

## LOW BONO SECTION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 18, 2017

**Present:** Forrest Carlson, Celeste Miller, Stacie Naczelnik, Joe Terrenzio, John Varga, & Clay Wilson

**Present via phone:** Per Jansen, Christina Meserve, Pete Roberts, & Veronica Smith-Casem

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

**1. Introductions (Stacie)**

**2. General Announcements (Stacie)**

None

**3. Approval of February & March Minutes (Stacie)**

The meeting minutes from February were approved as amended; the meeting minutes from March were also approved (Celeste made the motion, Forrest seconded).

**4. Education Committee (Veronica)**

The Section's collaboration with Seattle University School of Law to host low bono-themed mini-CLEs (at SU) is suspended. Attendance for the March CLE was poor. The reasons for this are unknown, but the suspected cause is a combination of SU Law students being on Spring Break the week of and that there is now a nominal fee to attend the CLEs.

The upcoming CLE that the Section partnered to host with Greg McLawsen is moving forward. As of this meeting, there are fifty-seven people registered to attend (online viewing only). Registration for the CLE is through the WSBA (and not Greg). The CLE will continue to be advertised on the Family Law listserv.

Previously, the CLEs that the Section organized were in collaboration with SU. For the CLE with Greg, the Section coordinated with the WSBA and is subject to their way of doing things. Learning the ropes of the WSBA CLE system is a good experience, but the WSBA charged a \$35.00 fee because the CLE materials were submitted after the deadline.

## **5. WSBA Update (Joe)**

A meeting of sections leadership took place on April 17, with approximately thirty attendees. The main topics covered at that meeting were:

### **Bylaws**

Changes are in flux as sections amend their own bylaws in order to conform to the new WSBA bylaws. The main point of contention at Monday's meeting was the secrecy and sorcery of section leadership voting on section business via email. The worry is that section members (and the general public) will be unable see how and why decisions were made by section leadership because it will all be via email.

The WSBA intends to work around this concern by creating publically accessible message boards through which sections can discuss and vote on section business. Look for that at some undefined point between now and the distant future. For now, sections can vote via email on business as long as the motion was made during section meetings.

### **WSBA Website**

The WSBA website overhaul is progressing. Soon there will be more meetings to figure out how to move content over to the new format and design and what content to move.

### **FY2018 Section Budget**

The timeline for annual section budget submission are: early June for the first proposed budget; revisions through July; and a review by the Board of Governors at their September meeting.

## **6. Treasurer's Report (Celeste)**

(This report is not official; February was the last month that updated numbers were provided by the WSBA) Approximately \$6,500 in the Section account.

## **7. Bylaws**

The Section needs to form a sub-committee to review and proposed amendments to its bylaws. Stacie, Forrest, and John volunteered to be on this sub-committee.

## **8. ATJ Conference (Forrest)**

Forrest, Jenny, Veronica, and John volunteered to present at the ATJ Conference in June in Yakima. They met last week to plan and discuss the purpose of their attendance on behalf of the Section: to increase support and awareness of low bono law practice, and to build trust and relationships with those in the conventional Access to Justice Community (legal aid).

The subcommittee projects the cost of attendance to be approximately \$1850:

\$1000 for attendance (\$250 conference registration fee x 4)

Approx. \$700 for lodging

\$150 for mileage reimbursement

The subcommittee asked ExComm to consider paying these costs and offered that if the Section were to pay these fees on behalf of the section members presenting, then the section members will attend the entire conference. To mitigate these costs, John will apply for a scholarship to attend and only one person will seek mileage reimbursement (and only for one way).

Discussion ensued about this opportunity providing a great way for the Section to connect with the entire Washington legal aid community and promote low bono as a part of the ATJ conversation. Celeste raised the concern that these costs will be a substantial portion of the Section funds. Clay asked what other upcoming expenses the Section needs to plan for in 2017: socials and the retreat (food, travel, etc.) and whether financing conference attendance will leave the Section without money to cover these expenses.

Joe confirmed that this proposal, despite it being a substantial portion of the Section funds, complies with WSBA fiscal policy for the sake of reimbursement (but he will check to see if the proportion does not need the WSBA Treasurer's approval).

Forrest made a motion for the section to cover up to \$1830 in costs related to attendance of the presenters: 4 registrations (\$1000), \$750 for lodging, and \$80 for mileage. Celeste seconded the motion. However, at this point in the meeting, there was no longer a quorum present and the vote took place online at a later date and passed.

#### **9. LBS Retreat (Forrest)**

Pete has generously volunteered to rent space at this condo building in Belltown for the retreat. Expenses will likely include food, parking, and travel.

Discussion on this topic was tabled until the next meeting.

#### **10. July Meeting Cancelled (Stacie)**

Forrest motion to cancel the July Section meeting due to anticipated low attendance in the summer months. Celeste seconded the motion. However, at this point in the meeting, there was no longer a quorum present and the vote must continue online.

#### **11. ARAG Newsletter (John)**

John reported that Haley Bohlmann of ARAG offered to promote the Low Bono Section in ARAG's monthly e-newsletter to its Washington network attorneys. Prior to the meeting, John proposed language to the Section online for this purpose. The suggested revisions are that John should include the language from the WSBA Section page and embed the link to that page in whatever copy goes forward.

John made a motion to approve the language as amended and Celeste seconded the motion. However, at this point in the meeting there was no longer a quorum present and the vote must continue online.

**12. Membership (Celeste)**

An oft-proposed social between our section and the Alternative Dispute Resolution Section is postponed until at least the fall of this year. That section's contact, who has been talking with Celeste about this joint social, is currently on parental leave.

Stacie volunteered to host a future social at her office (Sound Family Law), which just relocated to Northgate.

Meeting Adjourned