

# WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

## DEI Council October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Meeting Notes

Present: Milli Cunningham, Jerry Thomas, Alec Stephens, Raina Wagner, Anthony Rich, Lynette Jenkins, Miryam Gordon, Andrea Jarmon, Nam Nguyen, Matthew Dresden

Absent: Sharon Sakamoto, SanNi Lemonidis, Mary Rathbone

Guests: N/A

WSBA Staff: Elliott Schwebach, Diana Singleton, Andrea Agrella Clemente, Saleena Salango  
BOG Liaison:

Meeting called to order 12:08 pm

### **PREVIOUS MONTH Meeting Minutes**

Mariyam made a motion to approve the minutes. Raina seconded the motion. 5 number of members voted in approval, 0 declined, 0 abstained.

### **Introductions**

The council began by introducing themselves. The introductions included sharing names, pronouns, where we work/do outside of the DEI Council, and who most influenced you as you started your DEI work.

### **BOG Updates**

Nam gave updates regarding last month's Board of Governors meeting. Lived experience stipend that can pay out folks that serve on a variety of boards and councils. This encourages folks to participate in our communities.

Demographic study came out, there is a link in the agenda. The next bar news will have more information. There is also a CLE of the presentation, this can be found in the online WSBA CLE Store.

### **Build Relationships with Affinity Bar Associations**

The council is prioritizing community outreach and engagement.

Please note that Minority Bar Associations have been re-named Affinity Bar Associations. The council is encouraging members to join these Affinity Bars and sign up [here](#). The council has a budget to cover membership dues for the liaisons. Here is the link to the reimbursement form: [Expense Report \(wsba.org\)](#) - Please submit it via email to [Andrea](#). WSBA staff can register you for an event if you prefer, although we can't pre-pay for parking/travel so you'll want to submit reimbursement for those. The council also encourages folks to go to Affinity Bar events that they do not belong to as well to build community.

### **Active Workgroup Updates**

Pathways to the Profession Committee- Event in Ellensburg was very successful and had great feedback from attendees. This event created a hub of information for all the various pathways to enter the legal profession. This event was meant to be a starting place to fill gaps in programming to fill gaps in the

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profession. Also, to figure out what the biggest barriers to entry to the profession are. Saleena has been reviewing the notes from the event to synthesize the responses.

Equity and Justice Plan Committee- The outreach plan was sent out by Diana, and we are hoping to get feedback and outreach on this document from a variety of stakeholders. Following the feedback, the council will be seeking board approval. After potential board approval we will be expanding the details of the plan and seeking folks to work through those minutiae.

There is consensus sending out the Equity and Justice Plan. Then we will create an outreach list and liaisons to solicit input. Input Deadline for November 29<sup>th</sup>. Due to short timeline, we will need to increase the cadence of the committees' meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm