

Washington State Bar Association Pro Bono and Legal Aid Committee
March 8, 2012

In attendance: Andrea Axel, Catherine Brown (Staff), Sunshine Eversull (Guest), Andy Guy, Rory O'Sullivan, Joanna Otero, Esther Park, Gail Smith, Dan Young, Lew Zieske

Attending via telephone: Brian DeFoe, Brian Flock, Diana Singleton, Jen Werdell (Guest), Randy Winn

Unable to attend: Joanna Boisen, Michael Cressey, Reagan Dunn, Rebecca Glasgow, Andrew Krawczyk,

February Meeting Minutes were approved with an amendment to include PBLAC's resolution in opposition to the Member Referendum.

Subcommittee Reports

1. **Increasing CLE Credit for Pro Bono Service Subcommittee** has decided not to reach out to individual members of the MCLE Board based on feedback they received from WSBA staff. Subcommittee members will schedule a conference call meeting to identify stakeholder groups with whom they will connect for feedback on the proposed rule and regulation changes. The subcommittee plans to present the proposed changes to the MCLE Board at the Board's May 11 meeting.
2. **Long Distance Lawyers (LDL) Subcommittee** held a conference call meeting with the Walla Walla Pro Bono program coordinator and members of the local bench and bar. The Walla Walla partners support the LDL pilot and proposed to start referring cases to LDL pro bono attorneys as early as April 1. Members of the Walla Walla bench are concerned that their current telephone system will not accommodate an influx of telephonic hearings. There was also concern about whether the local clerk's office could accept fax or electronic filings. The Judges and Commissioner believe that attorneys who are opposing counsel for LDL pro bono attorneys will be flexible in scheduling around LDL attorneys' schedules in light of the remote representation.

GR 34 Implementation PBLAC discussed GR 34, its role in developing the rule, and how the rule is being implemented around the state. Joanna Otero reported that a case has been submitted to the Washington Supreme Court for discretionary review. The case involves a low-income litigant who received a fee waiver to file a dissolution action but who could not finalize the case until she submitted payment. Legal Voice partnered with pro bono attorneys from Fenwick & West to litigate this case.

WAACO Report Washington Attorneys Assisting Community Organizations (WAACO) recently released a report about the legal needs of non-profit organizations. Andrea circulated the report prior to the meeting for PBLAC's review. Diana Singleton serves on WAACO's Board of Directors. At the request of the Committee, Diana will ask WAACO's Executive Director to attend a future PBLAC meeting to provide information about the organization.

Committee Term WSBA will enforce its policy guiding how long members may serve on a committee. The policy states that a member may not serve more than two consecutive two-year terms. Some committee members do not agree with this policy because PBLAC engages in long-term projects that will be disrupted with frequent turnover. The committee agreed that members who wanted to reapply should do so and seek an exception to this policy.

The next PBLAC meeting will be Thursday, April 12 from 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.