



MINUTES

Executive Committee Call

November 18, 2020 | 4:30 PM

Participants: Sara Anderson, Vanessa Hunsberger, Dwight VanWinkle, Anne Watanabe, Brent Williams-Ruth, and Randy Winn.

Approval of October Minutes

The board approved the October 2020 meeting minutes.

Welcome Board of Governors Liaison – Brent Williams-Ruth

Gov. Williams-Ruth chose WPLT as one of his liaison assignments! We are so pleased to have him join us. The Executive Committee did individual introductions for Gov. Williams-Ruth to get to know us. He just joined the Board of Governors after serving on the Character and Fitness Committee. He believes in anti-war causes and human rights and looks forward to contributing to our section's work.

Activity Recap

Open Sections Night with Gonzaga U: went well -Anne and Randy are glad we participated. 4-5 students stopped by our "booth" to learn more and stay engaged. Recruiting for our section is always a challenge -offering an internship could be an interesting way to draw students to join.

Environmental Crimes Conference debrief: attendance was low but the upside was that it allowed for great discussion with the two speakers for those who did join.

Section leaders' activities: an issue is that those who are familiar with Slack use it a lot; those who are new to Slack find it less user-friendly and are less likely to engage. Topics that have come up in the last month: best practices for organizing CLEs, fees that the bar charges, helping new lawyers get started during this difficult time, the synchronization of the fiscal and calendar years. Leaders are very impressed that we organize monthly mini CLEs. Thank you to Randy for monitoring/attending on behalf of WPTL!

Anne attending last week's section leaders orientation and found the content very helpful for newcomers to bar leadership.

Upcoming CLEs and Events

December 1 - 11 am – Nexus Between Space and Environmental Law

Jan 27 – 12 pm Complex Trauma – Challenges for Attorney & Client

Jan 27 4 pm Listen In: Environmental Racism

January 28 – Climate Migration (ABA/WSBA)

Feb 24 - 12 pm Law in the Time of Climate Change (haven't figured out yet who is producing this one; Anne will introduce Camille and Dwight to the speaker and then Camille and Dwight will coordinate)

March 23 - 12 pm: Nonhuman rights and human rights – co-webinar with Animal Law Section

Other CLEs to be scheduled: Legal Framework Governing Military Use of Force – part II -Dwight is following up with the speaker on scheduling; maybe have it in early 2021

Black Lives Matter - James Johnson (Loren Miller Bar Assn)

Restoration of voting rights – co-webinar with Civil Rights Section

Other Discussion Items

Scholarships and internships: WPTL has been working on the Books to Prisoners Initiative for a few months now in collaboration with the Civil Rights Section. WPTL offered to look into what the current barriers are to providing more reading materials to prisoners and how to address the Department of Corrections' actions denying access to those materials. Anne proposes to allocate funds for an intern to move forward with researching the Department of Corrections' policies and how they're being applied. Project end results could be proposing legislation or solutions to the problems that we identify. Gov. Williams-Ruth proposes collaborating with Tarra Simmons as an ally on this issue. He is happy to facilitate that connection.

Need to take a look at our budget and what amount of scholarships we could actually provide. Bar rules encourage the sections to use funds in this way. Anne, Randy, and Vanessa will touch bases to come up with proposals for the section at next month's meetings. Would be great to roll this out early next year. What about collaborating with the Washington State Bar Foundation? Or are there particular organizations we'd like to work with to support interns? Or scholarship programs through law schools? Makes sense to partner instead of reinvent the wheel.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 PM.