

**PRO BONO AND PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE**  
**April 12, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

Present: Jacqueline (Jacqui) Merrill Martin, Michael (Mike) Addams, Bonnie Rosinbum, Ritu Jain, Yuan Ting, David Weafer, Sandy Garcia, Tacy Gillespie

WSBA Staff: Saleena Salango, Diana Singleton  
BOG Liaison: Matthew Dresden

Meeting called to order at 1:03 PM

**March Meeting Minutes**

Motion to approve by Jacqui, seconded by Mike; Approved with no amendments.

**Subcommittee Updates**

*Communications Subcommittee* – Michael Addams shared that the Communications Subcommittee has not met. Member have contacted all members on the Community Liaison position list, noting people who haven't responded. They are still working on articles mentioned in previous committee meeting.

*Rules & Policy Subcommittee* – Yuan Ting shared updates on proposed changes to QLSP eligibility and Pro Bono Status rules. Deborah Perluss attended the last Pro Bono Council meeting, and received mixed feedback. The expansion of Pro Bono Status rule change to include public interest organizations was not supported by the PBC, with significant concern that the rule change would take the focus off of serving low-income Washingtonians. The QLSP eligibility status change feedback received was mixed. The PBC members believed that the Attorney General or Public Defender's Office might have conflicts that prevent them from providing pro bono services elsewhere; Thurston County Volunteer Lawyer Program had concerns that there is a large number of volunteers from the Attorney General's Office and that QLSP status changes will mean they could provide pro bono services to their existing clients and receive QLSP benefits, meaning they could lose those volunteers. The subcommittee has asked the AG's office to provide more information and understand 1) who they want to attract for own program (internal or outside attorneys), and 2) if the request to expand the definition is influenced by their staff attorneys who would like to volunteer with their in-house program and receive benefits, which might ultimately lessen the attorneys who want to volunteer for volunteer lawyer programs. Bonnie Rosinbum also shared that the Counsel Professional Ethics has brought forth a proposed change to RPC 1.8E related to providing expenses to indigent clients. There is an open comment period of one year. The subcommittee will discuss at the next monthly meeting in April whether they would like for the committee to submit comments in support of this proposed rule change.

*Technology Workgroup* – Jacqui reported that the workgroup has not met. Michael and Jacqui have discussed merging workgroup with the Communications Subcommittee. Saleena reported that WSBA GC has requested additional information in order to determine what the legal limitations are for the Cases/Opportunities feature.



*CLE Subcommittee* – Sandy Garcia reported that the CLE subcommittee does not have any updates. They will meet next Monday to review potential topics for the October Legal Lunchbox, and a potential additional CLE at some point in the year, and to review some feedback from the WSBA CLE team.

*Strategic Planning Subcommittee* – Bonnie reported that the Strategic Planning Subcommittee met last week to develop a plan to put in place of the Community Liaison Position.

### **Memo RE: Community Liaison Position – Discussion**

Bonnie and Michael led a discussion on the Community Liaison Role and developing an alternate plan to help the committee stay community-informed and live up to the stated value of Community. Michael and Jacqui discussed a potential to restructure and dissolve the Technology Workgroup to the Communication Subcommittee and shifting focus from building the Pro Bono WA site to ensuring fresh content for the site.

Jacqui offered that inviting guests to committee meetings combined with a regular newsletter to facilitate two-way collaboration, offering multiple ways to engage including email, attending partner organization meetings. Jacqui suggested getting more information before proposing bylaw changes to open community member seat. Matthew Dresden echoed Jacqui's feedback and offered suggestion to identify priorities given that some projects might require a lot of time and effort.

Saleena and Diana reported that one of the potential long term projects outlined, opening a seat for a community member, may require a proposed exception to the WSBA committee bylaws. This was a suggestion from multiple staff members at QLSPs and from the Pro Bono Council Manager, Michael Terasaki. Saleena will do some additional research about whether this is possible and how the Committee might go about this to inform our decision about taking on this project. No action was taken; further discussion will occur at the Strategic Planning Subcommittee and full committee meeting next May.

### **FY 23 New Member Recruitment**

The priority deadline to apply is April 15<sup>th</sup>. Please apply for re-appointment by this date. New members can apply after this deadline, as we still have open seats on the committee. Applications are through MyWSBA.org.

### **WSBA Vaccination Policy Amendment**

In-person events now require proof of fully vaccination including a booster. The policy and portal to submit vaccination records are available [here](#) on the WSBA site.

### **BOG Liaison Update**

Matthew Dresden will share the information about ETHOS and proposed changes to the Bar structure with the PBPSC listserv.

### **ATJ Board Liaison Update**

Diana Singleton shared that Lindy Laurence resigned from ATJ Board. Esperanza Borboa will be the Committee's new ATJ Board Liaison, but cannot begin until June. We don't have an official liaison until then, but Diana will ensure Saleena is informed of ATJ Board updates.

Meeting adjourned 2:02 p.m.