



Diversity Committee Final Minutes

February 27, 2019

12 – 1:30 pm

CONFERENCE CALL 1-866-577-9294 Access Code: 52680

The Washington State Bar Association's Diversity Committee is dedicated to implementing WSBA's Diversity and Inclusion Plan. The work of the committee promotes historically underrepresented groups to enter and stay in the profession of law. The Diversity Committee does this through collaborative relationships and community building activities which highlight the numerous societal benefits of a diverse law profession.

In Attendance: Ailene Limric, Mubarak Abdur Raheem, Chelsea Brisbois, Nam Nyguen, Thomas McGirk, Sunitha Anjilvel, Lisa Mansfield, Gov. Alec Stephens, Allison Ross, Laura Wulf

Unable to Attend: Roger Hillman, Gov. Dan Clark, Gov. Jean Kang, Gov. Athan Papailiou, Allison Ross, Jennifer Cruz, Andrea Jarmon, William Locke

Staff: Dana Barnett, Tyler Washington

Call to Order, Welcome and Approval of Minutes – Ailene Limric, Co-Chair

Ailene Limric called the meeting at 12:07 p.m. On motion by Laura Wulf, seconded by Allison Ross, the Diversity Committee unanimously approved the January meeting minutes.

BOG Report – Governor Alec Stephens, Co-Chair

Gov. Alec Stephens provided the BOG update. He shared that the next BOG meeting will be held in Olympia on March 7 and the BOG will meet with the WA Supreme Court on March 8. He encouraged committee members to call in for public comment and lend support for the passage Oregon specialty bar letter which is on the consent calendar. Alec also reported that WSBA staff shared an open letter to BOG regarding the allegations of BOG misconduct and that WSBA staff is on the agenda to present their concerns about policy gaps in the harassment and retaliation policies during the March 7th meeting.

Program Updates and Reports

BOG reception – Ailene reported the diversity committee and MBA leaders attended an informal reception with BOG. She noted that there was a low attendance of MBA representatives that evening, which might have been due to conflicting events and short notice of invitation. Sunitha Anjilvel shared that the event went well but echoed that the MBA representation was low in comparison to the Community Networking in Bellevue and that there could be coordination between these two types of events. Dana Barnett clarified the community networking event and BOG reception were coordinated by different parties, and suggested that diversity staff

could be more involved with reception coordination next year. Alec suggested the committee co-chairs and Advancement leadership meet to debrief and start planning efforts now for next year. Alec will start the conversation.

Oregon Specialty Bar Letter: Responses – Committee Chairs

Ailene shared the Diversity Committee has received emails in response to the letter of support after the January BOG meeting. Alec clarified that the letter was up for first reading at the January BOG meeting, and while sometimes action is taken during first reading, the intent was to provide an opportunity for discussion and to provide notice to the public. The Oregon specialty bar letter it is now on the consent calendar at the March 7th BOG meeting.

1L Programs – Laura Wulf & Chelsea Brisbois

Chelsea Brisbois shared that 2 submissions from Gonzaga have been received, despite the deadline extended to March 28. The committee discussed possible reasons for the lower amount of submissions. Laura Wulf stated that students might be apprehensive to send applications to people they haven't met. Sunitha stated that she has experienced more student follow-up when she created a more personal connection by providing her business card. Chelsea suggested sending out an introduction of the Diversity Committee along with member bios to the school. Lisa Mansfield suggested connecting with black law student groups and Dana added that other student groups could also be interested.

MCLE Rule Change – Dana Barnett

Dana shared that Bobby Henry, WSBA MCLE manager, has sent a message to the diversity committee and MBA's about the proposed MCLE rule change. The message invited those who wanted more information about the process to respond to the email and MCLE will follow up. Committee members stated that they have not yet received a follow-up message. Dana will check in the MCLE to see when that message will be disseminated. The committee discussed if the addition of other two credits will impact the likelihood of approval, and Dana suggested the committee voice that concern to MCLE. Laura and Chelsea volunteered to further the discussion.

Spokane Diversity Section Luncheon – Chelsea Brisbois & Mubarak Abdur Raheem

Chelsea reported that the Spokane Diversity Section Luncheon went well and the speaker, Shari Clarke, was great. Mubarak Abdur Raheem shared that the luncheon is the biggest event in Spokane's diversity community. Dana stated that it might be possible to support local members attending this event annually.

Networking Events - Dana Barnett

Bellevue- Dana shared that the Community Networking Event in Bellevue had 60 attendees with and was co-sponsored by 9 MBAs with Sunitha, Roger, and Alec in attendance. Dana shared the event received positive feedback and attendees expressed interest in WSBA returning the community again.

Tri-Cities- Dana shared that the Equity and Justice Mixer will be held in April in partnership with ATJ board.

Bellingham- Dana shared that the Community Networking Event is in partnership with WWU Law, Diversity and Justice Program and will be held on May 23. Committee Members who are interested in attending should reach out to Dana.

Tacoma- Dana shared that KJ Williams has reached out to REACH, undergraduate law program, Gordon Thomas Honeywell, and Team Child for the Tacoma networking event to incorporate community organizations that care about equity. This event will most likely be held at the REACH location. Possible dates are May 14 or May 16 Dana will email committee member who signed up for the Tacoma event with more information once it becomes available.

NW Lawyer – Dana Barnett

Dana reminded committee members that are interested in writing a testimonial about serving on a WSBA committee to submit it soon as the deadline is March 1. Dana also shared that committee members are welcome to write blog posts or a NW lawyer article, similar to the past "Coming in from the Outside." Sunitha expressed interest in writing. Lisa shared that she is in the process of contributing a profile for the March issue. Mubarak is also interested and asked what the deadlines are, Dana shared that there are no deadlines for the blog and that she can work with NW Lawyer to find out which issue would be better suited and what the relevant deadlines are.

ATJ Conference – Dana Barnett

Dana shared that the ATJ conference is weekend of June 14 in Spokane and the committee will finalize which two committee members will be attending as delegates in April. Staff will secure accommodations in the meantime. Alec shared that will be attending as a BOG member and Mubarak will be attending as through his employer, Team Child.

APEX Award nomination

Dana shared that the deadline for the Justice Charles Z. Smith Excellence in Diversity Award is March.15. Andrea nominated Judge Helen Whitener over email. Ailene motioned to put forward Judge Whitener as the nominee and Lisa seconded. Nam, Thomas, Sunitha, Allison, Laura, voted yay. Mubarak, Chelsea and Alec abstained due to the fact that he may be on award committee. The motioned passed with majority approval. The committee will ask Andrea to share the nomination draft.

Diversity Committee Recruitment

Dana shared that the deadline for those who want to reapply for another term on the committee is March 1st. She encouraged committee members to share that WSBA is searching for members to serve on their committees and boards with their networks.

MBA Updates and Reports

Ailene shared that the MBA Leadership Meeting is occurring on Mar. 12 at the WSBA offices and encouraged any MBA members to attend in coordination with the MBA leadership. Tyler will send Alec, Lisa, Allison, and Laura a meeting invite and forward email from Dan Shih to committee members. Dana asked those who are planning to attend to RSVP.

Ailene shared that FLOW had their kick off meeting in February and the new FLOW president is Jennifer Cruz.

Lisa shared Tacoma MBA is coordinating on youth in law programs intended to create a positive interaction between community children and the court system. Lisa will share more information once details are available.

Dana shared that QLAW and LBAW are holding their annual events in March. Calendar invites for annual events with confirmed dates have been sent to the committee. Members who can no longer attend the events they signed up for should reach out to Dana so that alternatives can be found. Dana shared that she has met with MELAW, KABA, and WADA. Dana will provide a report back from the MBA outreach meetings once they are all complete.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:35pm

Next Meeting: WSBA Office Saturday March 16, 2019 10AM -3PM
If you need special accommodations contact diversity@wsba.org