Washington State Bar Association Pro Bono and Legal Aid Committee March 10, 2011

<u>In attendance</u>: Andrea Axel, Catherine Brown, Chach Duarte White, Rebecca Glasgow, Andrew Guy, Steve Larsen, Joanna Otero, Diana Singleton, Randy Winn, Dan Young, and Lew Zieske

<u>Attending via telephone</u>: Jim Bamberger, Fiona Cox, Mike Cressey, Brian Flock, and Michael Kleps

<u>Unable to attend</u>: Reagan Dunn, Loren Etengoff, Alison Holcomb, Joseph Marshall, James McCormick, Gail Smith

February Meeting Minutes were approved.

Diversity Discussion with WSBA's Diversity Program Manager, Chach Duarte White

Although diversity has always been important to WSBA, the BOG has focused on member and committee diversity for the past three years. PBLAC members value diverse perspectives from committee members to inform PBLAC's mission and projects.

PBLAC has some information about its current diversity through WSBA's committee application (ethnicity, gender, GLBT status, disability, geographic locale, and employer type), but members would like to know more. Chach, Steve and Jim will develop a diversity matrix by which to assess the Committee's diversity. A separate subcommittee (Andrea, Joanna, Diana, Randy, Becca, Jim and Chach) will assess Committee diversity. This project will coincide with the committee appointment process. PBLAC will recommend new committee members to the BOG with an explanation of recommendation, including how the candidate diversifies PBLAC.

PBLAC will tie its diversity to its mission and on-going projects. For example, PBLAC's on-going Urban-Rural Pilot Project would benefit from perspectives of bilingual and/or bicultural committee members, and members who live and/or work in rural counties.

Urban-Rural Pilot Andy Guy circulated the subcommittee's update. PBLAC members should review and provide Andy with comments and/or feedback by Friday, March 11.

RPC 6.1 Catherine is re-drafting PBLAC's memo to the BOG recommending changes to RPC 6.1.

GR 34 Instructions Members agreed that short, simple instructions accompany the new forms at AOC's website, and longer, more detailed instructions will be available with the forms at www.washingtonlawhelp.org. Members agreed that a sample form should be provided with blank forms. There was discussion about whether a litigant's financial information disclosed in a GR 34 fee waiver request will become part of the public or sealed portion of the court record. Members acknowledged that this question is answered by the substance of GR 34. Since the rule was adopted, it cannot be amended without significant additional process and procedure.

The next PBLAC meeting will be Thursday, April 14 at 12:00 p.m. at WSBA.