



Diversity Committee

Draft Minutes

May 24, 2017

12 – 1:30 pm

CONFERENCE CALL 1-866-577-9294 Access Code: 52680

The Washington State Bar Association's Diversity Committee is dedicated to implementing WSBA's Diversity and Inclusion Plan. The work of the committee promotes historically underrepresented groups to enter and stay in the profession of law. The Diversity Committee does this through collaborative relationships and community building activities which highlight the numerous societal benefits of a diverse law profession.

In attendance by phone: Cynthia Chen-Weller, Allison Ross, Carrie Blackwood, Oscar Chaves, Navjot Kaur, Kristine Olmstead, Stephanie Anderson, Robert King, Gov. Mario Cava, Laura Wulf

Did not attend: Ailene Limric, Gov. Andrea Jarmon, Jennifer Cruz, Laura Reed, Lionel Greaves, Gov. Rajeev Majumdar, Gov. Sean Davis,

Staff: Joy Williams, Dana Barnett, Kelly Nee

1. Call to Order and Welcome

Cynthia Chen-Weller called the meeting to order at 12:08 pm. Carrie Blackwood moved to approve the April meeting minutes, Allison Ross seconded the motion, the committee approved the April meeting minutes.

2. BOG Update

Gov. Mario Cava informed the committee that the new At-Large Governor is Alec Stevens from the Civil Rights Section. Bill Pickett is the President elect. . There is a workgroup investigating mandatory malpractice insurance practices, and the feasibility of mandatory malpractice insurance. The Board received a request for WSBA to co-sponsor the ABA proposal opposing restructuring the ninth circuit, the Board voted in favor of the proposal. The Board approved a written request from counsel at the American Civil Liberties Union to send a letter to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) urging ICE agents to refrain from conducting immigration enforcement actions at or near state courthouses.

3. ABA Diversity and Inclusion Conference Report Back

Carrie Blackwood will bring materials to the next meeting to inform the committee about the work that the ABA is doing with Diversity and Inclusion work.

4. Project Updates

a. Diversity Stakeholders Meeting

Kelly Nee informed the committee that notes from the Diversity Stakeholders Meeting will be sent out to the participants in June, participants will debrief the meeting in July, and there will be another Diversity Stakeholder's meeting in the fall (tentative).

b. Experience Exchange

Kelly Nee informed the committee that the Experience Exchange is happening Thursday, May 25th and there are a total of 24 mentors and mentees participating.

c. Community Networking Event

Kelly Nee informed the committee that the June Bellevue Community Networking Event is cancelled, and the July Community Networking Event will be taking place on July 13th in Wenatchee.

d. Legal Lunchbox

Dana Barnett informed the committee that the Allyship Legal Lunchbox is taking place on Tuesday, May 30th. The Legal Lunchbox on June 27th will focus on Islamophobia in the law, and biases and barriers that Muslim attorneys face.

e. Beyond the Dialogue

Dana Barnett informed the committee that this will be taking place on June 8th, and currently 97 people are signed up for this event.

5. Committee Writing Update

a. Blog

Carrie Blackwood updated the committee about the blog post. She researched what allyship is, what steps can be taken to participate as an ally, and how to help people become conscious of allyship moving forward. Carrie will send her blog article to the committee to read.

b. NW Lawyer Article

Allison Ross informed the committee that there is a meeting scheduled on June 12th to discuss the upcoming article. The article will focus on the stories of diverse attorneys.

6. June Meeting Agenda

Dana Barnett informed the committee that the June 10th meeting is a half day, in person meeting. Ana Selvidge and Kelly Nee will be presenting about WSBA's Mentorship Programming at the meeting. There will also be a 2 hour training about the paradox of inclusion and blind spots given by Robin Nussbaum and Carrie Blackwood. The full agenda will be sent out as we get closer to the meeting. Dana also welcomed committee members to suggest agenda items they would like to share or see added to the meetings.

7. Announcements

N/A

Kris Olmstead moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:37 p.m., Allison Ross seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned unanimously by committee.

Next Meeting: In-person, WSBA Office, Saturday June 10, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

If you need special accommodations contact diversity@wsba.org