

**Washington State Bar Association Pro Bono and Legal Aid Committee
November 4, 2010 Meeting**

In attendance: *Joanna Otero, Jim Bamberger, Joe Marshall, Andrea Axel, Sharlene Steele, Dan Young, Gail Smith*; by phone: *Mike Cressey, Alison Holcomb, Brian Flock, Michael Kleps, Randy Winn, James McCormick, Fiona Cox, Randy Winn and Joanna Boisen.*

The meeting convened at 12:05 p.m.

GR 34

Jim Bamberger reported that the Supreme Court was considering the proposed GR 34 at their administrative *en banc* meeting that day but there was no word yet from the court about what they decided. Jim reported that a few days earlier the Kevin Stark from the clerks association submitted materials opposing the proposed rule and offering an alternate version. If the proposed rule does pass, PBLAC will play a role in ensuring that adequate forms are drafted and made available statewide.

2010-2011 Priorities

1. Bar News. PBLAC will spearhead the creation of an all-pro bono issue of the Bar News to publicize pro bono and inspire more attorneys to volunteer. PBLAC will work with the ATJ Communications Committee (staffed by Nell McNamara) to recruit authors for articles. It was agreed to seek guidance from Michael Heatherly, the Bar News editor, about guidelines for the issue. Joanna O, Fiona, Mike C, Brian, Alison, Joanna B, Randy, and Andrea agreed to work on this effort.

Suggestions for possible topics included: information about ways attorneys can get involved (and the existence of training, mentoring, and malpractice insurance), an article about the underlying need for help, success stories sprinkled throughout for inspiration, a client story told from both the client's and attorney's perspectives, and soliciting Harry Korrell, Seattleite member of the Legal Services Corporation board and pro bono devotee, to submit an article.

2. Urban-Rural Pilot Project. PBLAC plans to develop a small-scale pilot project to match urban attorneys with rural clients. We will work with WSBA, the ATJ Board and local pro bono programs to develop a geographic and legal issue focus for this targeted effort. The scope of the project will likely be small. Our goal is to test ways to help clients from a remote location, understanding that to replicate it on a larger scale will require additional resources and coordination. Possible areas of focus include: immigration, social security, bankruptcy, or veteran homelessness issues. The committee agreed to talk to rural pro bono programs about client legal needs before proceeding. Joe, James, Gail, Joanna O, Dan, Joanna B, Andrea, and Michael K agreed to work on this effort.

Ongoing Initiatives

1. Supreme Court Honor Roll – Gail, Rebecca, Joanna B, and Joanna O will report at the next meeting on the revised proposal.
2. Review RPC 6.1 – Randy, Brian and Gail will work with Steve to assess what more needs to be done.
3. WSBA survey – Andy and Diana may be able to provide guidance about next steps in December.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.