

PRACTICE OF LAW BOARD STATE OF WASHINGTON

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MEETING MINUTES April 20, 2017

The Practice of Law Board (PLB) met on April 20, 2017 at the Offices of the Washington State Bar in Seattle, Washington. PLB members attending were: Hon. Paul Bastine, ret., Chair; Michele Carney; Professor Emeritus George Critchlow, Andre Lang, and Gary Swearingen. Katherine Bachus and Kirsty Sterling, students in the Highline Paralegal Program also attended. Julie Shankland, WSBA Senior Assistant General Counsel and Sherry Lindner, WSBA Office of General Counsel Paralegal attended.

Minutes

The board approved the February 17, 2017 and March 21, 2017 Minutes by consensus.

Discussion of Meeting with Supreme Court

The Board discussed the following topics after meeting with the Supreme Court:

Distinctions and similarities between the work of the ATJ board and the PLB;

How the PLB can assist the court to increase access to court services;

Courthouse Facilitator Program;

Potential collaboration between the PLB and ATJ Board and Office of Civil Legal Aid;

Regulatory challenges including UPL prevention, fee sharing and entity regulation;

Clarification that the PLB does not produce things or programs, but does provide ideas, reports and recommendations to the Court;

Following up on UPL complaints sent to enforcement agencies;

Whether to continue issuing advisory opinions

Work Group Reports

Public Education

The Public Education Work Group has researched and is preparing a public education plan. They are also looking into the amount of public education materials available on

the WSBA website. The group will continue to work on the plan and provide it to the Bar's communications department for discussion, input and implementation.

New Legal Professional/Modern Practice

Professor Critchlow reported on a conversation he had with Mark Britton and Dan Lear from AVVO about what they perceive as the obstacles to automated online mediation services that include document preparation (one-stop gets the whole job done). Mr. Britton and Mr. Lear reported that some of the tasks in this process are the practice of law and are possibly prohibited under GR 24. The Board briefly discussed whether GR 24 should or could be changed to accommodate this and other future ideas.

Board Applicants

The Board reviewed all applications received and selected applicants to nominate for Supreme Court appointment.

Unauthorized Practice of Law Complaints

The Board referred one complaint to an enforcement agency and closed one complaint without further action.

Executive Session

The Board entered Executive Session to discuss two UPL Complaints.

The Executive Session concluded.

Meeting Adjourned.