

Washington State Bar Association Pro Bono and Legal Aid Committee
June 6th, Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Co-Chair Esther Park, BOG Liaison Dan Ford, Lew Zieske, Stan Kehl, Andrea Axel, Rachel Rappaport, Joanna Otero, and Ana Selvidge (WSBA Staff)

Attending via telephone: Will Ross, Mike Cresse, y Brian DeFoe and Randy Winn

Unable to attend: Co-Chair Rory O’Sullivan, Thomas Brixius, Reagan Dunn, Andrew Krawczyk, Todd Nunn, Carla Reyes, and Karen Schweigert

May Meeting Minutes: Approved with correction of adding Lew Zeiske in the Unable to Attended section and correction of Joanna Otero’s last name.

New Item: Update from Nominations Team - Slate was presented and briefly discussed, Ana will send out the final slate to the committee by the end of June.

Project Updates

Outreach to Access to Justice Network – Will Ross, nothing to report due to ATJ Board retreat.

Government Lawyer Pro Bono Work – Rachel Rappaport met with Rebecca Glasstone, to discuss how effective the letter was. Rebecca stated that the follow-up after the letter was a really important piece to the outreach. She encouraged connecting the local VLPs to the prosecutor’s office to make it more like a volunteer match. Rory and Rachel will also reach out to WAPA and see if they can present at the conference.

Pro Bono Recognition – Andrea Axel provided workgroup suggestions of what other states are doing to recognize pro bono, please see attachment. Discussion ensued on concern for capacity, funding and on what type of recognition really impacts people’s motivation to do pro bono. Other members brought up the concern of oversight for the pro bono seal program; how do we confirm pro bono work?

Further discussion of Pro Bono Commendation and whether or not that was the right way for WSBA to recognize pro bono efforts? Some found the letter and no certificate to be less effect and some didn’t think that a certificate really meant much. The consensus of the committee was that publishing the names in NWLawyer with an article by the President and/or Judge Madsen would be a great recognition piece. Recognition would be much more visible and could encourage more people to do pro bono. The idea is to use the self reporting data that WSBA collects to publish the names. There was a concern on whether or not people wanted their names published. Ana will check to see what the form currently asks and if we need to request for there to be an additional check-off box. Concern is if we are interested in pushing this in Pro Bono Month as a WSBA effort, will that give us enough time? And can we use last year’s reporting information?

The workgroup will meet again and discuss in detail the plan to move these items forward and what more information needs to be gathered.

QLSP Discussion – There are current changes to the definition of a QLSP. The MCLE Board specifically added that the QLSP must be “... a Washington State not-for-profit legal services organization ...”.

The current definition of a QLSP is, “a not-for-profit legal services organization whose primary purpose is to provide legal services to low-income clients”.

The concern to this change will exclude nonprofits who are out of Washington State but recruit Washington State attorneys to serve Washington State residence. This will exclude them from participating as QLSP. Please see, http://www.wsba.org/~media/Files/Licensing_Lawyer%20Conduct/MCLE/Appendix%20APR%2011%20Amendments%20%20Rev%20103012%20Approved%20by%20BOG%20111612%20REDLINE.ashx

Tennessee Project/Long Distance Lawyering – Joanna Otero, moved to next meeting.