

Meeting Minutes - January 9, 2018

Members Present: Shelley Miner, chair, Tina Carroll, Bill Ronhaar, Crystal Flood, Scott Osbourne, Shauna Schraft, Jim Blair.

WSBA staff and others present: Chris Coleman, RSD Analyst. Jean McElroy, Chief Regulatory Counsel, Paula Littlewood, Executive Director, Ann Holmes, Chief Operations Officer.

Board Business:

- WSBA staff and the Board engaged in a philosophical discussion about the LPO license fee amount and how an appropriate amount for that fee should be set going forward. Ms. McElroy explained the history of the LPO license and program, including the history of WSBA's administration of the license. There was discussion about the fact that the current LPO license fee does not cover WSBA's cost to administer the LPO license. Ms. McElroy, Ms. Holmes and Ms. Littlewood identified various philosophical approaches that could be used to arrive at an appropriate license fee amount, including charging the same license fee amount to WSBA LPO members as is charged to WSBA lawyer members (since they are all members), and charging a lesser amount for the LPO license fee based on the fact that it is a limited license to practice law and keying that to the license fee amount for lawyers with a limited license (\$200 for inactive and emeritus members), and asked whether the Board had other philosophical approaches that they could identify. The Board asked to see historical numbers for the LPO license fee and expenses for administration, and requested the staff to try to identify an amount that would satisfy the current deficit for administration of the LPO license.
- WSBA staff and the Board also engaged in a discussion about whether it is appropriate for LPOs to pay an assessment for the Client Protection Fund, and if so, what an appropriate amount would be. WSBA staff explained how the client protection fund currently works for lawyers in regards to losses sustained by clients. The Board provided information about the requirements that LPOs establish financial responsibility, often by maintaining professional liability insurance and/or by providing audited financial statements for their employers, and about the fact that many LPO employers maintain bonds that provide coverage for the employer in the event of LPO theft or misappropriation of funds. Some members of the Board expressed an opinion that LPOs should not have to contribute to the client protection fund because of the other protections that are in place to cover LPO activities.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Coleman

