



Civil Rights Law Section

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

Executive Committee Meeting

MEETING MINUTES
WSBA – Civil Rights Law Section
May 19, 2020
FINAL – as approved

PRESENT: Molly Matter, Fred Diamondstone, Kathleen Kline, Bridget Bourgette, Jaime Hawk, and Eleen Trang. Also attending, Melissa London

- 1. Approval of Minutes.** The April Minutes were approved with changes to note spelling corrections.
- 2. CLE – Evaluating and Proving damages in Discrimination Cases – June 18, 2020**
Marketing is proceeding; WSBA to create e-flyers to our section, as well as Employment Law, Litigation, and LGBT Law Sections. Webinar format, in part due to COVID.
- 3. Webpage Update.** Will reflect new award names.
 - **Distinguished Service**
 - **Keeper of Flame**
 - **Frances B. North Civil Leader**
- 4. Section Exec. Comm. Elections.** Support is still need needed to fill the EC for 2020-21. Each current EC member is again requested to identify members to recruit to leadership positions. (This is not an issue unique to this section, this year.)

We decided to go ahead and extend the deadline for Section Elections until May 29th. What that means, though, is that each of us is going to step up and recruit.

- Alec Stephens, who is stepping down from the BOG, may be willing to run.
- Sarah Derry is willing to run for re-election, if not term limited by the by-laws.
- Trena Berton will run for a full term
- Bridget Bourgette is willing to run for re-election to the Treasurer position.
- Jaime Hawk is willing to run for re-election
- Molly Matter will remain as “past-chair”
- The Secretary and Chair positions still will need to be filled.

Bridget, Fred and Jaime are going to reach out to Kelly Schmidt, La Rond Baker and Nancy Talner.

We have 7 open seats, incl Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. Tobin Klusty has expressed interest in the Chair position. For anyone interested in serving who is not presently a Section member, all one has to do is join the section by going on line and paying dues. Turnaround time is essentially instantaneous per Eleen.

LATE NOTE: Anna Moritz has signed up to run

Also, Cameron Sheldon will serve as Young Lawyer Liaison

5. **“Swag” Items.** We discussed whether this is a wise expense this year and whether we will have a “live” section meeting in the fall. We discussed that this may still be nice to ‘put a smile on people’s faces’ and support the energy for section members. We will proceed. Kathleen is on this.
6. **Fall Meeting.** We will go ahead and plan to have a meeting. After discussion of dates, we decided on Thursday September 17, 2020. **(LATE NOTE – Following contact with WSBA re available dates, this will, instead, be on FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 25, 2020)** We will not, however, be having a CLE that day, due to bandwidth issues.
7. **Section Leaders Meetings Report.** Molly has been attending the section leaders meetings and shared one thought from those.
 - Comping CLEs for Executive Committee members to make this service more attractive. Historically this was available but then WSBA disallowed the practice. Molly will follow up with Gov. Paul Sweigle
8. **Prison Book Project.** Anna Watanabe from the World Peace Through Law Section has suggested this. In 2019, DOC apparently shut down a free book program in WA that allowed non-profits, in the past, to send in books. The bill on private prisons that was passed the legislature in 2020 (ESHB 2576) provides for evaluation of

the existing authority of state agencies and local governments to inspect private detention facilities for the purposes of enforcing state and local statutes, codes, rules, and policies on the subject of the health, safety, and welfare of detainees

by the Department of Health. <http://lawfilesexternal.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2019-20/Pdf/Bills/Session%20Laws/House/2576-S.SL.pdf#page=1>

Molly raised the idea of amending this bill to (1) add a provision that applies to state prisons, as well as private detention centers and prisons, and (2) adding a provision for access to educational materials.

If WSBA is to propose legislation, this would need to go to the BOG by 6/1, which is too short a time line for us, but perhaps others might be interested in pushing for this, e.g. Human Rights Defense Committee.

- 9. Other “TO DO” Items.** Molly and Bridget will review and plan the 2020-21 budget this summer .

Meeting adjourned.