

**Meeting Minutes**

June 18, 2020

Members Present: Interim Chair Doug Walsh, Trena Berton, Michele Carney, Michael Cherry, Prof. George Critchlow, Brooks Goode, Sonya Kraski, Amber Rush, Prof. Drew Simshaw, Gary Swearingen, Mir Tariq, Jennifer Unger, and Joseph Williams.

Members Excused: None.

Also Attending: Michelle Lucas (ATJ Liaison), Ellen Reed (ATJ Tech Committee Liaison), Sunitha Anjilvel (BOG Liaison), Julie Shankland (WSBA General Counsel), and Kyla Jones (WSBA Paralegal).

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Interim Chair Doug Walsh called the meeting to order at 11 AM once a quorum was established.

**PUBLIC SESSION**

1. PRACTICE OF LAW BOARD'S MISSION – DISCUSSION

The Board discussed their mission and how it relates to current, ongoing projects.

2. MINUTES

A motion was made and seconded to approve the amended version of the May 21, 2020 meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

3. UPDATES

- Attorney General's Office Public Records Request

The Board is continuing to receiving discs that contain documents in response to the public records request.

- Courthouse Facilitators

The Board discussed inviting stakeholders to a future meeting to collect feedback. A motion was made and seconded to send the completed document via e-mail to stakeholders to solicit input. The feedback received will be formalized and reported back to the Board. The motion passed unanimously.



- Legal Health Check-Up  
Michelle Lucas (ATJ Board Liaison) gave a status update on the work the Access to Justice Board is doing in regards to the Legal Health Check-Up and COVID-19.
  
  - Other  
Ellen Reed (ATJ Tech Committee Liaison) gave a status update on the Tech Committee's ongoing projects. Prof. Drew Simshaw, Michael Cherry, and Prof. George Critchlow will meet with the ATJTC team to discuss modifications to GR 24. Additionally, Ellen Reed and Michelle Lucas discussed an ATJ Board project to make COVID-19 emergency orders more accessible with informal language. Board members who are interested in supervising law students for this project were advised to contact Ellen and Michelle.
4. DISCUSSION – ADVISORY OPINIONS ON POLB'S WEBPAGE  
The Board discussed the historic advisory opinions that are on WSBA's website and creating disclaimer language to advise the public and lawyers of the status. A motion was made and seconded for Michael Cherry to draft a disclaimer for the website. The motion passed unanimously.
  
  5. DISCUSSION – RHODE ISLAND SUPREME COURT  
The Board discussed a recent decision in real estate closings that broadened the idea of who is authorized to engage in activities that have been viewed as the practice of law.
  
  6. DISCUSSION – DIPLOMA PRIVILEGE ORDER  
The Board discussed the recent diploma privilege order. The Board will continue to monitor this and follow developments.
  
  7. FY2021 APPLICATIONS  
The Board has received three applications for fiscal year 2021. The applications will be reviewed at the July meeting.
  
  8. NEXT MEETING  
The Board will meet for a one-hour meeting via Zoom on July 16, 2020.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made and seconded to enter executive session.

A motion was made and seconded to exit executive session.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.