

RETREAT MEETING MINUTES

CRIMINAL LAW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Date: October 14, 2023

Time: 11:30 AM arrival, 12:30 called to order

Meeting called to order by: Tracey Munger

IN ATTENDANCE

Tracey Munger, Dave Stevens, Mark Vovos, Nicholas Holce (video), Hugh Birghenheier, John Strait, Dale Slack, Kim Hunter, Mary Kay High (video)

Absent: Rose, Dan, Anita

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from September 14, 2023 meeting were set over for approval.

BUSINESS

- First order of business: lunch.
- CJI Update:
 - Anthony Powers cancelled due to an emergency.
 - Mary Kay indicates she is pursuing a new speaker from the American Institute of Justice. She indicates Kim Gordon is available.
 - One scholarship application received.
 - Question about WACDL or WDA outreach.
 - Discussed option of raffle for discount instead of scholarship. Would need to look at how to monitor disbursement. Could have two days of raffles, with prosecutors getting one and defense getting one.
 - Use scholarships to discount fee?
 - Tracey discussed creating vendor contract for annual CLE.
 - Kim to send out e-mail asking speakers to provide anecdotes for introductions.
- Tracey discussed her mapping board members. She discussed having a more central location for meetings to draw more board members from the rest of the state. Discussion of Ellensburg.
- BoG meeting is occurring same time as our CLE. BoG wants someone from our section that criminal law attorneys as a whole, including LEO, see as an upcoming issue.
 - Inadequate number of qualified attorneys who can handle class A felonies.

- Competency levels based on indigent defense standards. Are the standards ensuring attorneys are qualified to handle complex cases?
- Competency evaluations for in-custody and out-of-custody defendants. Delays are excessive. What efforts can the State and defense make for streamlining the process? Mason County has one day a month where WSH evaluates out-of-custody defendants. Civil flips aren't being utilized.
- RAND caseload study impact. Ties into difficulty finding attorneys. Will counties be able to fund the change?
- Discussed writing a statement and having the section liaison read it to the BoG since we will be at our CLE.
- Ensuring civility with zealous advocacy.
- Topics for future CLEs, goals moving forward
 - How many members are in our section? Kim will find the details to address growth/shrinkage of membership.
 - There is a Facebook page for the Criminal Law Section. Dale has the login information. He hoped the admin would post weekly articles of relevance.
 - Newsletter? Tracey suggested 8.5x11 fliers like the Coffee News. Could have a few articles and lawyer jokes. Topics could be humorous, informative, or otherwise. Frequency of newsletter? How to section about practical duties.
 - Group mixer for networking. Have a collaboration with other sections to help attorneys with dealing with the bigger picture (employment law, landlord/tenant issues, etc.)?
 - Mentorship program?
 - CLE on how to get an expert or investigator.
 - Lunchbox CLEs on practical issues. Jurisdiction specific, tailored to courts and local procedures. Could also be a hiring draw by introducing new communities.
 - Proposed having a Q&A option to our Gmail that can be funneled to the appropriate prosecutor or defense attorney. Chair, chair-elect, and secretary could monitor the e-mail.
 - Realistic growth rate? If 2% growth, we would need to staunch the losses and increase outreach. Date deadlines?
 - Lunchbox CLE subcommittee so board can continue to focus on CJI.
 - Aim to move future CLE to September.

ACTION LIST

- Research vendor options for future CLEs.
- Write statement to BoG and reach out to Alison Whitney, section liaison.
- Develop timetable for growth objectives and identify specific goals to effectuate that growth.
- Lunchbox CLE
 - Kim to spearhead.
- Law school outreach.
 - Dave, John, and Mark to work on this.
 - Have pocket practice advisories to hand out at meet-and-greets?
- Book drive: does not need to be approved by the Bar.
 - Mary Kay and Tracey to start that ball rolling.
- Newsletter: to discuss at March in-person meeting.
- Section-wide mixer, similar to Lawyerpalooza. Ideally it would be in summer after Bar exam.
- March in-person meeting at a casino? Clearwater or Snoqualmie Casino? 29th-30th of March. Tracey will work on contract.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is December 14 at 2:00, to be held via Zoom. February 15 Zoom meeting to follow that.

Meeting adjourned at 2:40 PM.