

WSBA Professionalism Committee Meeting Minutes

February 8, 2013

Present

Hunter Abell, Chair Gretchen Leanderson Mark Arthur Jacob DeGraaff Linda Frischmeyer Allen Unzelman Ramina Dehkhoda-Steele Dan Ballbach Debra Carnes, staff liaison David Gardner Paul Bastine, BOG liaison

Absent

Jackson Bennett Erin Fairley Sean Gamble Erin Jacobson Sarah Lee Raphael Nwokike Christine Palmer James Yand

Chair Hunter Abell called the meeting to order.

The minutes from the January 2013 meeting were reviewed. Linda Frischmeyer asked that her name be spelled correctly in future minutes. It was requested that the RAP acronym be spelled out so everyone was clear that it referred to the Random Acts of Professionalism program. Also, a sub-bullet under the Public Outreach subcommittee report was corrected to read "diversion" instead of "detention." The minutes were approved.

New Business

 Hunter Abell shared with the group that there was a sidebar in the February issue of NWLawyer next to the President's column on civility that highlighted the work of the Professionalism Committee and provided good visibility for the group.

Sub-Committees Updates

Public Outreach

Ramina Dehkhoda-Steele reported that she was directed to talk to Dan Crystal about
the committee's ideas of the Professionalism Committee playing a role in cases that
don't rise to the level of a disciplinary offense, but where the behavior is deemed
unprofessional. In connecting with Dan she learned that his diversion work, which is
more focused on addiction and mental health issues, is not in the area the committee
was thinking in terms of professional behavior. Ramina was redirected to Doug Ende

and will soon have lunch with him to discuss the committee's ideas, which stem from work that is being done by the Arizona bar. Ramina will report back on her lunch discussion with Doug at the March meeting.

Hunter acknowledged that this is a concept, and idea in its infancy, and that it could potentially change the nature of the committee.

• Hunter also reported that they hadn't made headway on an article but hopes to come back and report out on that at the next meeting.

Law School Outreach

- Gretchen reported that they gave very successful dual presentations on Jan. 24 at SU to Professor Strait's class. There were about 40 1Ls in the first class and 80 in the second, with a combination of 2 and 3Ls. The first presentation was done by Hunter, Gretchen and Paula Littlewood, with Allen Unzelman and Raphael Nwokike in the audience; and the second was done by Allen Unzelman, Hunter and Paula, with Christine Parker and Gretchen in the audience.
- David Gardner reported that Gonzaga is scheduled for Feb. 25.
- The UW has not yet been scheduled. Gretchen confirmed she would follow up with Paula regarding scheduling.

Membership Outreach

- Jacob DeGraff reported that he had contacted Paula Lustbader from Seattle University and Director of Robert's Fund, because she is interested in doing a survey. She is hoping to have something done this month. The subject matter and purpose of the survey is unclear. Jacob will try and get some clarity and he's hopeful the committee can work something out with her. He also reported that Robert's Fund is doing an all-day Civility CLE at SU on March 1.
- Jacob also reported that he had spoken with Michael Badger, Associate Director of Lawyer Services, to talk about potential areas of collaboration. He shared that Lawyer Services is bringing back a road show which would involve one-day events in five or six cities, and that Michael thought the Professionalism Committee's presentation would fit well into their agenda. Discussions with Michael will continue and Jacob will provide an update at the next meeting.
- With Erin Fairley absent, Jacob also gave an update on the committee's efforts to rename the Random Acts of Professionalism program. Erin met with Debra Carnes and the WSBA Communications team brainstormed some potential names and ideas aimed at rebranding the RAP. It was agreed that Debra would send out the list of potential names and ideas to the full committee. Jacob agreed to work with Erin on revamping RAP. Hunter recommended the committee reach consensus on the direction for RAP at its March meeting.

- Jacob also reported that he had met with Jeanne Marie Clavere, WSBA's Professional Responsibility Counsel, about her work on a chapter of a deskbook. Her particular section is "discovery" and she's looking for a couple of people to help write the chapter. If there is someone from the committee willing to help, Jacob suggested they contact Jeanne Marie.
- Dan Ballbach shared he's looking at writing a blog post.

Announcements

Hunter confirmed that the committee will have its May 10 meeting in Spokane. Plans are underway to hold it at Gonzaga.

Paul Bastine reported that the Professionalism Committee of the Spokane bar annually holds the Smitty Dinner, named after Smitty Meyers. It's scheduled for April 18 and recommends that anyone in the area should plan on attending.

Jacob asked that next month's agenda include a discussion on meeting attendance.

Meeting Schedule

The group determined it would meet next on March 8.

Respectfully submitted, Debra Carnes