

**WSBA Litigation Section  
Executive Committee  
Meeting Minutes**

**Date: December 16, 2016  
4:00 p.m.**

**Attendance**

	<b>In Person</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Stephanie Bloomfield, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Philip Havers, Chair Elect	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Greg Hesler, Secretary/Treasurer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Will Dixon, Past Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vinnie Nappo	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Carrie Coppinger-Carter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mike Pfau	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Joel Comfort	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Michelle Pham, YLD Liaison	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Susan Nelson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Daniel Berner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Julianne Unite, Staff Lead	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dan Bridges, BOG Liaison	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other:			

**Agenda Item 1: Approval of the Minutes**

- We will table approval of the November 18, 2016 Minutes because we do not have a quorum at the outset of the meeting.

**Agenda Item 2: 2016/2017 Committee Assignments**

- **CLE (Vinnie, Joel, Susan and Daniel)**
  - Adding Joel and Daniel to the CLE Committee as well so that we have representation from the East side.
  - Stephanie commented that we need to take a hands-on approach with respect to the CLE given last year's outcome. Part of the problem was the changes to the MCLE rules, and all sections are seeing an impact. We need to step up our game to make people want to come, and get back to doing outreach that used to be done at CLE to get people to attend.
  - Julianne confirmed that everyone is seeing a drop-off in CLE attendance—not just particular groups or sections. Some are seeing more than others. The WSBA is looking at the issue to see if there are other things that can be done to encourage attendance beyond just the CLE certification. For example, WSBA is piloting a program to do a mentorship hour during the lunch hour in an effort to get younger lawyers to attend.
  - It seems like the first one that was done was a success with that approach. It allowed for continued questions of the speakers through the lunch hour.
  - WSBA is also welcoming any other “outside the box” ideas to try and tackle the issue.

- Need to get beyond just the standard PowerPoint presentation on nuts and bolts of discovery. Need to find other hooks, be it a high profile speaker or something else to get people there.
- Will asked about whether the live webcast is a requirement. Julianne confirmed that we could look at alternatives as to that as well. It may make sense to make it available online, but not necessarily live.
- Doing it before school starts again is also important.
- Susan asked about the topics that were covered – the CLE covered a variety of litigation issues. It had a general litigation-theme, so it covered discovery, a judge panel, etc.
- Susan commented that most CLEs are taught by an attorney, so rarely hear from other business leaders or industry professionals who can help give the presentation. For example, have a lawyer and a forensic expert talk about discovery, so that we get past just a recitation of the law.
- May also look at an early sign-up discount.
- Julianne—WSBA is seeing better attendance at shorter CLEs, with multi day doing worse than full day, and half days doing better than full.
- **Newsletter (Michelle, Carrie and Stephanie)**
  - Greg submitted a news blurb on the Newman case. We had talked about having a war story that goes along with it, but in the interests of getting this one out, we are going to send it out this month via news-blast.
  - Michelle drafted some practice tips that go along with the topic, so we can include those as well.
  - Stephanie had planned on getting the WSBA logo attached to it, but it is a little clunky so will also send it out without a logo.
  - Might do it right after the holidays so that we can then start working in January for a February 2<sup>nd</sup> edition.
  - Once it is put together, it has to go through WSBA’s legal counsel and senior legal editor, so the sooner we can get it to Julianne the better. Usually turn it around quickly, but with the holidays that could be a bigger problem.
- **Outreach (Will and Greg)**
  - Seattle U: Will is going to talk to Mike to see if we can pin them down earlier so that we don’t run into the May Finals issue.
  - UW: A little easier to schedule because they do a “Thirsty Thursdays” event that we usually coordinate with.
  - Gonzaga: Done in September in coordination with Open Sections night. Had a panel of 8 or so litigators, so had a panel format. Had a good format, and worked really well.
  - Dan indicated that he would be willing to assist with Gonzaga Outreach.
- **Supreme Court Dinner (Phil and Mike)**
  - As discussed during our last meeting, Canlis is out for the Washington Supreme Court dinner.
  - Will mentioned the Seastar Restaurant, above Whole Foods on Denny Way and Westlake, which has a private dining room. Dan mentioned that it may have closed, so this might not be an option.

- Another option is Butcher's Table. It looks like the Butcher's Table does have an open room.
- Might also look to South Lake Union, or Capitol Hill, which have some newer restaurants.
- Want to have something nailed down by January or February.
- **Legislative (Stephanie and Phil)**
  - Stephanie and Phil are heading up this Committee. Anticipate it will be a busy legislative session, although not sure how much of it will be litigation oriented.

**Agenda Item 3: Supreme Court Dinner – May 5, 2017 (Phil/Mike)**

- *See discussion above*

**Agenda Item 4: Newsletter (Michelle)**

- *See discussion above*

**Agenda Item 5: Open Sections Night – Thursday, January 19, 2017 (Stephanie)**

- Open Sections Night in Seattle is January 19, 2017, from 5-7 pm. Please put it on your calendar so that we can have a good turnout.
- We aren't sure if we ever actually ordered the banner. We went through the process to pick out a vendor, but don't think it was actually ordered. Will is going to follow up with Phil to finish up that process in anticipation of the Open Sections Night.

**Agenda Item 7: Other Business**

- Welcome to Dan Bridges, our new BOG Liaison
- Couple of comments from Dan
  1. New Bylaws going into effect
    - a. One issue that is still being discussed is whether non-lawyer members of a Section can serve as Officers. The BOG is considering an amendment that would prohibit sections from prohibiting non-lawyers to be officers as there are some sections with bylaws that prohibit that. Such people would still have to be elected/selected as any officer of a section (so that the bylaw does not grant preferential treatment), but no section could have a per se rule prohibiting them from being an office.
    - b. The Supreme Court has directed the WSBA to regulate LLLLTs. The Supreme Court did not mandate that the BOG make them members of the Bar nor that we give them governorships, but the Board has voted to do so. For purposes of serving as an Officer, they will still have to meet the criteria of the applicable Section, as determined and set by the Section. The one change that will be taken out of the hands of the Section, however, is that we cannot set, as a criteria, that Officers have to be lawyers.
    - c. There was also a discussion, in this context, around the interaction between the BOG and the Sections, and some of the difficulties that have been experienced over the last year.
  2. Fee Referendum
    - a. Have had some Town Hall Conference Calls. The referendum sponsors claim to have 85% of the signatures they need to be certified.
    - b. Even those that are in favor of the referendum get it, and it isn't so much the fee, but rather more about what we want our Bar to be.

- c. If the referendum passes, every Section needs to be on guard about how that is going to affect them. The last thing that they would want to cut would be member services, but those would be potentially open to reduction.

**Future Agenda Items**

- Next Meeting is Friday, January 19, 2016 at 4:00 p.m., to coincide with Open Sections night. Will try to make it an in-person meeting.

*Meeting adjourned at 4:53 p.m.*

**Approval Notes**

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary Initials: \_\_\_\_\_