

**Washington State Bar Association Pro Bono and Legal Aid Committee**  
**February 14, 2013**

In attendance: Co-Chair Esther Park, Co-Chair Rory O’Sullivan, BOG Liaison Dan Ford, Lew Zieske, Will Ross, Stan Kehl, Todd Nunn, Ana Selvidge (WSBA Staff)

Attending via telephone: Mike Cressy, Randy Winn, Rachel Rappaport

Unable to attend: Andrea Axel, Thomas Brixius, Brian DeFoe, Reagan Dunn, Andrew Krawczyk, Joanna Oterro, Carla Reyes, Karen Schweigert

December Meeting Minutes –present at the next committee meeting.

Letter to PBLAC from the BOG

PBLAC members had a discussion regarding the two items the letter addressed.

- expanding the definition of pro bono to include other types of public service
- continue developing the “long-distance lawyering” project designed to link urban lawyers with rural clients through innovative uses of technology

Discussion revolved around pros and cons to expanding RPC 6.1 to include non-legal service volunteer opportunities. Members discussed other states such as Colorado and New York that have expanded the definition of pro bono to include more of a community service aspect. Many felt that it is too soon to take a position and the committee will need to give this item some further thought/discussion.

Project Updates

1. Mandatory Pro Bono (NY) – work group needs to further examine the rule of admissions for NY, observe how the implementation is going, if there are any outcomes, and what are the impacts on the community. Rory asked the work group if they needed more members and if this project fell under the idea of expanding pro bono. Esther found in her preliminary research that in the process of making pro bono mandatory NY had to also make the definition of pro bono broader.
2. Funding & Fundraising Restriction – nothing to report.
3. QLSP Needs for Volunteers – A survey went out to all 52 QLSPs with a response rate of 10%. While surveys are still coming in, many of the QLSP responses centered on the need for volunteer recruitment and training.
4. Pro Bono Newsletter – There was not a big response from QLSPs in support of a newsletter. With existing vehicles of communication through WSBA, such as the NWSide Bar and NWLawyers, PBLAC could use these venues to communicate QLSP needs for volunteers, PBLAC and projects. Randy suggested highlighting a QLSP once a week, Rory and Esther will write about PBLAC to recruit members, and Todd will work to write a blog post on the “long-distance lawyering” project.
5. Outreach to Access to Justice Network – Will Ross is now serving as a liaison. Will will attend the March meeting and report at the next PBLAC meeting.
6. Corporate/In House Council Pro Bono – Committee had a short discussion to clarify the objective of the work group, which is to explore what road blocks exist that deter in house council from engaging in pro bono opportunities.
7. Coordination with Law Schools/Interns – Esther is planning to meet with WSBA staff to see if there are any opportunities for law students to intern at WSBA and in particular if PBLAC could have an intern. This work group is also collaborating with the ATJ law school relations committee.

8. Government Lawyer Pro Bono Work – Preliminary research has been conducted to determine the various government agencies around the state to examine their culture of service. Some agencies have a pro bono policy while others are working to develop policies. Rory brought up a restricting statute that decreases pro bono involvement for government attorneys. Rory will forward the statute to the listserv.
9. Supreme Court Honor Roll – This work group is continuing its initial research. Ana circulated the WSBA pro bono recognition certificate and letter that goes out to attorneys who self-report their pro bono hours. Lew discussed the need to do more and meaning recognition. He suggested the idea of publishing an annual list in NWLawyers or the blog.
10. Pro Bono Requirement in Corporate RFPs – Continuing initial scan of how to encourage pro bono work in corporate council. Group will have proposal by next meeting.
11. Long Distance Lawyering – Todd will work with Joanna and Andrea to write-up article for blog post.
12. Tennessee Project (online assistance) – Stan spoke on Tennessee Project as a possible way to provide another vehicle to engage members in pro bono. They are collecting information on what it will take to develop, implement and manage a project like this in Washington State. A few issues to identify are; need for this service and potential place for the project to be housed. Once these pieces are gathered the group will make a proposal. There is potential for overlap with the Long Distance Lawyering work group. These two projects must coordinate efforts.

#### PBLAC/MCLE

Dan Ford, Board of Governors Liaison, posed the question, if PBLAC was willing to request permission to take an opposing position of the MCLE rule at the next Board of Governors meeting. All present PBLAC members were in favor. Dan advised the co-chairs to write-up a short letter to the BOG and to get on the agenda for the next meeting in March. Rory and Esther will work on writing up the letter.