



Access to Justice Board Meeting Agenda
July 14, 2017 – 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
 Washington State Bar Association, 1325 4th Ave, 6th Floor, Seattle
Call: 1-866-577-9294; Access: 52140#

Recognizing that access to the civil justice system is a fundamental right, the Access to Justice Board works to achieve equal access for those facing economic and other significant barriers.

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|--------|---|--------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| 5 min | Welcome and Introductions | Geoff Revelle | | |
| 1 min | June Board Meeting Minutes | Geoff Revelle | Action | pp 2-3 |
| 5 min | ATJ Board Staff and Chair Report | Geoff Revelle and Diana Singleton | Report | |
| 5 min | ATJ Conference Report | Diana Singleton | Report | |
| 10 min | Northwest Immigrant Rights Project Update | Jorge Baron | Report | |
| 10 min | Northwest Justice Project Update | Cesar Torres | Report | |
| 15 min | Northwest Health Law Advocates Report | Daniel Gross | Report | |
| 15 min | State Funding Update | Jim Bamberger | Report | pp 4-5 |
| 10 min | Technology Committee Report: Biennial Technology Principles Report | Emily McReynolds and Francis Adewale | Action | |
| 2 min | Other Updates, Upcoming Events | All | Report | |

Campaign for Equal Justice's Beer and Justice [Events](#) (Bellingham – 7/20, Tacoma, 7/27)

The next ATJ Board meeting is on August 11, 2017 from 10:00 to 12:00 at WSBA.



Access to Justice Board Meeting Minutes
June 2, 2017, 1:30 PM to 2:45PM
Yakima Convention Center, 10 N 8th St, Yakima, WA 98901
Call: 1-866-577-9294; Access: 52140#

Present: Geoff Revelle (Chair), Andy Sachs, Sal Mungia, Francis Adewale, Nick Geller, Lynn Greiner, and Lindy Laurence

Absent: Nick Gellert, Mirya Muñoz-Roach

WSBA Staff: Diana Singleton, Bonnie Sterken, Dana Barnet, Jennifer Small

Guests: Noah Samuels, Amber Rush, Jorge Barón, Merf Ehman, César Torres, Sart, Hon. David Keenan, Michelle Lucas, Sujatha Branch, John Varga, Alex Doolittle, Alison Geisler, Kim Risenmay, Veronica Smith-Casem, Forrest Carlson, Jim Bamberger, Jerry Kroon, Sarah Augustine, John Tirpak, Chelsie Elliot.

Minutes: The May board meeting minutes were approved without edits.

Staff and Chair Report: Geoff reported that he recently met with Chief Justice Fairhurst. They discussed the State Plan and budget issues. He also reported that the Ad Hoc Funding group is in the process of drafting updated funding protocols. Diana reported that the Board is working on improving its and the Alliance's web presence, with a goal of having a new website launched in September. As part of the website project, the Communications Committee is creating videos about what the Alliance is and what it does. The "Why" video is going to be screened on Saturday morning during the conference.

ATJ Board Vice-Chair: Geoff reported that Sal Mungia is the candidate for the Board's Vice-Chair. Andy moved, Francis seconded and all approved appointing Sal as the Vice-Chair.

Moderate Means Update: Geoff reported that the Supreme Court Order calls on the Board to support access to justice for moderate means individuals. However, the Board has not historically done this and the WSBA has worked mostly in the moderate means area. Geoff added the Board wants to work more collaboratively with the WSBA in this area. Jennifer Small provided an update about the Moderate Means program at WSBA and addressed questions.

Low Bono Section Update: Veronica, John and Forrest reported on the work of the Low Bono Section of the WSBA. Sal encouraged them to think about how the ATJ Board can help with recruitment for or partner with the section.

State Plan Implementation: Geoff reported that the State Plan was adopted and now the Board is looking at how to implement it. The Board is grappling with how best to do this and is looking for input from providers. Lindy reported on the tool that she identified for helping providers track on how they implement

the plan. Jim noted that there might be more discussion to see how the tool will be used at various organizations.

BOG Update: Kim reported on the BOG meeting from May 18-19, including major decisions.

Other Matters: Hellen Spenser with the Children’s Administration reported on her work. She is planning to have a table at the Justice Joint during the ATJ Conference and invited people to check it out. She noted that the Board’s resolution a few years earlier helped give them credibility in their work.

The meeting adjourned at 2:40



Washington State Office of Civil Legal Aid

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James A. Bamberger, Director
jim.bamberger@ocla.wa.gov

To: Supporters of State Funded Civil Legal Aid

From: Jim Bamberger, Director

Re: FY 2017-19 Operating Budget

Date: July 3, 2017 – Rev. 7-5-17

The FY 2017-19 operating budget that passed on June 30th includes the following increases for civil legal aid and OCLA's agency operations.

1. \$337k to cover NJP's increased leasehold expenses in Seattle
2. \$538k for COLA adjustments for NJP consistent with state employee adjustments over the biennium
3. \$592k for personnel cost increases for NJP (annual step increases)
4. \$3.675M for initial implementation of the Civil Justice Reinvestment Plan

Of the \$3.675M, the Reinvestment Plan commitments are as follows:

1. \$2.5M for phased-in addition of 15 FTE attorney positions at NJP (1/2 of House number and about 27% of requested number)
2. \$875k for increased investment in pro bono capacity (\$300k for Jan – June 2018; \$575k for July 2018 to June 2019)
3. \$150k to OCLA for support, research and training
4. \$150k to OCLA for agency administration

We did not get funding for self-help and technology based initiatives, including the automated family law document assembly project. Depending on the outcome of the pending LSC TIG grant application, we will consider seeking funding for that project in the supplemental budget.

We were pleased to see that the Legislature expressly embraced and committed to funding the Civil Justice Reinvestment Plan in the budget bill. We appreciate the gravity of the challenges the Legislature faced in identifying and allocating sufficient general fund revenues for core state priorities, including but not limited to the McCleary fix. Nevertheless, we are disappointed that we were unable to secure a greater level of funding for this effort and expand services more quickly to meet the civil justice needs of low-income and vulnerable people across the state.

OCLA appreciates the contributions of so many people and organizations over the course of the past year. During the course of the year we expanded the base of our support to include leaders from the business community, faith based communities, large law firms, law enforcement and other organizations that have not traditionally supported funding for civil legal aid. And we gained support from an increasing and more diverse number of legislative members from all parts of the political spectrum. We can and must build on this work if we are to be successful in coming years.

Over the next months, OCLA will work with NJP, the Legal Foundation of Washington and the broader Alliance for Equal Justice to effectively implement and develop systems to monitor the effectiveness and impacts of this additional investment. And we will gear up for another run at the Reinvestment Plan in the FY 2019-21 biennial budget.

Finally, despite our disappointment in the magnitude of the additional investment achieved this year, we should all take great satisfaction in the significant gains we have made in the past 12 months. In September 2016, OCLA secured \$7.8 million in Victim of Crime Act funding that allowed us to add 35 additional attorneys throughout the state. With the additional 15 attorneys funded in this budget we will have increased client service capacity by 50 FTE's since publication of the 2015 Civil Legal Needs Study.

Many thanks to all for your support of our efforts to ensure equity and justice for all.

Jim