



Civil Rights Law Section
WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
Executive Committee, CLE Subcommittee Meeting
January 15, 2019, 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM
Minutes

Present:

Sarah Derry, Chair

Molly Matter, Chair-Elect

Anne Paxton, Secretary

Fred Diamondstone, At-Large Member

Kristi Kruz, At-Large Member

Gloria Ochoa-Bruch, At-Large Member

Eleen Trang, WSBA liaison

The WSBA Civil Rights Section Executive Committee met by phone January 15, 2019. A quorum was in attendance and members voted to record the minutes from the December meeting as approved and send them to Eleen to post on the section website.

New Hope Act The section wishes to support the New Hope Act, this session. As Molly explained, the bill helps people reenter after a conviction by retaining the requirement that people pay off their restitution but not requiring payment of the interest. Interest is not waived but it won't bar people from getting a certificate of discharge which would allow for them to have their record vacated five or ten years later, so they could say they have not been convicted. There was discussion of whether the bill passes muster under GR12 and agreement to reach out to Sanjay and Russell about requirements for the section to endorse. Approval from the Board of Governors is needed and that may take a month or two to obtain. Fred recommended we look at the section's death penalty statement for wording on access to justice/administration of law issues. With the New Hope Act, the issue of people's having access to a process to put their criminal histories behind them and move forward makes a lot of sense. Molly noted that the Public Defenders Association and other organizations are endorsing this bill.

Open Sections Night Kathleen and Sarah will attend the January 31 event and the section approved a \$50 donation to the bar for this. They will report back in February on how it went.

Upcoming CLE The CLE will be held in March or April. Molly has reached out to different trainers and the bar and discovered there are some inherent problems structurally if we won't pay speakers for an in-depth session on implicit bias. White trainers are probably available for a section on undoing whiteness or awareness, but asking persons of color to do a training for free is not okay; it's a different ask when it involves someone's livelihood rather than a quick talk. The bar will pay for transportation, hotel, mileage up to \$1,000 but not honorarium, so there is an issue of how to fund a good speaker for the CLE.

Eleen said there is no line item for a CLE honorarium but there are ways to spend unbudgeted amounts of money. There is currently a \$10,000 balance in the section fund. Sarah suggested calling a special meeting in February to discuss using money from the section's reserve. The other option would be not to do a spring CLE if we need more time to figure out the money aspect, then to do a full day in September, combined with the annual meeting—i.e., to hold one full-day CLE instead of two half-days.

Suggested speakers included Ada Shen-Jaffe, a group called Racial Equity Institute which does a 3- or 4-hour training including a deep dive into the data, Caprice Hollins with Cultures Connecting, Merf Ehman, executive director of Columbia Legal Services, or Serena Mauer, a consultant who works with the City of Seattle.

Joy Williams, the WSBA diversity program manager, has a full day of implicit bias training coming up in February and another later in the spring. The bar could bring to bear some resources that we as a section cannot. We might approach another section about partnering with us on this training.

Molly said she would support keeping it a half-day CLE in March or April and that it would be inherently tricky to partner with another section; she would prefer that our section allocate some funds instead.

MLK statement. The section received very positive feedback on our MLK statement. Some changes were suggested and okayed, including more action items for people to get involved in racial equality, and supporting the Oregon bar which took a position against white supremacy and faced blowback from some attorneys who opposed taking a position on this issue. Sarah said the statement is still working its way towards print.

Newsletter. An E-update went out in early January including Jill's statement about inclusion. A more detailed version is to come out later and a plea for volunteers on the section's legislative agenda. Sarah said she would plan for now to send another e-blast before or after the CLE to let members know what we are up to.

Fred urged that the electronic newsletter and final article on MLK go out as soon as possible to the membership. He is concerned that Northwest Lawyer comes out at the end of the month and it would be nice to get the co-authored statement circulated around MLK Day rather than ten days afterwards. However, Jill's version of the MLK statement has gone out to the section listserv with a note that the expanded version would be published later.

King County MLK Luncheon. We ended the meeting with a quick discussion of who would be attending the MLK Luncheon, hosted by the King County Bar Association.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Paxton
Secretary