



WSBA

PRO BONO AND LEGAL AID COMMITTEE

Thursday, June 12, 2014 – 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Minutes

Attending: Katie Bove, Catherine Brown, Dan Ford, Stan Kehl, Rachel Rappaport, Will Ross, Angeline Thomas

May 8th Minutes -- Approved

Sub-Committee Reports

- Long-Distance Lawyer Project—Catherine reported on the pilot project done through the Walla Walla Volunteer Lawyer Program. This Sub-Committee recommends that PBLAC's primary role should be to: 1) recruit urban volunteer attorneys and connect them directly to the VLPs; and 2) help develop resources for VLPs, including best practices for engaging urban attorney volunteers in long distance lawyering. This will enable the VLPs to build direct relationships with the volunteers, provide efficiency in communication and data tracking, and minimize the need for WSBA staffing resources for this project.
- WAWebLawyer—The Sub-Committee found that the VLPs that have expressed an interest in hosting this project would be best suited to determine a selection process for the most appropriate VLP host. The VLP would also do the grant research and writing. PBLAC would help recruit attorney volunteers for this project. The Committee discussed concerns raised in letter sent by the Pro Bono Council and a memorandum from the Skagit Volunteer Lawyer Program Steering Committee. The Committee decided to host a demo and conversation with the Tennessee Alliance for Legal Services (an organization that has implemented a similar project in TN) to discuss and help alleviate some of the concerns that have been raised about implementing a similar project in Washington.
- Unbundled Legal Services – Dan Ford reported on this. This Sub-Committee prepared a document entitled “Legal Authority Relating to Unbundling of Legal Services in Washington State,” which contains rules, opinions, and other legal authority relevant to providing unbundled services in WA. The Sub-Committee received helpful feedback on this document from Doug Ende, WSBA's Director of the Office of Disciplinary Counsel, and is looking at updating the document. The Committee discussed strategies for distributing this document to the courts, AG's office, prosecutor's office, etc.

Annual Committee Report—PBLAC's annual report will be submitted to the WSBA Board of Governor's Committee on Mission Performance and Review, and then will be forwarded to the WSBA Board of Governors directly later in July.