

Washington State Bar Association Pro Bono and Legal Aid Committee
March 14, 2013 Meeting Minutes

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

Attending via telephone: Joanna Oterro, Carla Reyes, Karen Schweigert

Unable to attend: Thomas Brixius, Brian DeFoe, Reagan Dunn, Andrew Krawczyk, Mike Cressy, Randy Winn

January Meeting Minutes: Approved

Update on Proposal: Esther presented on proposal to the February BOG meeting. The denial was not based on the MCLE rule, but based rather on board governance and its committees.

Project Updates

1. Mandatory Pro Bono (NY) – summary and intro on New York admission rule. Will presented data on states that were looking to expand similar admissions rule. Discussed many challenges and drawbacks to move forth with mandatory pro bono work. Discussion ensued on differences between mandating pro bono to already admitted attorneys and making it an admissions requirement for new attorneys. Next work group meeting will be open to all members in the committee to help discuss this meeting.
2. QLSP Needs for Volunteers – volunteer recruitment was the biggest need identified in the survey responses. Work group to compile report from survey and next steps.
3. Pro Bono Newsletter – Ana to bring copies of how to submit a post on NWSide Bar.
4. Outreach to Access to Justice Network – Discussion on Team Child’s report on student expulsion, and measuring outcomes. NJP is doing a lot of work to gather outcome measurements. Andrea update on GR34 Supreme Court argument.
5. Corporate/In House Council Pro Bono – nothing to report
6. Fundraising – nothing to report
7. Coordination with Law Schools/Interns – Esther met with WSBA staff to discuss intern coordination with law schools for a possible summer internship.
8. Government Lawyer Pro Bono Work – Both Rory and Rachel reached out to various counties. Snohomish has a pro bono policy that encourages pro bono approval process. Other county agencies see themselves as public servants, but open to suggestions from us on how to get involved. It varies from county to county, and agency to agency. Next steps: develop model pro bono policy, connect to projects, and address concerns to engage in pro bono.
9. Supreme Court Honor Roll – Continue to research recognition through the website and putting Supreme Court behind certificates. Carla and Dan to join work group.
10. Pro Bono Requirement in Corporate RFPs – continuing to research.
11. Outreach to part time and contract attorneys - Karen interviewed attorney from across the state, who state that reality gets in the way of a good idea. Economy is too bad to pursue this project. Combined this workgroup with Law school coordination.
12. Long Distance Lawyering – Discussion revolved around, “what is a good strategy to move this program forward?”
13. Tennessee Project (online assistance) – submit report in writing, will send video link about the program. Gather more information and present report next meeting. Who would be the potential host? Discussion of combining two groups, LLP and Tennessee Project.