



Washington State Bar Association

COUNCIL ON PUBLIC DEFENSE
NOVEMBER 1, 2024 - 9:30AM – 12:00PM
MINUTES

CPD Voting Members: Maialisa Vanyo (Chair), Christopher Swaby (Vice-Chair), Arian Noma, Victoria Blumhorst, Jason Schwarz, Paul Holland, Jonathan Quittner, Judge Dee Sonntag, Maya Titova, Louis Frantz, Molly Gilbert, Christie Hedman, Anita Khandelwal, David Montes, Jonathan Nomamiukor, Abraham Ritter, Karen Denise Wilson

CPD Emeritus members (non-voting members): Bob Boruchowitz, Kathleen Kyle, Ann Christian, Eileen Farley

WSBA Staff: Cate Schur, Bonnie Sterken, Diana Singleton

Guests: Gideon Newmark, George Yeannakis, Sophia Byrd McSherry, Molly Fraser, Ali Hohman, Katrin Johnson, Liz Mustin, Angela Colaiuta, Lei Young, Grace O'Conner, Geoff Hulsey, Grace O'Connor, Rachel Cortez, Brett Ballew, Sarah Hudson

Absent: Leandra Craft, Justice Sheryl Gordon McCloud, Larry Jefferson, Abigail Pence, Judge Marla Polin

Minutes: The October meeting minutes were approved without edits

WSBA DEI Plan: Diana Singleton presented the history of the WSBA DEI plan and the current draft plan. She presented the data from a DEI study that uncovered a lack of diversity in the legal profession and the disparate impact on underrepresented groups. She summarized the draft plan at a high level and provided instructions on how to provide feedback. The Council had a discussion and Diana addressed questions. There was a discussion about passing the bar exam and getting licensed more accessible. It was noted that WSBA leadership would like time on a future agenda to gather ideas on how to influence changes.

OPD Budget Request and Updates: A draft letter of support for the OPD budget request and additional needs was included in the meeting materials for discussion and action. Maialisa Vanyo reported on some updated numbers in the OPD budget since the materials were shared.

Sophia Byrd McSherry provide additional context and updates to the amounts being requested. Sophia addressed questions on the details of the requests. The Council had a discussion.

Jason Schwarz moved to approve submitting the letter to the BOG for action, including edits discussed in the meeting, and Christie Hedman seconded. Motion passed with a supermajority and one abstention.

Mandated Report for Law School Clinics: Paul Holland reported on the issue of all higher education staff being mandated reporters. This conflicts with client confidentiality requirements in law school clinics. Paul is working with other policy makers to propose an amendment to create an exception for law school clinics. He has drafted a letter for the CPD to sign on to support this effort. The Council had a discussion.

Abe Ritter moved for the CPD to support the letter and submit it to the Board of Governors for further action, and Maya Titova seconded. The motion passed with a supermajority and one abstention.

Standards Implementation Updates: Jason Schwarz summarized the conversations at the last meeting about implementation timelines. There are other conversations happening with the Board of Judicial Administration. He shared a summary of what other groups are submitting to the Court. Jason is collecting those responses and will share a summary after the weekend. Council members were asked to encourage line defenders to submit their comments to the Court. The Council had a discussion.

Committee Work: Maialisa Vanyo summarized the committee work for the coming year, including updates to Appendix B of the Standards, CPD recruitment, and Charter. Other topics for this coming year include looking at public defender data, investigative pipelines and investments, and new avenues to becoming licensed. She reminded members to share their interest with what committee to join.

The meeting adjourned at 10:39