

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

CRIMINAL LAW SECTION

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes for *Saturday, October 18, 2014*

Meeting Location: 13 Coins, Seatac **Called to order:** 9:18 am **Adjourned:** 10:25 am

Present: Hugh Birgenheier, John Fairgrieve, Ronald Hammett, Jimmy Hung, Kim Hunter, Blythe Phillips, John Sheeran, Dale Slack, Mark Vovos, Aaron Wolff

Absent: Edwin Aralica, James Hershey, Jana Jorgensen, John Strait, Tessa Gorman,

Meeting Discussion

- **Minutes from Last Meeting:** Hugh moved to approve, Dale (and others) seconded, approval passed
- **Legislative Committee:** Jimmy will step down because he will be serving as chair next year. John Sheeran, John Fairgrieve, and Hugh will join. John Sheeran will try to go to the training on October 31. **Blythe or Kim** will email those who are absent to see if they are interested in being on the Legislative Committee.
- Monthly signup for listserv emails: Oct = John Fairgrieve
 - Jimmy agreed to trade months with Dale; Jimmy will take Nov. '14 and Dale will take May '15.
- **Financials:**
 - 2015 Budget was approved – **Blythe** will send out to the executive committee
 - Only a few new members, but haven't gotten Sept statistics yet. We have more members than the number we budgeted for, but we have only reached 94% of the revenue for our membership fees. Presumably this is because a number of our members are comped or are law students who only pay the amount required to cover the WSBA's per member charge
- **Newsletter:** Dale needs bios from all but 2 people. Needs a picture of Kim. PLEASE SEND IN YOUR BIOS!!
- **Membership:**
 - Next year's committee leadership: Jimmy will be acting Chair, Blythe was nominated for chair-elect.
 - Need a prosecutor to fill the secretary/treasurer position. John Fairgrieve was nominated and accepted.
 - Total open positions on the executive committee: 2 prosecutors and 1 defense attorney
 - Prosecutor 1: Replacing Leesa Manion. The term ends in December, so the new person will be up for reelection in January.
 - Prosecutor 2: Replacing John Fairgrieve
 - Defense: Replacing Aaron Wolff
 - **Hugh** will contact the candidate from Jefferson County proposed at the June meeting. Hugh is also available to rotate down and fill the other open prosecutor position
 - Still need to find a defense position. Several members agreed that we should seek more gender diversity on the committee and also more geographic diversity (North, South, or East). A candidate from Everett was proposed and **Aaron** agreed to contact that person.
 - Kim expressed concern about consistent absences from meetings. Bylaw Art. 4 § 5 states "Three consecutive unexplained absences will subject a member or officer to removal from the Executive Committee by a majority vote of the Executive Committee." The absences discussed were not unexplained, and so not subject to this provision.

- Blythe and Jimmy proposed that advanced planning might help ensure that everyone is available for meetings. It was decided that for the 2015 year, all in-person meetings will be set out at the beginning of the year so that everyone can make themselves available. Blythe also proposed having occasional phone conference meetings during particularly busy times of year, such as legislative session and just before CJI. **There may be a conference line available through the WSBA but for a cost. We could also consider using a private service if the cost is better. Kim will look into a phone service and will contact WSBA.**
 - Mark suggested that the WSBA should have a free phone service and Kim pointed out that there was a conference service they were able to use to plan CJI with the WSBA team.
- Reminder to the Executive Committee to renew your membership!
- **CJI Update:** Attendance was good with lots of walk-ins. Lots of positive feedback received. People liked having lunch provided for both days, and the attendees did well bussing their own tables after meals. One of the complaints commonly received is that there are no tables, but that is why lap-desks are provided at no cost.
- **Member Benefit CLE:** After much discussion about the rough November 22 date for a member benefit CLE, it was determined that there was not enough time to arrange and publicize a CLE in the next month. Thus, the member benefit CLE will take place in January. A tentative date of January 10 was selected with the next executive committee meeting to occur immediately after. The current plan is to have a 4-credit ethics CLE at that time. The ethics idea was proffered during the discussion of the November date because attorneys are often seeking ethics credits close to the end of the calendar year. Committee members felt confident that an ethics CLE would continue to draw attendance in January.
 - **Kim and Hugh** will check with John Strait on presentation and venue (SU?)
 - Could John Strait and Hugh continue the presentation they began at CJI?
- Also proposed during the discussion for a January CLE was a legislative discussion, since it would take place as the 2015 session is gearing up.
- **Next Meeting:** 1/10/15
- **Old Business**
 - New Young Attorney Liaison – there was some confusion about how the selection process worked.
 - Kim asked if we could give a donation to King County Rescue Dogs who volunteered to present at CJI. \$300 was proposed as the amount. Mark Vovos moved to approve, Aaron Wolff seconded, motion passed.
- **New Business**
 - Upcoming board elections:
 - Conducting elections by email: it's probably too late to look at this for the 2015 elections, but we should find out a) if we can. Can we amend bylaws to do that?
 - Aaron suggested that we should announce via eblast an opportunity to run for the criminal law section. Then we should have an election committee to review applications. **Jimmy and Blythe** volunteered to be the election committee.
 - *It was later determined via email discussion that there should be a nomination committee formed according to the bylaws to establish nominees for elections*
- **Good of the Order**
- **Adjourn:** Blythe moved to adjourn, Hugh seconded, motion passed.