

**PRO BONO AND PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**November 5, 2019 – 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.**

*The Pro Bono and Public Service Committee works to enhance a culture of service by promoting opportunities and best practices that encourage WSBA members to engage in pro bono and public service with a particular focus on services to underserved low and moderate income people.*

Present in Person: Brendan, Paul, Nick

Present by Phone: Yuan, Kristina, Bonnie, Althea

Not Present: Nancy, Andrew, Christine, Kathryn, Na

ATJ Liaison: Michelle

WSBA Staff: Paige

**Meeting Called to Order at 1:05 PM.**

**Action Item: Meeting Minutes for October Meeting**

Paul moved motion to approve minutes without changes, Brendan seconded. Minutes pass unanimously.

**Open Public Meetings Act**

Paige shared brief updates about the OPMA and its application to the Committee. All meetings will require quorum or else we cannot hold a meeting. Committee members must RSVP to each meeting to ensure we have quorum for meeting.

Nick requested that changes to the Committee's roster should be sent to Paige.

**Workgroup Updates**

CLE Workgroup: Brendan shared that they are waiting to identify new workgroup members and will convene by phone in the near future.

Nick went over the Legal Lunchbox that took place last week that was in collaboration. The numbers of people who viewed the webcast were close to 1700 legal professions.

Technology Workgroup: Paul shared that the workgroup met yesterday and that the workgroup has surveyed some of the volunteer lawyer programs (VLPs) and pro bono coordinators. Workgroup is working on surveying potential pro bono volunteers to get their feedback for Pro Bono Washington. Workgroup is looking for additional members!

Next technology workgroup will be decided by doodle poll.

Policy Workgroup: Nick shared that the law firm, Keller Rorhrback, reached out that they are in the process of adopting the model pro bono policies.

Rules Workgroup: Althea shared that they are looking for new members. Next goal is to present proposed changes to the emeritus rule to the Board of Governors. Althea also shared that an attorney asked the workgroup to consider malpractice coverage issues for emeritus attorneys. Another attorney wanted to talk about military



spouses licensed in Washington that want to stay active. Paige said she would ask internally at WSBA to see if there is work being done through the Regulatory Services Department.

Paige will email out workgroup preferences after this meeting.

Communications Workgroup: No updates. Christine and Katherine have signed up for this workgroup

Strategic Planning Workgroup: Include co-chairs and Paige. Policy and rules workgroup might in the future be lumped into this workgroup.

### **Liaison Updates**

Reviewed the [FY20 Liaison Report Updates](#) Google document.

Paige shared that a Microsoft attorney that is a member of their pro bono workgroup reached out and is interested in being a liaison to this Committee.

Nick requested that all committee members be a liaison to at least **two (2)** entities. Please fill out liaison report form that was emailed previously. Paige will send the talking points and liaison report form again. Finalized list will be distributed.

Michelle shared that the ATJ Board will not be holding a November meeting and the next meeting will take place in December.

Nick requested that workgroup leads contact the other workgroup members using the Committee roster document and schedule the next meeting.

### **New Business**

Bonnie shared that the Pro Bono Council recently sent proposal to the Supreme Court about RPC 6.5, ATJ Board sent letter in their support. The next steps is that this will go out for comment to legal entities, like the Board of Governors. Rule proposals may be adopted outright or go out for public comment.

Bonnie explained that RPC 6.5 relates to legal service providers and conflicts of interest rules for volunteer attorneys providing short-term legal advice. Rule allows legal service providers to serve clients that might otherwise have conflicts and requires notification about potential or actual conflicts. The comment regarding RPC 6.5 that was drafted by the Pro Bono Council was focused on its concerns with the notification of all parties with a potential conflict. For example, it can be a problem if the opposing parties with the conflict arises from a domestic violence-related incident as this could put the survivor in an unsafe situation.

Bonnie further shared that this might be opportunity for members to educate the Board of Governors. Discussion about how the Committee could be involved in supporting this rule proposal and help educate the BOG about what the history of this rule and how it plays outs.

Nick shared that the Goldmark Luncheon will take place on February 14, 2020. This is great event to support the Legal Foundation of Washington.

Paige shared that the University of Washington Public Interest Law Association is holding a mixer for law students and practitioners. November 18 at 6 pm at Optimism Brewery.

**Meeting adjourned at 1:57 PM.**