



Civil Rights Section

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

Minutes for October 23, 2012 Inaugural Executive Committee Meeting

1. Welcome and attendance

In Attendance: Executive Committee Members: Courtney Ackley, Michael Ewetuga, Corbett Gordon, Pat Paul, Callie Sechrist, Alec Stephens, Nancy Talner. WSBA WYLD: Heidi Kay Walter. WSBA Staff: Stacy Holmes. BOG Liaison: Tracy Flood. Guest: Tatyana Koshevaya.

Absent (Excused): Executive Committee Members: Amy Kim, Kristi Cruz.

2. Proposal for Upcoming Symposiums

Michael discussed his ideas for two upcoming section symposiums, including one symposium that could be held on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Michael suggested that one symposium could address diversity in the legal community, and the second could discuss “who defends the defender?” Alec recommended that Michael send a written proposal to the executive committee by e-mail to elicit feedback before any action is taken. Stacy suggested that we collaborate with the WSBA Diversity Committee on the symposium.

Alec suggested that we coordinate a Martin Luther King, Jr. Day event with an existing activity, and consider reaching out to the minority bar associations, ACLU, NAACP, etc. Nancy suggested collaborating with the King County Bar Association (KCBA), which usually holds a lunchtime Martin Luther King, Jr. Day event. Nancy recommended a 1-hour event, as it can be difficult for people to attend a half- or full-day event. Michael will contact the KCBA about the possibility of collaborating on a Martin Luther King, Jr. Day event.

3. BOG Presentation

Tracy suggested that the executive committee present to the BOG on the status of the section. Tracy will let us know what BOG meetings would be open for this presentation.

4. Upcoming CLE: Major U.S. Supreme Court Civil Rights Case Review (November 2, 2012)

Alec briefed the committee about the upcoming CLE on November 2nd. Alec is currently gathering materials from the CLE faculty, and will likely need assistance from members of the executive committee at the CLE registration table. Alec suggested that the executive committee reach out to other sections to advertise the CLE.

Stacy explained that the WSBA sent an e-blast regarding the CLE to section members last week. Because this is a “mini-CLE,” the section will need to take charge of any additional marketing. Only 4 people are currently registered. Stacy suggested that the executive committee e-mail the chairs of other sections about the CLE and invite them to forward the information to their members.

Callie agreed to e-mail the chairs of other sections (SOGILI, Labor & Employment, Litigation, Administrative Law, and World Peace through Law) and the presidents of the minority bar associations about the upcoming CLE. Nancy will send an announcement to her contacts, as well. Heidi has already contacted UW School of Law about the CLE and will send the announcement to the WYLD.

5. Section Social (November 2, 2012)

Pat briefed the committee about the upcoming section social, which will be held after the CLE on November 2nd from 5:30-7:30pm at the Purple Café and Wine Bar. A table has been reserved. A flyer was sent to section members by mail.

6. Membership

Pat would like to work on increasing section membership, and plans to post an informational flyer about the section at the law schools. Pat and Heidi will also create a “welcome letter” for new section members. There was some discussion about whether the welcome letter will be sent via e-mail or mail, which may depend on the budget.

Pat mentioned that there are several civil rights lawyers listed in Washington Super Lawyers. The executive committee may want to consider reaching out to these lawyers to be members of the section and/or to take on leadership roles.

7. Retreat/Role of the Civil Rights Law Section

Michael expressed his desire that the section take a more active role in current civil rights issues. Nancy suggested that we take time to discuss the role of the Civil Rights Law Section, and what “civil rights” means to the section.

Alec suggested the possibility of having a retreat in early winter to discuss the role of the section. Alec will develop a proposal regarding an executive committee retreat. Stacy recommended that the executive committee consider creating a work plan during the retreat.

Pat explained that we will need to ask Amy if we can adjust the budget to allow for a retreat. Stacy explained that the executive committee can determine if we need to adjust items in the budget so long as we notify WSBA. The executive committee may want to consider creative ways to hold a retreat inexpensively, such as using WSBA facilities.

8. Closing Remarks

Heidi suggested that the committee develop an agenda for future meetings, and reminded everyone to vote!

Respectfully submitted by Callie Sechrist