

**Washington State Bar Association Pro Bono and Legal Aid Committee**  
**December 8, 2011**

In attendance: Andrea Axel, Catherine Brown, Brian DeFoe, Reagan Dunn, Angie Maddox, Rory O'Sullivan, Joanna Otero, Dan Young, Lew Zieske

Attending via telephone: Joanna Plichta Boisen, Mike Cressey, Brian Flock, Dan Ford, Esther Park, Gail Smith, Jen Werdell

Unable to attend: Becca Glasgow, Andy Guy, Michael Kleps, Andrew Krawczyk, Diana Singleton, Randy Winn

**November Meeting Minutes** were approved.

**PBLAC Liaison to the Access to Justice Board** Joanna Otero and Esther Park are both interested in this role.

### **Subcommittee Reports**

1. **Increasing CLE credit for Pro Bono Service Subcommittee** The subcommittee proposed changing MCLE Regulation 103(f) and Admission to Practice Rule 11.2 to increase the number of CLE credits an attorney may earn through pro bono service. The goal of the proposed change is to increase pro bono assistance to low-income clients. PBLAC members discussed the benefit of proposing a change that is large enough to have a transformational impact on the provision of pro bono service and had several questions about the proposal, including:

- Will this incentive be available to attorneys who perform pro bono service, but who are not working through a Qualified Legal Services Provider (QLSP)?
- Will this incentive apply to service that does not involve direct client assistance?
- Are the CLE credits earned through pro bono service categorized as "live" under 103(b)?
- What are the reasons why it is important for attorneys to participate in classroom-style CLE seminars instead of experiential learning?

The subcommittee will develop talking points to explain why the proposed regulation and rule changes are beneficial and necessary. The subcommittee will also work with law schools to develop talking points about the value and importance of experiential learning. The subcommittee will connect with stakeholder groups such as the QLSPs and will reach widely to those outside of the Alliance for Equal Justice for input and support of the proposed changes.

2. **Long Distance Lawyers Subcommittee** The subcommittee decided to pursue a partnership with the pro bono program in Walla Walla. Members had a conference call with the Walla Walla program coordinator, Luis Rosales, and the Blue Mountain Action Council CEO, Steve Moss, to answer preliminary questions. Mr. Rosales and Mr. Moss will connect with the Walla Walla County Bar and Bench to measure local support for the partnership. PBLAC members reiterated that we focus on supplementing local pro bono efforts rather than replacing them. If there is not local support for Long Distance Lawyers in Walla Walla, the subcommittee will consider alternate program partners.
- **Outreach Subcommittee** The subcommittee scheduled its first meeting on December 13 and will report to the full committee in January.

The Increasing CLE credit for Pro Bono Service, Long Distance Lawyers, and Outreach subcommittees and the Corporate & Public Entity Influence workgroup will all provide updates at the January PBLAC meeting.

**The next PBLAC meeting will be Thursday, January 12 from 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. at WSBA.**