

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

Washington Young Lawyers Committee

**Washington Young Lawyers Committee | [Via Zoom](#)
Saturday, July 17, 2021 | 10:07 a.m. –1:47 p.m.
DRAFT Meeting Minutes**

Present In-Person or Phone: Aaron Haynes, Alyssa Nevala, Brian Neuharth, Chelsie Elliott, Emily Ann Albrecht (joined at 10:37 a.m.), Esther Hyun, Jordan Lee Couch (joined at 10:14 a.m.), Zachary Bryant, Catherine Holm, Marye Scott, Alixanne Pinkerton (left at 10:26 a.m.), Laura King

Absent: Benjamin Hodges (Unexcused), Brandon Holt (Unexcused), Riley Moos (Excused), Zachary Davison (Excused)

WSBA Staff: Julianne Unite – Member Services and Engagement Manager, Curtiss Melvin – Member Engagement Specialist

Board of Governors: Russell Knight (absent)

General Members: Matt Slovin (did not return from lunch)

[Welcome/Introductions/Minutes/Plan for the Day](#)

WYLC Chair Brian Neuharth started the meeting with an ice breaker of what was the first concert attended and an introduction of each member present.

Brian stated that Governor Russell Knight probably won't be attending due to family emergency.

Brian gave a brief overview of the meeting's agenda for the day.

On motion by Brian, and seconded by WYLC Past Chair Jordan Couch, the WYLC by unanimous vote (11-0-0) approved the March and May 2021 meeting minutes.

[WSBA Updates](#)

WSBA Member Services and Engagement Manager Julianne Unite gave several updates: WSBA is currently open to staff, and for the public/volunteers will be in the next month. WSBA will be having a CLE summer sale 6/27-8/17/2021. The CLE summer sale is for recorded products only, not live. We on-boarded new law student representatives on 7/14/2021. We are currently making webpage updates with the new representatives' current information. We have a Young Lawyer Liaison to Sections Program and we have received applications for most open section positions and section leaders are currently reviewing applications and will be submit their liaison selections in early August. At this point, we did not receive application for two sections: Senior Lawyers and Civil Rights Law. WSBA created a Covid-19 task force of which Jordan and WYLC Chair-elect Emily Ann Albrecht are members and that the

task force will be wrapping up. Jordan reported that they submitted a request to the Board of Governors to sunset the task force and are waiting for their response on the task force. There will be information on the website on the task force coming shortly. Julianne wanted to give update on budget but wanted to wait for Emily to be present before sharing that information. Julianne wanted to congratulate Jordan on being elected to the Board of Governors At-Large position. Brian mentioned how the Board of Governors went through the WSBA Bylaws for over an hour before accepting Jordan to his new At-Large position that was non-contested. The Board of Governors decided not to extend the enrollment period for the At-Large position because there were not any more applicants applying, which is why the WSBA Bylaws are in place to establish rules/guidance.

Board of Governors Updates

Governor Knight wasn't present to give Board of Governors updates. Jordan advised that there's a letter going to the Committee on Professional Ethics, then to the Board of Governors regarding dress code rules and revisions. Jordan said they are waiting for approval. Jordan also reported that the Board of Governors is looking at the results of Personnel Survey. There is a proposal to create General Rule 4 to allow law students one year of school credits through internships, however it must be taught by college instructor, not with an experienced lawyer in practice. Brian said they extended the court comment period. The Board of Governors is going to ask to extend the comment period.

Public Service Leadership Award Selections and Deskbook Offering

Julianne said that we received 13 nominations for the WYLC's Public Service Leadership Award (PSLA), which was a great turn out. Julianne also reported that we can no longer offer deskbooks as part of the award. Julianne announced the nominees of the PSLA. Julianne reported that the WYLC needs to select PSLA recipients and that redacted materials are in the meeting packet. Brian asked if they wanted to select participants today. Julianne responded in order to invite the winners to the September meeting they would need to be selected today. Brian asked if the WYLC can select candidates after lunch so they have enough time to review applications. Julianne responded yes.

Representative Report Updates

Aaron Haynes: WYLC member Aaron Haynes said nothing to report at this time.

Chelsie Elliott: WYLC member Chelsie Elliott said things are the same in Clark County and they are not moving into socializing currently. She said eight of the people she invited to the social will be attending. Chelsie said she is taking over as President to the Family Law section of the bar. In that position she will continue to try and bring in young lawyers into our gatherings in the future.

Marye Scott: WYLC member Marye Scott said she was newly appointed to the Trustee Members of the Spokane New Lawyers with three other members. They had their first in-person meeting a couple of weeks ago and they discussed how to use some of the extra Covid funds from last year to fund mentorship/networking gatherings.

Zach Bryant: WYLC member Zach Bryant said there's not a whole lot to report, but he has been making calls to recruit new lawyers. Some people have been sponsoring golf tournament as fundraisers and getting decent participation, which has helped in soliciting for new recruitment.

Catherine Holm: WYLC member Catherine Holm said there was nothing to report due to Covid low participation.

Laura King: WYLC member Laura King didn't have any updates just struggling with having a new born.

FY22 Budget Updates

Julianne stated that back in May the WYLC approved proposed budget for FY22, however since approval, WSBA leadership asked all entities to reevaluate the proposed FY22 budget and identify areas where additional savings could be made. Julianne then referred members to the meeting materials packet to review the proposed changes to the FY22 budget. The outreach budget was reduced from \$2500 to \$1500. Which mean \$1000 for end of year social and \$500 for other mid-year social events. For the WYLC, three out of six meetings will be virtual only to save some costs. The Board of Governors is moving towards having hybrid meeting to help save costs as well. Emily said there are also other ways to help save money. For example, they could schedule WYLC meetings to start at 12:00 p.m. and not provide lunch to save money and maximize the time we have together. Emily proposed meeting for 3 hours. Brian said he would be open if they could complete everything within that time frame and the WYLC at least could have some snacks. Julianne said the catering funds for meetings are included in the WYLC budget (\$150-\$300) and would be provided if held at WSBA office. Emily added that if they could eliminate hotel/mileage cost that would help. Emily wants to try her new model and see how it works. Emily stated if they started the meeting at 12:00 p.m. that would give people time to come to the meeting if they wanted to. Emily also felt if there was a way to do away with their Representative Reports, that may help with participation due to the time required to complete them. Brian chimed in and said that the reports are good reporting tools for the Board of Governors and other entities, and it also keeps members on top of their obligations/progressions for the WYLC. WYLC member Esther Hyun pointed out an error on budget sheet that it stated that the FY22 budget total shows \$22,000, but it should be \$14,000. Julianne said she will fix that error.

WYLC CLE Scholarship Updates

Julianne stated that 23 people applied for the scholarships and the \$5000 was completely exhausted except for \$24 which we don't have any CLE for that amount.

FY22 Meeting Dates and Locations

FY22 meeting locations: Next year BOG meeting will be at Tacoma Convention Center, but don't know the date yet. Julianne said the default is the WSBA office which is free to use, and any other venue that is selected should be free to help cut cost. If they are consistent with past years, the WYLC is usually the second Saturday of the month. Julianne felt July and September are probably preferred if they want to continue the relationships with BOG meetings/members. Emily said she would prefer for meetings to travel to other places particularly since covid, since there have not been any gatherings. Brian asked if Emily wanted to change the meeting day instead of Saturday. She said she was open to Saturday but if they could change the start time until maybe 12:00-3:00 that may be more accommodating for those who need to travel to the meeting. Most were in agreement if they changed to a weekday participation would decrease because everyone schedule is all over the place. Emily stated its reassuring that we can have the meeting at WSBA but let's consider other locations as well. Brian suggested we could use his house once he finished remodeling. Curtiss offered his roof deck as another option. Jordan also said his backyard could be an option also. The meetings have to be public. Julianne said we should lock the place down for incoming members so they can get it on their calendars, it would be best to have that figured out by end of month. Also if anyone has concerns about new locations etc. they should voice that to Emily.

Project Team Lead Assignments and Updates

Debt: Brian stated as far as debt is concern. LRAP had presented to the Budget Legislative Affairs Committee (LAC) and they called it half done and Brian disagreed with them. But they said he should come back when it's more complete. They wanted more WSBA control over the LAC who they selected

and they were uncomfortable with delegating the Statutory Creative Committee that disperse funds for loan repayment systems for those who are in public service, government, or nonprofits. Essentially Brian felt they wanted more control. One of the concerns that exist in other states they constantly struggle with funding, Brian wanted to speak with the Oregon group because they have one of those available. However, it gives him pause because addressing debt at the state level is very difficult but will consider mentioning it to them next year. Jordan suggested we should have a task force created from WYLC with multiple stakeholders because Diane Singleton have expressed interest and Brian would like to see that get off the ground. He spoke with President Sciuchetti and he appears open to it but it's a funding issue and how would he get WSBA to fund it if we are looking to get a million-dollar trust and the interest on that money pay for it. Will it come from WSBA, legislature, etc. or will we need to ask for donations? Jordan has a proposal that could potentially reduce student debt by 50%. ADA has a good debt survey nationally. The Financial Focus Series is in limbo because they did not want to repeat the same thing about how to pay off debt but there has been a lot of action in mainstream media about student loan debt cancelation forgiveness. Brian suggested if it would be possible for WSBA to pay \$250 for a shared cloud drive for members would that fall under the WSBA public access policy.

Dress Code: Jordan gave updates on the proposed dressed code. He said the proposal had been submitted and was waiting on the approval from the Committee of Special Ethics and the meeting is August 27. The dress code is going gender neutral going forward. Julianne said they submitted to the General Counsel bylaws for review for the name change of young lawyer and they are looking for clarity on the proposal and how the IT department will change the system/language on website etc. per the WYLC proposal. But they have not started the vote until they get more clarity.

Bylaws: Julianne needs to circle back with Zach D. re. request for additional information. Brian said we might represent more people if expanding definition. Zac thought about trying to accelerate for recruitment. Brian responded there's no real time limit right now.

ABA and Awards: Aaron reported that PSLA and CLE scholarships. Surprised how CLE scholarships went.

Access to Justice (ATJ)/Rural Recruitment Retention and Retirement (RRR): WYLC member Alixanne Pinkerton stated in her update that she had been so busy with work that she doesn't have anything to offer but Julianne may have more information. Zach Bryant said the committee was voted on and approved by the BOG for the STAR committee. The committee will facilitate getting legal practices in rural areas by creating jobs etc. They are going to do some outreach to stakeholders who will create incentives for people to practice in rural areas. Julianne encourage committee to share with network about the 13 spots available before recommendation is made at the end of month.

Bar News: Alyssa talked to Kirsten Abel. Theme for each month/issue. For small and solo practice question = October issue. Contracts = November issue. Divide questions by month to have continuing content. Challenge to get ball rolling and backlog so we can publish without gaps. Received a lot of good questions.

[Break for Lunch at 12:16 p.m.](#)

Brian called the meeting back to order at 1:20 p.m.

Public Service Leadership Award Selections (cont.)

The WYLC reviewed the redacted nomination materials On motion by Emily, and seconded by Jordan, the WYLC approved by unanimous vote (12-0-0) nominees numbered 2, 4, 5, 6. Julianne reported that staff will email nominators and recipients (CC Brian, Emily, Aaron, Kirsten) soon and invite them to September meeting/social.

FY22 WYLC Members and Vacant Positions

Brian stated there are vacancies in the North Central, South Central, and Peninsula regions that need to be filled. He will speak with Board of Governors in those area for their assistance on how to fill those positions or propose making them At-Large positions, but he wanted to speak with the Board of Governors before taking action.

Future of Financial Focus CLEs

Julianne said there will be only one Financial Focus CLE, which focused on Hanging Your Shingle on the WSBA CLE store. Access to the videos are free to new members. Brian mentioned the webpage needs to be updated. Julianne replied that she will have Chelle make updates on CLE financial webpage.

September WYLC Meeting and Social

Brian reported that he believes the September WYLC meeting and social will be in person. Emily stated it's reassuring that we can have the meeting at WSBA, but let's consider other locations as well. Brian suggested we could use his house once he finished remodeling. WYLC Staff Liaison Curtiss Melvin offered his roof deck as another option. Jordan also said his backyard could be an option. Julianne reiterated that the meetings have to be public. Julianne said we need to lock the place down for incoming members so they can get it on their calendars and that it would be best to have that figured out by end of month. Also if anyone has concerns/issues about new locations etc. they should voice that to Emily. Brian asked if there are any other agenda items that needs to be addressed. Julianne, Emily, and Brian will touch base regarding awards after the meeting.

Brian said he is going to review the WSBA Bylaws for WYLC members regarding unexcused absences. It's become increasingly frustrating wondering if we will make quorum each month.

Adjournment

On motion by Emily, and seconded by Zach, the WYLC by majority vote (11-0-0) to adjourn the meeting at 1:47 p.m.