

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

Washington Young Lawyers Committee | Wenatchee, WA
Saturday, May 12, 2018 | 10:00am – 2:30pm
Meeting Minutes

Present: Mike Mocerri, Emily Ann Albrecht, Alice Bagirova, Andrew Van Winkle, Jordan Lee Couch, Colin McMahon, Ryan Griffiee

Phone: Paul Webber, Jacob Brennan, Andrew Pugsley, Molly M. Winston, Zachary Davison, Ian McCurdy, Geoff Arnold, Derek Johnson, Chelsie Elliott

Absent: Kim Sandher (excused), Jakob McGhie (excused)

WSBA Staff: Julianne Unite, Tyler Washington, Terra Nevitt

Board of Governors (BOG) Liaison: Jean Kang

Guests: William Pickett, David Miller

Introductions & Approval of the Minutes

Mike called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m., on motion by Ryan and seconded by Emily, the WYLC unanimously approved the minutes of the March 19 meeting.

Board Updates

Jean provided an update of the BOG meetings, including the WSBA Bylaw amendments and work groups that were formed regarding three new BOG seats (2 members of the public and one LPO/LLLT).

President Pickett and Jean encouraged WYLC members to attend upcoming BOG meetings and to join the work groups. The next BOG meeting is scheduled for July 27-28.

BOG At-Large Young Lawyer Nominations Process

The WYLC discussed issues with the BOG At-Large Young Lawyer position nominations process. Zach provided an overview of the nominations process this year and explained that there was not enough time for the WYLC to interview the candidates, like in years past. WYLC members collectively voiced their frustration that the WYLC cannot select the candidate for the BOG At-Large Young Lawyer position as the WYLC can only put forward nominations, whereas the BOG ultimately appoints a candidate to the position.

Additionally, the WYLC discussed issues with respect to the low number of applications received for the open position this year. Mike expressed that low turnout in applications could be due to WSBA's communications primarily conducted via email and email may not be the most effective way of reaching new and young lawyers. Mike further expressed that the WYLC has been historically frustrated with not having access to social media to communicate to new and young lawyers.

There was a discussion about the proper procedure on whether or not BOG members are supposed to reach out to BOG At-Large Young Lawyer candidates before the BOG meeting at which the BOG is scheduled to interview candidates and appoint the position. Jean stated that she believed that BOG members were supposed to reach out to the candidate. President Pickett stated that he believed that candidates for open BOG seats may reach out to current BOG members and that there should be a discussion at the BOG level regarding appropriate communication procedures between candidates and BOG members. At the end of the discussion, President Pickett made the following commitments to the WYLC:

- He would reach out to the candidates affected by the BOG At-Large Young Lawyer position nominations process this year and apologize for any misunderstanding or confusion;
- He would support WYLC's efforts to communicate via WSBA social media;
- He would support the WYLC putting forward a WSBA Bylaw amendment that would improve the nominations process for the BOG At-Large Young Lawyer position; and
- 30 minutes would be set on the agenda of the next BOG meeting for the WYLC to speak with the BOG.

Program Updates

Julianne provided an update of WSBA programs. Ryan asked that staff share links to programs in the quarterly report and share records regarding historical trends of admittance to WSBA.

ABA Updates

Iowa YLD - The Outreach and Debt and New Lawyer Benefits Subcommittees recommended supporting the Iowa YLD proposal except for section 2. Discussion ensued about law school transparency for underrepresented groups. Jean will invite Minority Bar Association leaders to next WYLC to discuss.

District Representative - Emily Albrecht was selected as the ABA YLD District Representative.

On motion by Ryan and seconded by Jordan, the WYLC unanimously approved to designate a WYLC At-Large position as the ABA YLD District Representative, or as an ABA representative during the years the District Representative is from Oregon.

Subcommittee Report outs

- RRR Summit - Jacob provided an update on the planning stages of summit. Discussion ensued about next steps.
- Outreach Subcommittee - Ryan encouraged WYLC members to host events.
- Debt and New Lawyer Benefits - Colin provided an update for the Financial Focus CLE on August 22.
- ABA Scholarship - Julianne shared that there are currently two applications. The deadline is June 8.
- Leadership - Julianne shared that there were late submissions for the Public Service and Leadership Award and sought WYLC action on whether to consider the late submissions in the

award selection process. On motion by Jordan and seconded by Mike, the WYLC approved by majority vote to accept late nominations for the award (Colin nayed and Ryan abstained).

The WYLC discussed the need for parental leave in the legal profession and creating a model or guidelines for law firms for parental leave policies. Discussion ensued and a suggestion was made to add a “best practices” guide for parental leave in Law Office in a Box.

Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program (PSLF)

Mike and David shared an overview and the history of the PSLF. David shared that there is a proposal in Congress to end the program or narrow the definition of public service, which could exclude certain lawyers. David asked the WYLC to help preserve PSLF in its current form. David provided the following suggestions to help support PSLF: 1) reaching out to Senator Patty Murray and specifically explain how ending the PSLF for lawyers can impact access to justice; 2) mobilize others in this effort by writing letters or make calls; and 3) write opinion pieces in local media.

Mike stated that the issue should be brought to the BOG’s attention and that WYLC would consult with General Counsel in signing a statement of support.

1:45 p.m. Adjourn

On motion by Mike and seconded by Colin, the WYLC unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting.