



MINUTES

Executive Committee Call

June 16, 2021 | 4:30 PM

Participants: Vanessa Hunsberger, Carolyn MacGregor, Regina Paulose, Dwight VanWinkle, Anne Watanabe, and Randy Winn.

Approval of May Minutes

The Executive Committee approved the minutes for the May 2020 Executive Committee call.

Recap of Past Events

- May 17 - 12 pm: Why It's So Difficult to Vote (via Zoom) (Randy, producer): went smoothly!
- May 18 - 1-4:30 pm: The War on Drugs – a driving force of mass incarceration: half-day co-webinar with Civil Rights Law Section: produced using ON24; speakers were very good; publicity not as strong as could have been so attendance was disappointing.
- June 14 - 12 pm: Leadership for All – Minority Bar Associations, with Loren Miller and South Asian Bar Associations (Camille, producer): video connection was poor for one speaker and not sure what the source of the issue was (on producing end or speaker end?).

Upcoming CLEs

- July 19 - 11 am: Love Jihad in Asia: Interfaith marriage law in India and other countries (Randy, producer)
- August 19 – 12 pm: Tim Franklin will be speaking about hazardous nuclear waste on indigenous land (Dwight, producer)
- Should we more consistently reach out to other sections/organizations whose expertise overlaps with our CLE topics to get their help in spreading the word about our programming?
 - Collaborating with non-WSBA sections is a bit of a different process
 - Collaborating with other WSBA sections very helpful for strengthening programs; other sections may better know the experts in the field and help us to connect to them
 - When programs aren't planned jointly with other groups, it's more challenging to ask them to sponsor because they might not be familiar with or agree with speakers' positions
 - Is it valuable to bring other organizations into our programs for more publicity, financial contribution to programs?
 - Sometimes it is more complicated to coordinate programs with other sections
 - Process for reaching out to other WSBA sections: we need to formally develop one!
 - It is helpful to start the partnership discussion early so that we identify the right partners and can jointly think of speakers/issues

Grant Approvals

- \$1,000 to University Beyond Bars in support of research for Prison Censorship/Books to Prisoners project: Anne has been working on how to set up an externship through the WSBA and thinking through how to manage the student. She has found that developing the externship would involve a huge time commitment and Board of Governor approval. The project working group has been looking for an organization that could host the externship and came across University Beyond Bars, which is doing very similar work. The new proposal is to give the \$1,000 to University Beyond Bars to support their research to understand why the Department of Corrections has banned a particular book on organizing and civil rights and what can be done. Following University Beyond Bars' research, it might be possible for WPTL to take a position on the prison book ban issue. This new direction needs to be approved by WSBA's General Counsel. The Executive Committee approved the \$1,000 grant to University Beyond Bars for this research project.
- \$200 for September Environmental Crimes conference: done in-person with Jersey Law Commission. The program will be recorded and available to be viewed for free afterwards in July; WSBA members can then self-report for CLE credit. The funds will go to the conference venue. Speaker selection underway through June 2021. The Executive Committee approved the \$200 grant to support the conference expenses (one abstention during the vote).

CLE Planning for Rest of the Year

Let's spend some time at our next meeting discussing how we should proceed beyond September.

- Dwight has been brainstorming ideas and reaching out to speakers on issues related to biological weapons, technology, and environmental protection. He has a confirmed speaker already on the Biological Weapons Convention.
- Regina will share contacts with Anne and Dwight for a speaker on a new treaty addressing gender-based violence for October or November.
- Randy wants to reach out to PeaceTech Lab about presenting.
- Regina might connect us to a local conference on environmental justice and racism happening in October.

Suggestion: space out speakers so that we don't have back-to-back CLEs on similar topics.

Budget for Next Year

- Vanessa working on the budget and will circulate it for comment within the next week. She is making sure we have funds for a Zoom account although we need to figure out which level of account to go for. It is also possible to get one level of Zoom account and purchase a higher participant number for specific events only. Vanessa will share the options via E-mail.
- Section membership is at 149 people and is growing, unlike overall WSBA trend.
- There is an informal section leadership monthly meeting. In September, they will be discussing CLE pricing. If you aren't receiving messages for these meetings, let Randy know!

July Recess

We will continue the tradition of not having a July executive committee meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 5:33 PM.