lawyer socials.

North Central Region – Andrew shared that the Douglas County Bar Association has an upcoming Christmas Party event.

At-large

Maha shared that she has been networking with young attorneys and UW 1L students and inquired in what capacity law students can participate with the WYLC. Kim shared that they are welcome to join subcommittees and attend WYLC meetings. ELAP is working with Justice Gonzales to hold court on the east side and Maha suggested that there may be an opportunity for the WYLC to get involved. Kim inquired whether the WYLC can without board approval. Maha shared that ELAP is in the initial stages of planning and will update the WYLC when there are more details. Maha stated that she is involved with REJI and they have found that young attorneys are not trained to work with underserved communities. Discussion ensued on providing relevant trainings for attorneys or to include related question on bar exam. Brian expressed interest in becoming more involved in these discussion and Jordan suggested that the New Members/Debt subcommittee to take this on. Julianne shared that the PREP program is being reworked and the work group sent out a survey that asked members for feedback to provide more race, equity and inclusion content. Jordan asked if the survey collected data on race and equity issues, and Julianne stated that there isn't statistical data but qualitative data and Jordan inquired if WYLC can get access. Julianne will look into this.

ABA Updates

Emily reported that she attended the ABA YLD council meeting in Charleston where topics included developing a model of ABA YLD, how to increase and provide value in membership. She shared that five delegates are needed for the January ABA midyear meeting. Kim suggested that regional representatives should recruit in their region or serve as delegates themselves. Catherine suggested that the scholarship recipients and applicants could be tapped to serve as delegates.

ABA Subcommittee report

Julianne reported that the ABA subcommittee will meet on December 13 and select a midyear scholarship recipient. Five applications have been received and those not selected will be encouraged to attend as delegates. Delegates need to be certified by Dec. 31.

ATJ Subcommittee report

Jordan reported that the ATJ Conference is being held in Spokane on June 14-16. The conference is soliciting content proposals. The ATJ subcommittee thinks this is a great opportunity to put on a workshop regarding RRR and present data of what the problem looks like in the state. Jordan is currently gathering data focusing on representation in worker comp industries. Jordan suggested comparing all counties data and asked for suggestions of other industries to study. Brian suggested domestic violence. Catherine stated that the Moderate Means Program might have data on pro se litigation and Maha suggested connecting with NW Alliance. On motion by Jordan, and seconded by Maha, the WYLC unanimously approved to submit a content proposal for the ATJ conference.

Jordan shared that he would like to the WYLC to endorse a proposed bill that allows workers compensation attorneys to provide services without only charging contingency fees. Discussion ensued about the pros and cons of supporting the bill. Catherine stated that client issues areas are intertwined and that it's difficult for the attorney to represent all issue and asked that the WYLC remain neutral. Mike stated it wouldn't cause harm because it wouldn't hinder charging contingency fees, but allow attorneys to offer unbundled services. Mike moved to endorse this proposal to the legislature, Brian seconded, the WYLC voted accordingly:

Oppose: Nathan, Andrew, Catherine

Approve: Ian, Mike, Chelsea, Zachary, Brian, Kim, Emily, Maha

Abstain: Jordan

Absent: Alix, Molly

The WYLC passed the motion with majority approval. Letter of support is due Dec. 13.

Other Subcommittee reports

ABA Subcommittee –Emily will ask Molly to join the ABA subcommittee.

Outreach Subcommittee – Maha shared that they are looking into a possible social event with Snohomish County and KCBA.

Bylaws and Governance Subcommittee – Mike shared that the subcommittee is examining proposed changes to overtime rules and suggested to get a speaker to provide a presentation to the WYLC, which he will take

the lead on finding. Mike also shared that the subcommittee was examining the issues of bar restructure, malpractice insurance, committee name, and new and young lawyer bylaw definition.

Debt Subcommittee- Kim shared that Shanthi had reached out to the WYLC for input on what topics should be presented for a legal writing CLE. Debt subcommittee is also working on providing financial counseling CLE to new members and coordinating with IOWA transparency report. Chelsea joined the debt subcommittee.

Julianne reminded the subcommittees to notify her of meeting date and time changes and to submit agendas and minutes that capture meeting locations, attendees, and any decisions made.

Trello

Jordan provided a presentation on Trello as a tool for subcommittee project tracking. Julianne reminded the WYLC that this may be subject to public records request and not to save member data on this platform.

Minority Bar Associations

Dana Barnett, Diversity and Inclusion Specialist, provided a presentation about the WSBA Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Portfolio and led a discussion on how the WYLC could engage with MBAs. Dana explained that MBAs are entities independent of WSBA and that the WSBA seeks way to support them as partners in advancing equity and inclusion in the legal profession. Dana recommended reaching out to MBAs to see what they are working on and seeing if there is potential for collaboration, and that she would be happy to facilitate these connections. Further suggestions included hosting joint mixers, connecting with their legal clinics, and attending MBA annual events, and Community Networking Events. Dana also shared that she is a resource to help with recruiting efforts and increasing representation from underrepresented groups. Maha suggested adding a question pertaining to diversity to the WYLC application and Dana suggested connecting with the diversity committee to help draft that question. Dana also recommended the WYLC complete implicit bias training. The WYLC was interested if the WSBA has demographic data available that the WYLC could view. Dana will follow up with WYLC with suggestions and next steps.

Adjournment

On motion by Jordan and seconded by Brian, the WYLC approved to adjourn the meeting at 2:03 p.m.