

LOW BONO SECTION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 21, 2017

Present: Jenny Anderson, Forrest Carlson, Celeste Miller, Stacie Naczelnik, John Varga

Present via phone: Mark Baumann, Barbara Esselstrom, Per Jansen, Christina Meserve, Pete Roberts, Veronica Smith-Casem, Joe Terrenzio

Location: Anderson, York, & Stratton
150 Nickerson St – Suite 311
Seattle, WA 98109

Stacie Naczelnik chaired the meeting.

1. **Introductions (Stacie)**
2. **Education Committee (EdComm) Update (Veronica)**

The previous commitment for collaboration between EdComm and SU School of Law for once-a-month, lunchtime mini-CLEs has been shortened from an initial commitment of March, April, May to March and April.

Update on 2/24 CLE Attendance: 64 attendees including speakers and EdComm/Executive Committee (ExComm) members, 7 web attendees

Discounts on the CLE tuition provided as follows:

A local firm received a group discount for attendance (one attorney, one LLLT, one law student)

One attendee received a full scholarship to attend, while a handful of attendees received discounted attendance fees

Four discounts for non-profit firms (one from Texas, one from California, and two attendees from a firm in Ballard)

These attendees were also invited to contribute posts to the section blog about the CLE.

Steep discounts were offered to incubator programs from other states and this year's SU Low Bono Incubator cohort received a scholarship that discounted the cost of attendance to \$45 per person.

Feedback from those who have registered for the webcast is that this is a great option.

Each attendee will receive a copy of the low bono attorney fees brief as well as access to a draft located on a password-protected webpage. That draft will be updated periodically. Public discussion of what is working (and what is not working) with regard to submitting and arguing the brief will take place on the section listserv.

In addition to providing a very generous financial sponsorship, ARAG has also donated a legal keyboard, which is one of the highlights of raffle items for attendees.

Keep promoting the CLE!

Beyond the CLE, Veronica broached the topic of how far the section has come and what else we can accomplish in the future. To figure this out, she likes the idea of a leadership retreat, or at the very least, something beyond monthly meetings.

3. **General Announcements (Stacie)**

The motion to allocate \$90.00 for a meeting with CLE speakers was approved via email. However, no meeting occurred.

4. **Approval of January Minutes (Stacie)**

One correction was proposed: in the description of the EdComm collaboration with Greg McLawsen for an April CLE, the minutes will now read that the section will work with Greg to obtain approval for CLE credits and Greg will promote the CLE.

Celeste motioned to adopt the minutes as amended, which Forrest seconded. The motion passed.

5. **WSBA Update (Joe)**

WSBA Website

The WSBA is in the process of reformatting its website in recognition of the fact that the site is about as user-unfriendly as a website can be in 2017. A developer and a designer are currently working on this. All content will be migrated to the new website in March and the revamped site will go live in April.

The new site will be more user-friendly and contain more tools for sections to disseminate information and communications to their members. Search and navigation functions will be improved through better tagging and indexing. In addition, a section membership search feature will be added to the directory.

Proposed Amendments to Article 11

The proposed amendments to Article 11 were approved by the Board of Governors (BOG) at their last meeting and are now in effect.

As a result, sections must now update their by-laws to comply with the new Article 11. WSBA General Counsel and Sections Staff are working together to provide materials to enable sections to revise by-laws in order to comply. (For example, amending the

by-laws to allow for inclusion of LLLTs, LPOs, and other non-lawyer members.) The approximate timeline is to get the proposed section by-law changes to BOG with enough lead time for BOG to review at its July meeting, with the idea that approved changes to by-laws will be in place by the end of FY 2017.

6. **Open Sections Night (Forrest)**

Forrest attended and spoke to a handful of interested attendees. However, he does not believe that there is a quantifiable result that will occur because of this.

7. **Taxing Legal Services (Jenny)**

Jenny brought to ExComm's attention a Facebook post by Justice Yu that sought input from lawyers regarding a tax on legal services. This may be evidence that the State Supreme Court is at least considering implementing a tax. Therefore, the section should monitor this issue and be prepared to offer an official position on such a proposal in the future.

8. **Treasurer's Report (Celeste)**

Currently, the section fund contains \$4671.65, thanks to new members and few expenses since the November social.

9. **Social Committee Report (Celeste)**

Among the current cohort of low bono incubates, five have accepted the offer for section membership.

The next social will be directly after the 2/24 CLE

After that, planning for a mixer with the ADR section is in the works. Celeste is working on this with Adrienne Keith, a family law attorney and mediator. Forrest suggested that we invite Judge Bruce Heller (ret.) as a potential speaker or panelist. (He just retired and joined a mediation/arbitration firm.)

10. **Communications Committee Update (Stacie)**

Forrest is drafting a post on his properly formatted pleading paper template. There is other content in the pipeline. Pete published a post last week.

11. **Banner Update (Forrest)**

The back and forth with the WSBA about this continues. Forrest has submitted the most recent feedback to the graphic designer, who provided new designs, and then Forrest circulated the new designs to ExComm via email. The email included a motion by Forrest to submit the new designs to the WSBA. Celeste seconded the motion and it passed. Forrest will submit the new designs to the WSBA.

12. **Retreat**

ExComm discussed creating an annual section leadership retreat.

Topics discussed included format, location, and what time of year to hold the retreat.

Pete provided details on how the Solo and Small Practice Section structured its retreat:

- group rate facility
- Friday night: on your own
- Saturday: 10-4, with working lunch
- Dinner provided for attendee and guest (alcohol not covered)
- Travel: miles and tolls reimbursed

All involved in the discussion are in favor of this idea and it will be discussed further at future meetings.

Meeting Adjourned