

**Washington State Bar Association Pro Bono and Legal Aid Committee
December 6, 2010**

In attendance: *Sharlene Steele, Andrew Guy, Andrea Axel, Joanna Otero, Dan Young, Reagan Dunn, Randy Winn, Michael Kleps, Michael Cressey, Allison Holcomb, Fiona Cox, Diana Singleton, Gail Smith, Joanna Boisen, Brian Flock, Steve Larsen and James McCormick.*

The meeting convened at 12:05 p.m.

Nov. 4th Meeting Minutes – approved

GR 34

The committee celebrated the Supreme Court's adoption of GR34 with a cake. The committee recognized that Jude Yu, Judge Gonzalez and Jim Bamberger provided critical help to get this result and Andrea agreed to send a letter of thanks to all three as PBLAC Chair.

GR 34 Publicity

The committee discussed how to best promote GR 34 to strike while the iron was hot.

1. Email Blast sent by WSBA. Andy will start writing a draft with a link to GR 34.
2. Article in February Bar News. This should be a longer article of around 600 words and would need to be in around the 1st week of January. Andy and Andrea agreed to work on this.
3. Joanna Otero will work on a 1-pager for Washington Law Help and to be mailed to Northwest Justice Project/CLEAR clients who call CLEAR about any family law issue.
4. Joanna Otero will check with NJP about community outreach to get the info out to low-income folks.
5. Reagan will work on an Op-ed about the rule, with the plan to see if Judge Gonzalez or Judge Yu would sign off. Steve Larsen said that WSBA does have publicity channels to help get this newspaper.
6. Gail will do an informational Q&A to be distributed to VLPs.

GR 34 Forms

Discussion turned to how PBLAC can be involved with drafting the forms. Dan proposed that PBLAC should have someone on any committee that is created to work on the forms with AOC. It was agreed that Joanna O and Dan would stay in the loop regarding the forms and would provide input to AOC re the creation of forms, along with Jim.

PBLAC's Input regarding Bill Addressing Nonlegal Immigration-Related Services (Notarios)

The new law would make the practice of notarios charging fees and giving advice in immigration matters an unauthorized practice of law. AILA and NWIRP worked with AGs to draft. It would end a registration program in place for notarios. Steve offered that the AGs want comments, it will be introduced in session. New law would make the notario practice a per se violation of RCW 19.86.

Allison moved for PBLAC to remain neutral and Andy seconded the motion. After some discussion, the motion passed, with one person opposing. It was agreed that individuals who wanted to make comments on the proposed rule could do so by contacting either Kathryn Leathers, the WSBA lobbyist, or submitting them directly to her contact at the AG's office.

Bar News Project: Joanna gave an update on the Bar News subcommittee. PBLAC subcommittee has joined with the ATJ Communication Committee for working on the Bar News. Feb. 15th is the deadline for articles. Still waiting on WSBA's input on our topics (listed in attachment to Nell's email to the listserv). Nell McNamara will be scheduling the next meeting in early January.

Urban-Rural Pro Bono Pilot Project: Andy gave an update of the first meeting. Two areas of need were discussed:

1. Moses Lake: VLP has one small office, NWIRP has one small office, and one office of CLS. Not many volunteer attorneys.
2. Lewis County/Chehalis area: Only a few attorneys and one small VLP.

Both locations already have some infrastructure in place. PBLAC needs to figure out how to match Seattle attorneys to provide representation by using technology. Possibly Skype? CLS has videoconferencing available as well. We need to get information about the area, the local judges' receptivity to telephone conferences. We need to make sure we don't appear to the "big Seattle area bar association". Agreed there is a need for sensitivity when seeking this information. Gail offered to contact Lewis County VLP. Dan offered to talk to Moses Lake VLP. Andy believes that we should start with one geographic area and if successful, hopefully get it going state-wide. Reagan offered to check and see if any other states had successfully done this. Andrea has an ABA publication on urban-rural programs for the subcommittee to look at. Diana Singleton said that the Moderate Means Questionnaire will ask: Would you be willing to do pro bono? Would you be willing to appear by phone? Would you be willing to appear outside the county you're in?

Diana said that the King County Regional Planning Group has found a lack of attorneys in S. King County and rural King County are art working on a plan to get Seattle attorneys to take cases there. Heidi Fischer of NJP is the contact person for that group (heidif@nwjustice.org)

Next telephone meeting for the PBLAC Urban-Rural Pilot Project will be the Tuesday before the next PBLAC meeting.