**PRO BONO AND PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**February 14th, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** Michael Addams, Natalie Reber, David Weafer, Deborah Perluss, Erin Fortney, Evangeline Stratton, Jacqui Merrill Martin, Parvin Price, Paul Alig, Ritu Jain, Tacy Gillespie, Xuan Xiao, Elizabeth Baldwin

**WSBA Staff:** Nicholas Mejía, Saleena Salango

**ATJ Board Liaison:** Esperanza Borboa

**Board of Governors Liaison:** Matthew Dresden

**Absent:** Gabriel Hinman, Thuy Nguyen, Yuan Ting

Meeting called to order at 1:02 PM

**January Meeting Minutes**

On motion by Jacqui Merrill Martin, seconded by Ritu Jain, the committee approved the January meeting minutes with no amendments.

**Pro Bono Conference**

Michael Addams shared that the committee is looking to send out materials to the sponsors. REMO has offered a $3000 contract for the event, much of which will need to be raised. Saleena mentioned if the WSBA will require a contract review. Jacqui mentioned that the committee plans to find a sponsor to purchase the contract they do not have to lengthen the process. The Communications Subcommittee will draft letters to send to the potential sponsors. Any donations for this Committee’s work must go through the Washington State Bar Foundation. If there is an excess amount of funds, it is unclear where the funds could roll over to future fiscal years; Saleena Salango will work with Laura Sanford the WA State Bar Foundation Development Officer, to provide additional information. In the event funds do not roll over the committee was advised to only ask for the precise amount needed.

**Subcommittee Updates**

*CLE Subcommittee* **–** Natalie Reber stated that the next step for the committee is to finalize descriptions for the CLE programming at the pro bono fair. The process to apply to accredit a program is about six weeks and they would need to submit speaker bios, a program agenda and description for the MCLE accreditation.

*Rules & Policy Subcommittee* **–** Deborah shared that the subcommittee is preparing comments related to rule 1.8e which are due by March 30th. If comments are submitted, they are required to state who submitted them. A question that remains within the committee is “who on behalf of the committee will sign the comments?” Additionally, the subcommittee is researching other opportunities for rules and policy changes that may increase pro bono work. Evangeline Stratton stated her interest in the 1.8e change and volunteered to work with the subcommittee as needed. Jacqui suggested it may be beneficial to ask some large firms to sign on if interested. Saleena mentioned the American Bar Association is conducting a national survey about barriers to pro bono. This survey may help gather data on whether mandatory reporting of pro bono hours or mandatory pro bono hours have increased pro bono in other states that have implemented them.

*Communications Subcommittee* **–** Ritu Jain shared that the subcommittee decided to go live with the Cases feature on the Pro Bono WA website. The feature will be live before next PBPSC meeting.

**Access to Justice Board Liaison Updates –** Esperanza Borboa gave an update on the ATJ Conference on September 28-30 at the Tacoma Convention Center. The conference will the first ever hybrid ATJ Conference. The ATJ Conference Committee opened a call for session proposals. They hope to center communities impacted by Access To Justice issues in addition to legal professionals.

Currently the ATJ Board plans to fill a vacancy. The Delivery Systems Committee will be looking into the state plan and working towards an updated Hallmarks of an Effective Statewide Legal Services Delivery System. The April ATJ Board meeting will be held in Wenatchee. The ATJ Board has been working to go to communities and find representatives that are from the communities that the Alliance for Equal Justice serves.

**Board of Governors Liaison Updates –** Matthew Dresden shared the candidate filing deadline for the upcoming Board of Governors elections.

**Equity and Justice Team Updates –** Saleena Salango announced their promotion to Equity and Justice Lead and shared information about the staffing transition. Saleena shared the job listing for the Pro Bono & Public Service Specialist.

**Member Recruitment –** Jacqui reminded members that the WSBA volunteer applications will open soon. The committee currently has two vacancies. Six member terms will end on September 30th; five of those members are eligible for reappointment. Jacqui asked members encourage people to serve on the committee. **Roundtable / Q&A**

* Natalie Reber announced that the Judicial Evaluations Committee seeks members; please email Natalie for information
* Upcoming trainings and events:
	+ Free Ethics (Equity) CLE: Building Inclusion In Your Entity & Beyond
	+ February Legal LunchBox: [Building Equity with a Community-Centered Practice](https://www.mywsba.org/PersonifyEbusiness/CLEStore/CLECalendar/MeetingDetails.aspx?productId=22543461)
	+ [Pro Tem Judge In District and Municipal Court Training](https://www.mywsba.org/PersonifyEbusiness/CLEStore/CLECalendar/MeetingDetails.aspx?productId=22512356) (in person; scholarships available)