



MINUTES

Executive Committee Call

November 17, 2021 | 4:30 PM

Participants: Vanessa Hunsberger, Carolyn MacGregor, Camille McDorman, Brent Williams-Ruth, Pamela Van Swearingen, Anne Watanabe, and Randy Winn.

Approval of October Minutes

The Executive Committee approved the minutes from the October 2021 Executive Committee call.

Reports

- Past-Chair: Annual Report (due Dec 3) -Anne graciously put it together with some input from Randy. The template focuses more on our plans for the coming year than the previous version. The report will be posted on our webpage. It is also a report back to the Board of Governors so we should ensure we are specific and intentional in our language about our plans. If some goals are stretch goals or not fully formed ideas, we might want to say so to avoid an accountability issue down the road. Anne will take another look at our draft and recirculate it in light of today's feedback.
- Event Subcommittee and the 2022 Calendar
 - Probably don't need to plan on anything for December 2021
 - If anyone has leads for speakers, please reach out to Randy to coordinate or investigate their interest in doing a mini-CLE!
 - Randy has identified a couple speakers for early 2022 and is working on nailing down dates.
 - Should we use Zoom or ON24? People are so familiar with Zoom that they might be more comfortable with it. When we use ON24, speakers tend to need a run-through ahead of time on how it works so that we avoid a technical problem during the CLE.
 - Are Fridays good or bad days for CLEs? We haven't tended to do them on Fridays.
 - Listening sessions: suggestion to only hold them quarterly because they are quite labor-intensive for the facilitator and speakers to produce. Unfortunately, because they don't include CLE credit (because unstructured talk), attendance is rather low. Does this justify the time and energy investment? If they occurred more regularly, would the listening sessions become smoother (more rapport between panelists) and less time-intensive to prepare? It's also positive to try something new and decide that it doesn't work.
 - Is it important for programs to have CLE credit? Do folks come just for the credit? Does that deprioritize community building? Does that matter? Or is it worth the exposure to the topics we address through our programs?

WSBA De-Integration

- Keller deduction allows members to opt out of contributing to speech events however changes at circuit courts and SCOTUS are cause for concern about future challenges to mandatory

memberships. Texas Bar Association was ordered to de-integrate with 90 days notice and refund all bar dues.

- There is no immediate risk of the WSBA de-integrating but the WSBA is trying to study the issue proactively as it is a possibility. The WSBA wants to hear from members and sections about this issue ahead of a Board of Governors meeting in December about the issue. In a de-integrated bar, we could as a section express our views directly (as opposed to through WSBA GR12 review process). On the flipside, we might also be so small that we couldn't sustain our activities. If the WSBA stayed integrated but scaled back on [any activities outside the strict practice of law](#), how would this impact our section legislative activities? Is it a good use of member dues to pursue litigation on this issue? What is our risk tolerance as bar members?
- Recommendation is to comment as a section (can happen via E-mail and just need ¾ of the board) and also as individuals. There is no date yet by which comments need to be in but it won't be earlier than December 5. We can send our comments to Brent to forward on to the WSBA.
- Conversations on our private E-mail will not be discoverable. Send Randy our preferred E-mail addresses!
- Brent shared some talking points with Randy, which he will send to the rest of the Executive Committee.

Meeting adjourned at 6:05 PM.