



Washington Young Lawyers Committee

Meeting Minutes

June 6, 2014 | 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. | Alki Room, Seattle

Approved: August 9, 2014

Present: Megan Card, Vincent Humphrey, Alicia Levy, Beth Bratton, Nicholas Fisher, Laura Hartless, Jeff Johnson, Russell Knight, Trent Latta, Helen Ling, Stacy Marchesano, Jordan Miller, Megan Rue, Favian Valencia

Absent: Tresa Cavanaugh, RaShelle Davis, Kendra Long, Robin Haynes

WSBA Staff: Paris Eriksen, Ana Selvidge

Welcome, Approval of Minutes & Member Reports: *(Megan Card)*

All committee members present voted to approve the April meeting minutes with a revision to include the name of the newly elected BOG member who is a young lawyer. Each committee member provided a brief review of the events and activities happening in their regions. See Committee Member Report for more information.

Chair Report: *(Megan Card)*

Participated in the filming of a welcome video from the WYLC on the steps of the Washington State Supreme Court for American Bar Association YLD annual meeting which will be held in Boston this year.

A Washing Veterans Will Clinic will be held in the south sound in Lakewood in October. This program will continue to grow and be all over the state. Committee members were encouraged to get involved.

Subcommittee Updates: *(All)*

Local Leader Award (Megan, in RaShelle's absence): There was some discussion around if this is something we want to continue given its similarity to WSBA's annual awards. Committee members agreed to move forward because they feel that it is important and valuable for new lawyers to be recognized. Stacy, Megan, Alicia and Favian volunteered to work with RaShelle.

Open Sections Night in Spokane (Alicia): A tentative date will be October 2nd in Spokane. Spokane County Bar will give us a discount on food. Event will likely be at the Spokane Club, the Davenport or the Red Lion.

Public Service Incentive (Alicia): The next deadline is June 16th. Subcommittee will meet shortly after the due date to determine the next 6 award recipients. The committee was reminded that all applicants are left in the pool to be reviewed throughout the year.

FY15 Committee Nominations (Megan): Our new committee members were appointed by the BOG. Paul Webber for the North Central Region, Whitney Norton for the Spokane Region, Russell Knight for Pierce County, and Kjersti Stroup for the at-large position. Alicia Levy's nomination as chair-elect is expected to be approved at the July BOG meeting. New members will begin their term in October.

Young Lawyer Liaisons (Helen): Attend the Spring Section Leaders Meeting on May 29th. This meeting brings together the executive committees from all sections. Helen and Paris presented on this program and there was good engagement. To make the program more successful, we're adding a bit more structure, such as two-year terms, clearer expectations and specific projects. This program is a great way to plug in new attorneys into the work of the bar and the sections. There was a suggestion to add-in a formalized feedback process. Currently, Helen solicits feedback and the liaisons submit reports quarterly.

New Lawyer Education (Stacy): Thank you to Beth who was a presenter recently on the NLE CRIM Series. Beth presented on preparing your case for trial, arguing probable cause and presented with Joe Marchesano. Webcast only so there was no in-person audience. The Committee discussed pooling the free NLE passes. Currently, there are 36 to disseminate. Some committee members have given them away to people with financial need or as recognition. There was some discussion around adding more structure to the free pass giveaway. Vincent and Stacy will help to work to add a bit more structure.

Mentorship Workgroup (Beth): The first reading of the submitted proposal from the work group will be discussed today. A 2nd reading in July and final approval likely in September. The work group is moving forward with proposing a full program that matches a mentor with a mentee. The committee discussed that it might be hard to make matches around the state. They felt that training for mentors and mentees would be helpful to get everyone on the same page. The committee also discussed the use of technology to have profiles for participants that could list practice areas and/or specific needs. Perhaps this could be an addition to the WSBA Lawyer Directory. The Lawyer Directory could be more of a member services tool with resources and tools available.

Explore: New Lawyers Section Subcommittee: (Megan)

An idea came out from WSBA Budget and Audit meeting to look at the idea of a New Lawyers Section. Megan and Vincent participated in a conference call with Megan McNally, Paris Eriksen and Ana Selvidge. They were informed that no decision is being made and will be made without the input from the WYLC. Only 6 mandatory state bars have sections with 8-22% of eligible attorneys being members. There was a concern that this idea came from a budgetary concern. The committee expressed concern that their work may be considered more of an expense rather than an investment.

Megan is not in favor of the idea and is interested in looking back at the idea going to a division perhaps with a smaller budget. Megan suggested that the WYLC form a subcommittee to explore the idea of which structure best fits the goal of reaching the most new lawyers.

Vincent expressed concern that a structure conversation might be a side-step from what we should really be doing however he did say he felt that under the division model, there was a lot of 'ownership' and this has been diminished. Vincent shared that he thinks the section model doesn't make sense because you're must 'pay into the section' to participate and it was unclear what members could get for their membership. What would be the value in the membership? There was a general feeling that the section structure positions us further away from the members.

Beth provided some history given she has been with the group since 2008. Beth believes that the BOG are supportive of the WYLC. The WYLC needs to be clear about their position on the subject. Beth encouraged committee members to engage with governors. Make personal contact with the governor in

your district. After further discussion, the WYLC unanimously does not support the idea of a New Lawyers Section. Megan Card will email submit a memo stating this opinion to the BOG.

There is some reservation among committee members about the idea of pursuing a division. How would new and young lawyers would be involved in a division? For the time being, the committee will continue to refine the committee work and strengthen the connection to new lawyers. A structure subcommittee will be to look at structure, purpose and the framework in which the committee can effectively connect with new and young lawyers.

Subcommittee Conversations: *(Megan)*

Projects for next year were proposed. These include: refining the Facebook page, connect with the Low Bono Section, have an ABA YLD Representative at the national level and connect our current District Representative, Jacob Brennan, a brief bank to share documents, and a scholarship for the Trial Advocacy Program (TAP). These projects will be proposed in a budget memo to Budget & Audit.

The committee also discussed and agreed that having all in-person meetings next year would be a more valuable and productive use of time.

Megan Card will work with Paris on the WYLC FB page.

Helen Ling and Laura Hartless will work with making connections to the Low Bono Student.

Vincent Humphrey and Trent Latta agreed to look into cloud technology and explore the brief bank idea.

Next Meeting will be in Spokane on August 9th. A professional networking event with the Spokane YLD is being planned for August 8th.