

Washington State Bar Association Pro Bono and Legal Aid Committee
July 12, 2012

In attendance: Andrea Axel, Catherine Brown (Staff), Reagan Dunn, Andy Guy, Rory O'Sullivan, Esther Park, Gail Smith, Dan Young, Lew Zieske

Attending via telephone: Michael Cressey, Brian DeFoe, Diana Singleton, Randy Winn

Unable to attend: Joanna Plichta Boisen, Brian Flock, Dan Ford (BOG Liaison), Rebecca Glasgow, Andrew Krawczyk, Joanna Otero

May Meeting Minutes were approved with one change.

WSBA Staffing and Re-structure After an update about staffing changes and organizational re-structure at WSBA, the Committee suggested that we invite Megan McNally to a future PBLAC meeting. Megan is WSBA's Director of Advancement and Chief Development Officer.

CLE Credit for Pro Bono Service Subcommittee

- Proposed Rule Changes: Dan Young reported about the subcommittee's presentation to the MCLE Board on May 11. The MCLE Board has since submitted to WSBA's Board of Governors (BOG) its proposed changes to Admission to Practice Rule 11 and corresponding MCLE Regulations, including Regulation 103(f) which directs how lawyers may earn MCLE credit through pro bono service. The MCLE Board's recent proposals included a change to the current rule that would allow lawyers to earn a maximum of 18 MCLE credits, 6 of which must be pro bono approved training, during a three year reporting period. This proposal deviated from PBLAC's recommendation which allows lawyers to earn up to 30 MCLE credits, 3 of which must be pro bono approved training, during a three year reporting period. The MCLE Board's proposed revisions are on the agenda for a first reading at WSBA's BOG meeting in July. BOG Liaison Dan Ford is prepared to discuss this issue with his fellow Governors. PBLAC member Dan Young will also attend the Saturday morning session of the July BOG meeting to discuss PBLAC's proposals. The BOG is expected to take action on this issue at their September meeting.
- Survey: The committee also discussed a draft survey that is intended to gather information from organizations who work with attorney volunteers about how often and to what extent the attorneys utilize MCLE Regulation 103(f) to earn MCLE credit through pro bono service. The subcommittee will meet to consider the full committee's concerns and suggestions about the draft survey, and to determine next steps in this information-gathering phase.

Celebrate Pro Bono (Oct. 21-27) Joanna Plichta Boisen is helping to organize a pro bono fair at Davis Wright Tremaine in October. She will provide updates as they develop, including how PBLAC might be involved. UW School of Law Assistant Dean for Public Service, Michele Storms, serves on a Resource Team for the American Bar Association's National Celebration of Pro Bono and Columbia Legal Services is interested in participating in the 2012 Celebration, as well.

PBLAC Moving Forward Esther Park and Rory O'Sullivan will serve as committee co-chairs beginning in October 2012. Several current members will roll off the committee after the September 2012 meeting. The committee plans to recognize these members for their years of service and dedication in September.

The next PBLAC meeting will be Thursday, August 9 from 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. at WSBA.