



Civil Rights Law Section
WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
Executive Committee, CLE Subcommittee Meeting
February 19, 2019, 11:00 AM to 11:45 AM
Minutes

Present:

Molly Matter, Chair-Elect
Kristi Cruz, At-Large Member
Kathleen Kline, At-Large Member
Alec Stephens, BOG Liaison
Bryan Rome, Young Lawyer Liaison
Jaime Hawk, At-Large Member
Eleen Trang, WSBA liaison

The WSBA Civil Rights Section Executive Committee met by phone February 19, 2019. A quorum was not in attendance.

Bryan shared that it would be his last meeting bc has moved to California and cannot engage at the level he would like to. Section thanked him for his 1.5 years on committee and support in Open Sections night.

Legislative Committee:

New Hope Act: Section approved GR 12 and Molly drafted position letter and emailed to legislators. Positive response from Senator Regala to Committee.

Native American Voting Rights Act – HB 1339/SB 5079: Section approved GR 12 and Molly drafted position letter and emailed to legislators. Positive response from Senator Andy Billig that there was strong bipartisan support.

WA Law Against Discrimination to include Immigration status Bill – HB 5165: Section approved GR 12 and Sarah will draft position letter this week to deliver to legislators.

Voting Rts Restoration/Re-entry Bill – HB 1924: Section approved and Molly drafted position letter and emailed legislators. Jaime informed committee that there is some language (“risk assessment”) that could be improved on bill but overall it’s a step in the right direction.

Kristi discussed three bills (HB 1130, HB ___18, HB 5558) regarding language access and how language poses barriers in public education and public health services. Molly encouraged Section members to draft GR 12 statements and position letters – to read GR 12 broadly and allow WSBA to do its job if it disagrees. Molly encouraged others to draft support letters in areas of their own work and expertise since they are closest to it, most educated.

Alec asked about the legislation to abolish the death penalty and Jaime gave update that it passed in the House. Jaime thanked Section’s legislative work and will provide updates on bills.

Open Sections Night:

Kathleen and Eleen reported great turn-out and positive exchange with other Sections

Upcoming CLE:

Molly and Kristi reported that CLE may be moved to April 18th or Friday, May 24th on implicit bias/anti-oppression work within civil rights community. Joy Williams may partner with JustLEAD, a non-profit that works with attorneys in this area. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion of WSBA may also partner with us. Molly received response from Reverend angel Kyodo williams who may also be able to collaborate or lead future CLEs. She is the first ordained Black Zen Buddhist priest in the country who does undoing institutional racism/bias and mindfulness trainings nationwide in large and small orgs. Section discussed the importance of funding this work – out of our reserves – with paying a modest honorarium since it is inappropriate to ask POC facilitators to teach implicit bias for free. Section overall agreed to fund an honorarium but due to lack of quorum, we will convene in March to approve funding.

MLK Statement was awesome! Thank you, Jill, for drafting and all those who contributed.

Elections: Jill, Anne and Kristi's terms will be up end of Sep. 2019. Section encourages everyone to run again for another term and reach out to colleagues.

BOG Response to White Supremacy/Anti-Semitism and increase in hate crimes and threats to incite violence: WSBA is continuing to address this issue organizationally and Alec is keeping everyone up to date. If and when our Section can support this important work with a letter in support of WSBA's statement against hate, Alec will notify us.

Meeting adjourned with Molly's 5-year-old daughter voting for more play.

Enjoy mid-winter break!

Respectfully submitted,

Molly Matter
Chair-Elect