

**WSBA Litigation Section
Executive Committee
Meeting Minutes**

**Date: March 17, 2017
4:00 p.m.**

Attendance

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

Agenda Item 1: Approval of the Minutes

Minutes of the Meeting held on February 17, 2017 were approved.

Agenda Item 2: 2016 Committee Reports

- CLE (Vinnie, Joel, Susan and Daniel)
 - Joel reported that the committee had a meeting regarding the CLE to discuss theme. It was previously suggested that we craft the CLE around voire dire and use that as a centerpiece; however, as the committee was brainstorming that possibility, it was discovered that Seattle University is having a 2-day seminar specifically on the topic of voire dire (1 day seminar with 1 day hands on training, along the lines of a NITA course). That led the group to pause a bit on whether that would be an ideal topic.
 - After giving it some consideration, the decision was made to table the topic for 30 days and investigate the Seattle U CLE a bit further. That is where things currently sit.
 - There was consensus that, with our efforts to get revenue up, it may be best to change the topic a bit.
 - We had intended to focus on trial with voire dire being a component, but would also have included jury consultants and a few related topics. We may want to expand the scope, so if anyone has any ideas, please let the CLE Committee know.
- Newsletter (Michelle and Stephanie)
 - Will discuss this at a future meeting.

- Outreach
 - Vinnie reported that we have an event coming up on April 13 at the University of Washington. Vinnie will not be able to make it, but Will is planning on going. Stephanie will be available as well.
- BOG Report (Dan)
 - The BOG met in Olympia last week and met with the Supreme Court. Primary topic of discussion was LLLTs. The Court has not decided whether to expand the family law practice or adopt it for the elder law practice. The BOG has had a lot of input from practitioners, and the Court is listening. To the extent the Litigation Section has any interest, it would be worthwhile to comment.

Agenda Item 3: Bylaw Amendments Required by WSBA

- Suggested changes to the bylaws were circulated earlier in the week. There are requirements that all of the sections coordinate certain elements of their bylaws, and these will go before the BOG in late April or May.
- One issue is moving elections to March-May time frame and having electronic elections.
 - Greg questioned whether we would still have elections in August during the transition year.
 - Julianne commented—the end of April is the first opportunity that Sections have to submit bylaw changes, but they can also submit at the end of June for July approval. As far as elections in the transition year, it is not a huge deal. We could still hold elections this year at the annual meeting in August, with the understanding that new terms won't start until October 1 rather than immediately upon election. Next year is when we start electronic elections. In that election year, anyone who is elected in March-May will not begin their term until October 1.
 - We also have the option in future years to move our annual meeting to the March-May time period, or we could continue to have it in August—it just wouldn't have anything to do with elections.
- We also have the opportunity to participate in electronic voting this year if we so choose. The Section would be responsible for providing messaging around that change, but the WSBA would handle the electronic portion of the election. We would need to begin that process by August so that the WSBA can be prepared.
 - Greg and Phil commented that we would prefer to do the election this year the old-fashioned way, so that if we move the annual election to March-May, we make all changes at once.
- Also raised was the Young-Lawyer liaison, and whether they should be a full voting member. General consensus was that they should be a full voting member, as it is more inclusive.
- Next suggested change was to modify the Nominating Committee.
 - We have to have a Nominating Committee. Our current bylaws allow nominations from the floor of the annual meeting. Stephanie noted that if we are going to have electronic balloting, that becomes very cumbersome.
 - The revisions don't appear to be a huge change other than allowing for Executive Committee participation in the nominating committee. The bigger issue is whether to continue allowing nominations from the floor. It would be difficult to deal with floor

nominations in that context, so we may want to have nominations in advance so people know who they are voting for.

- A related issue was raised concerning approval of the revised bylaws by the Litigation Section at large. What happens if the Litigation Section at large does not accept the bylaw revisions?
 - Julianne noted that Article XI of the Bar Bylaws trump the individual section bylaws, and allows for revision by the Section's Executive Committee, or you can put them in front of the Litigation Section.
- Given the limited available participants for today's meeting, Joel suggested that we table the issue for a vote in April. Stephanie will go through the redline draft provided by the Bar and make some edits, then circulate it for consideration and approval at April's meeting.

Agenda Item 4: April Meeting Walla Walla

- Stephanie raised some concerns, given the lack of revenue from last year, about whether now is a good time to spend money on travel.
- Greg commented that we aren't necessarily in trouble financially, but we don't know if last year's CLE was a sign of things to come. With that in mind, Greg was in favor of being conservative when it comes to meeting locations.
- Joel noted that we should make an effort to have an in-person meeting at some point in the next few months, but that could be in Seattle.
- Stephanie noted that our May meeting is intended to be an in-person meeting. Given how late the April meeting is scheduled for (April 21), we will plan on cancelling that meeting and just meeting in-person in May.

Agenda Item 5: Other Business

- None.

Future Agenda Items

- None.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Approval Notes

Date Approved: 5-5-17

Secretary Initials: GCH