



## Civil Rights Law Section

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

Executive Committee Meeting

### MEETING MINUTES

WSBA – Civil Rights Law Section

January 30, 2020

PRESENT: Tobin Klusty, Chalia Stallings-Ala'ilima, Laura Sierra, Molly Matter, Mickey Moritz, Stephan Yhann, Bridget Bourgette, Cameron Sheldon, Sarah Derry, Jaime Hawk

**1. December Minutes.**

December minutes adopted by > 75% of EC after typo corrected.

**2. CRLS 2021 Values.**

CRLS-EC brainstormed values that guide EC committee actions as we pursue our Section's mission during the 2021 session. These values will be finalized at the next EC meeting.

**3. Legislative Research Committee (LRC) Discussion.** The LRC receives referral emails from Russell at WSBA and requests tracking of certain bills based on EC values and priorities. The EC then receives notice of those tracked bills and decides whether to take a position.

Tobin will send out a statement that clearly delineates the scope of the LRC.

CRLS-EC brainstormed recommendations for improving the LRC process:

- Seek perspective of community stakeholders.
- Circulate bills we are tracking to CRLS listserv to seek membership input.
- Tobin will schedule a virtual meeting for members to weigh in on bills we are tracking that are most important to us. As part of that, we can inform members how they may testify individually to weigh-in on matters important to them.
- Cameron and members of the Community Outreach Committee (see below) will identify students – undergrad and law school – to work with the LRC.

**4. 2021 Projects.**

**a. CLE Discussion.**

- We are developing a virtual, half-day CLE with World Peace Through Law Section preliminarily titled, "The War on Drugs: The Foundation of Mass Incarceration." CLE will be held the morning of 5/4/21 or afternoon of 5/18/21. Tobin is responsible for development through our section.

- Stephan will explore developing mini-CLE for incorporating civil rights advocacy into legal practices that do not directly involve civil rights.

**b. GR 12 Statements Discussion**

- In order to strategize for future GR 12 statements of support or opposition, we will refine our legislative priorities through the LRC's research and reviewing legislative priorities from civil rights and community organizations, including but not limited to:
  - o NAACP
  - o ACLU (Jaime will provide)
  - o Columbia Legal Services
  - o WAPC
  - o Children's Alliance
  - o NWIRP
  - o Black Lives Matter Alliance WA

**c. Vote to create the Community Connections Committee (CCC):** Approved by > 75% of EC.

- Committee will connect and build relationships with various community organizations to work towards a system of community lawyering.
- Committee will develop platforms, such as "Listen-ins," for attorneys to connect with community members and activists.
- Committee members include: Molly, Chalia, Jaime, Laura, and Mickey.

**d. CRLS Diploma Privilege Letter Discussion.**

**Vote to Approve Diploma Privilege Letter – Satisfies GR 12:** Approved by > 75% of EC.

**Vote to Approve Diploma Privilege Letter – Opinion of the Legislative Committee:** Approved by > 75% of EC.

- Tobin will follow up with WSBA as to next steps.

**e. Newsletter Discussion.**

- The Section will work to draft a newsletter for the 2021 session.
- As the Section develops an editorial board for the 2021 newsletter, the Section will focus on community partnership. As such, the Section will form an editorial board consisting of an EC member, a law student, an undergraduate student, and a community activist. This format is subject to change.
- To assist with student recruitment, the Section will seek scholarship and academic credit options for participation on the editorial board.
- Tobin will draft a recruiting statement for the Newsletter to be sent to the COC and LRC.

**f. Black History Month Discussion.**

- Determined the best way to honor Black lives and Black excellence is to share resources from Black community organizations and/or bar associations and the ABA

Black History Month programming. EC members will collectively share this information through the CRLS listserv.

- Molly will connect with Tracy Flood to share her article that will be featured in the WSBA's Bar News to our membership.

**g. Membership Recruitment.**

- Tobin will schedule CRLS happy hours where members can connect with their EC. See also LRC discussion.
- First one would be end of February / beginning March, ideally, due to legislative calendar.
  - o Goals: networking, socialize, increase membership
  - o In that meeting, we could share what bills we are tracking, which may include a brief summary of each bill.

**5. CRLS Member Services.**

- Listserv survey
  - o In the past, folks have not been responsive.
  - o Perhaps the EC can address this during the first happy hour.
- Awards ceremony
  - o **Vote to create Award Nomination Committee (ANC):** Approved by > 75% of EC.
    - Committee will work with COC and MBAs to seek input for award nominations. Committee will provide list of nominees to EC. Committee responsible for logistics of providing awards, including scheduling awards ceremony.
    - Committee members include: Sarah and Stephan.

**6. Closing Remarks.**

- Chalia and Laura provided Equity Force Taskforce update.
- Discussed open BOG positions.

Meeting adjourned.