WSBA CRIMINAL LAW SECTION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MEETING MINUTES

June 25th, 2011- 13 Coins- SeaTac

Attendance

Aaron Wolff, Jennifer Grant, Jeri Bonkoski, Kim Hunter, Mark Vovos, Ron Hammett, John Strait, Leesa Manion, Edwin Aralica, Roger Rogoff, Hugh Birgenheirer

Call to order

The meeting was called to order by President Jennifer Grant at 9:23 am

Previous Minutes

No minutes provided for the March 5th, 2011 executive committee meeting.

Board Vacancies

Peter Banks is no longer a member of the committee. Chris Maryatt is no longer doing prosecution work with the City of Seattle. It was decided that Chris would remain on the committee until the end of the term, so long as he is not engaged in any type of defense-oriented work.

For the open seat, there was an email sent out on our list-serve and Hugh sent a message on the WAPA list-serve. There were three people who expressed interest in the position: Sean O'Donnell of the King County Prosecutor's office, Tessa Gordon of the US Attorney's office and Rosemary Kaholokula of the Skagit County Prosecutor's office.

There was a lengthy discussion about the three people. All three were very well qualified to serve on our committee. Based on geographical diversity, Kim moved to appoint Rosemary. John seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved appointing Rosemary to fill the vacant seat left by Peter Banks.

Treasurer's Report

As Chris was not present at the meeting, Aaron filled in with his report. As of the end of May, there were a total of 578 members of the committee. This is way ahead of budget. Jennifer was unable to attend meeting with WSBA regarding CLE's and the use of the conference center. John volunteered to attend the next meeting.

Proposed CrR 3.1

John stated that he believed it was completely unnecessary as the court already has authority to act. Jeri indicated that the rule does not address the definition of "good cause." Mark stated that courts can control own courtroom and this creates a confrontation issue.

Roger stated that courts can control, but often times do not. Leesa indicated that judges are very concerned and that they will not take action unless they are given authority.

Edwin stated that it is clear that defense attorney's object to this proposed rule change. Kim inquired how strongly people felt about it. Leesa indicated that she did not feel very strong and Hugh agreed with that sentiment.

Kim moved that the committee take no action regarding the proposal. Edwin seconded the motion. There was unanimous approval of the motion.

Newsletter

The next issue is near completion. The only two things remaining are Jennifer's introduction and John's article.

CJI

Leesa indicated that the program is coming together very well. The program is 99% finalized. John Redenbaugh from the bar is about ready to send out a "save the date."

The steering committee last year did nothing and received free admission. This year, Hugh and Leesa decided not to have a formal steering committee for CJI and that members of the committee would receive free admission.

Hugh reported that CJI last year had profit in the amount of \$12,000.00. Budget for scholarships this year is \$5,000.00. Members of the committee cannot receive a scholarship. Also, if a person received a scholarship 2 times in the past, they are ineligible for a third time.

New Business

Mark discussed issues with the Death Penalty Panel and attorneys who apply and who do not get approved. There is a meeting with the Supreme Court in July for this approval process and Mark plans on attending the meeting.

Edwin raised the issue regarding Western and Eastern State taking too long in completing out of custody competency evaluations. He has one case where it has been 12 months and the evaluation has yet to be completed. John stated that Western state will only act if there is a court order. Jennifer indicated that many of the doctor's have left to work at Madigan. Kim stated that she had an in-custody evaluation that took 270 days.

John suggested that the committee could take a position and write a letter to the Supreme Court and Representative Adam Kline. Roger suggested a letter to the editor for newspapers around the State. Edwin suggested that we wait until the end of the year and see if things improve. He also volunteered to draft a letter for circulation.

There was discussion on the new jail in South King County not having adequate meeting rooms for attorneys. In fact, there is only one small, locked room with no buzzer.

Ron mentioned that in Okanagon county border patrol agents are showing up at district courts and picking up individuals. Jeri also discussed the class action lawsuit against the Mount Vernon and Burlington public defenders.

The committee's next meeting will be on August 27th, 2011 at 9:15am at the Seatac 13 coins.

Meeting adjourned.