

## **Minutes of the WSBA Elder Law Section (“Section”) Executive Committee**

**October 18, 2016 teleconference**

### **Attendance.**

Members Present: Kameron Kirkevold (Chair), Suzanne Thompson Winingar, Peggy Sanders, Ann LoGerfo, Eric Watness, Matthew Parker, Ronald St. Hilaire, Megan Farr, Carla Calogero, Michael Longyear, Mark Vohr, Miriam Ayoub.

Members Absent: Karen Boxx, Amy Freeman, Dick Sayre, Meredith Childers.

Liaisons Present: Joe Terrenzio (WSBA Sections), Angie Hayes (BOG Liaison).

### **Welcome, Announcements.**

1. There is an open section night in Spokane on October 20, 2016.

**September Minutes.** The minutes from the September 20, 2016 teleconference were unanimously approved.

**Master CLE Update.** Dick was absent so Carla gave the update. The program will have an end of life panel at the end of the day. Carla attended a two-day conference at Seattle University School of Law, which was very well done, and she looks forward to having our master CLE at Seattle University. The CLE will take place on November 18, 2016.

**Treasurer's Report.** Matthew reported Section revenue through August 2016 at \$35,477.59 and expenses of \$36,247.87 (\$10,000 less than original budgeted). The Section's fund balance is \$62,438.99. This includes expenses from the August Social at Skyline in the amount of \$1,790.00. It does not, however, include the \$15,000 donation to Columbia Legal Services that was approved at the Section's annual meeting on September 16, 2016, which matches the \$15,000 still pending payment for this fiscal year. He anticipates that the fund balance after those entries will be approximately \$47,000.00.

**Legislative.** Megan attended Representative Jenkins' workgroup on September 27, 2016, regarding the guardianship isolation bill. Megan described some of the issues she addressed at the workgroup.

Megan and Kameron reported that the meeting with the Superior Court Judges was canceled this weekend due to weather. They will keep us informed if the meeting is rescheduled.

The legislative session will start in January 2017 and will end in either April, May, or June.

Megan reminded the committee that a quick turnaround is necessary when she asks for a vote regarding legislative matters.

The discussion turned to bills that the Section should expect to address during this upcoming legislative session.

**Washington Public Guardianship Task Force Update.** Ann said the task force is looking at different models for funding the program. There are approximately six different programs that the task force is considering. Ann stated that they received helpful input from DSHS on the possibilities for additional funding. The next task force meeting is in mid-November.

**WINGS Report.** Ann and Carla reported that proposed legislation has surfaced in WINGS. The proposed legislation was prepared by Shirley Bondon who presented it to the committee members. Ann stated that she is uncertain whether this proposed legislation will be put forth this session. Ann will forward to draft legislation to the group.

**CLS Grant Request.** Ann submitted a grant request on behalf of Columba Legal Services (“CLS”) to our Section. The proposal is a result of what was an error between CLS and the Section in 2015, as there was not the usual annual donation of \$15,000. As a result, the section made two donations in the amount totaling \$30,000 to CLS in 2016. The 2016 donation by our Section, coupled with an attorney fee award received by CLS, provided CLS with almost full funding for a fellowship for the foundation. Ann came up with a one-year fellowship relating to low income seniors and the particular problems they face. Specifically, the fellowship would deal with housing, public guardianships, a food benefit project for seniors and persons with disabilities, phone calls, and walk-ins. The fellowship would be a one-year salaried position, of \$62,000, in addition to benefits. An additional contribution of \$10,000 from the elder law section, would allow them to launch this one year fellowship.

The fellowship hopes to promote elder law with a young attorney as well as providing legal services to elderly individuals in need.

The executive committee will put this topic on the agenda for our fall retreat.

**New Sub-Committees.** Kameron discussed interest in creating additional subcommittees for this upcoming year. The following potential subcommittees were briefly discussed:

- **WSBA Bylaws:** There are numerous proposed bylaw amendments that are going to the next BOG meeting pertaining to the WSBA sections’ policies and governance. The more controversial proposals that were initially set forth have primarily been tabled at this time and the policy section workgroup has been disbanded. However, there is a bylaws

workgroup that will continue. Angie will provide additional information via email on bylaw amendments that were abandoned and are still on the table.

- Diversity / Outreach: The outreach subcommittee consisting of Mark, Peggy, Eric, Matt, and Miriam will continue. Mark will contact Amy Freeman and Katie Searing to see if they will be part of the subcommittee. Megan Farr will no longer be a member of the subcommittee. Mark will attempt to schedule a subcommittee conference call before the fall retreat.
- Section leaders update.
- Guardianship fees rule making.
- Additional Subcommittees. Any other subcommittees can be added to the list to be discussed at the retreat.

**Final Comments.** Kameron will keep us posted on the fall retreat date.

**Meeting adjourned (1:35 pm).**

**Calendar:**

Networking and CLEs:

- Friday, October 20, 2016—WSBA Open Sections Night in Spokane
- Friday, November 18, 2016—Elder Law Master Class, Seattle University