***Bar News*** **Editorial Advisory Committee Meeting**

July 15, 2020 ● 12 - 1 p.m. ● Via Zoom videoconferencing (virtual only)

**Editorial Advisory Committee**

Members of the Editorial Advisory Committee work with the editor and WSBA staff overseeing publication of WSBA’s official magazine, *Washington State Bar News*. This may include establishing guidelines and editorial policy, maintaining an editorial calendar, writing articles, securing content, identifying topics and issues relevant to members, identifying authors for content, reviewing articles, and advising on issues related to content. The maximum committee size is 14 members. Appointment is for a two-year term.

**Per WSBA bylaws, there must be a quorum (7 members present in person or remotely at the start of the meeting) in order for the Committee to meet.**

**AGENDA**

* **Roll call**

WSBA Staff: Kirsten Abel, Connor Smith, Colin Rigley, Jessica Randklev, Sara Niegowski.

EAC Members: Marc Lampson, Ralph Flick, Shanna Lisberg, Brittany Dowd, Maris Jager Grigalunas, Michelle Young, Karrin Klotz.

* **EAC Liaison Report**
	+ June Board of Governors meeting presentation recap (Ralph)
		- Feedback from Board of Governors presentation was positive and included thoughtful suggestions for the magazine. Board members got to see data that shows how member-driven the content of *Washington State Bar News* is.
		- It was a good opportunity to make the EAC visible and show that members are heavily involved in the magazine content.
	+ *Feedback/story ideas we received from the Board of Governors:*
		- * **Profile a Section in each issue.** We have a “Section Spotlight” but we could reinvigorate and expand it by creating a questionnaire that we could send out to sections. Example:
				+ What advice do you have for building a successful practice in X area of law? What are the best ways to stay up on the developing law in X practice area? What are the benefits of joining your section? What do members get? What are some recent accomplishments of the section?”
				+ Discussion about creating a deadline, scheduling each section to be profiled in a specific issue, sending the questionnaire to the section chair, and then if they don’t fill it out in time, an EAC member would write it for them.
				+ It might be hard to get all sections to contribute or respond to the questionnaire. What to do if a section is inactive—move on to a different section?
				+ Discussion about the goal of these pieces, as well as a template or format for the questionnaire and responses.
				+ Discussion about having each EAC member claim responsibility for sending the questionnaire we create to one or two sections and following up to get responses. We could create a Google document that would list all the sections with contact information for the chairs, and then ask each EAC member to claim the sections they want to reach out to.
				+ Part of the questionnaire we create should include questions like “What advice does the section have for practitioners in this area of law?” and “How can the section help those engaged in this area of law?”
			* More career advice; how to be successful in certain areas of practice; how to stay up on areas of the law.
				+ Discussion about building this into the Section Spotlight questionnaire, and also including a question that asks if anyone in the section is interested in writing a more in-depth article for *Bar News* about the section, career advice in that particular practice area, etc.
				+ Mention of reaching out to deskbook authors as a potential collaboration with sections to create a cohesive piece on a specific area of law.
		- Other questions from the Board of Governors to discuss:
			* Our policy regarding author/WSBA responses for letters to the editor.
				+ If we’re getting letters that don’t respond to content in the magazine, we should reach out to the letter writers to see if they are interested in writing an article or Perspectives piece for the magazine on the topic.
			* The suggestion that the magazine should include an “open forum,” a space for members to write in on topics that are not directly responsive to content in the magazine.
				+ If we did want to create such a forum, how might we go about it? We would need a policy that would allow us to select what to print in order to remain compliant with GR 12.
				+ What exactly will we accept for this forum and what won’t we accept? Can we create a policy for this and have the EAC review and edit it? We should look to other publications to see how other places have handled an “open forum” either online or in print.
				+ Letters to the editor and the forum should be a separate section. The general consensus was that the letters to the editor section has a specific function in the magazine that is separate from an open forum. The open forum would serve a different function.
				+ Suggestion to move any Letters to the Editor submissions that can’t run as a letter under our policy into this new forum if applicable.
				+ Discussion about whether the open forum should be a running section in every issue, or just a semi-regular section. Committee members noted that it makes more sense to wait to publish the open forum submissions until we have a group of them.
				+ Another suggestion was brought up to only allow the open forum for specific topics, or a directed prompt. One member said she subscribes to a magazine that has a kind of open forum where members can write in each month in response to a specific prompt. That way, many different perspectives on a single topic are represented.
			* Diversity on the committee, recruitment in the future. Deadlines have been extended to apply, and we still have two seats to fill for next year. We would love to get more diverse views on the committee.
* **Editor’s Report: Review six-issue editorial calendar**
	+ “Meet the EAC” feature in September
	+ Potential future coverage of : protests, police, systemic racism (and our plan for seeking prior approval of these stories)
		- One suggestion was made to include an article about the WSBA’s own diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts, explain the role of the Equity and Justice Team. Even if we have written about this before, the lens on this issue is different now.
	+ October pro bono articles
* Story ideas (each member should come with at least one story idea to share with the group, **as well as an update on any progress on prior story ideas**)
	+ Link to Google Docs spreadsheet for tracking story ideas:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Zr0Qj7GTO8ZSl7YsECTsEQXF3ZMlgAuLFz4S3SVmYU8/edit?usp=sharing>

* Review of June 2020 issue
* Beyond the Bar Number solicitations **(only 2 in reserve)**
	+ Marc’s connection, Andrés Muñoz, will appear in the September issue.
* Questions/Good of the order/Announcements
* Upcoming meeting dates: August 19
	+ **Tentative future dates:** September 16, October 21, November 18, December 16, and January 20