WASHINGTON STATE B A R A S S O C I A T I O N Office of General Counsel

Practice of Law Board

Established by Washington Supreme Court
Administered by the WSBA
Hon. Paul Bastine, ret, Chair

July 19, 2018

Meeting Minutes

The Practice of Law Board (PLB) met on July 19, 2018 at the offices of the Washington State Bar Association. PLB members attending were: Hon. Paul Bastine, ret., Chair, Michele Carney, Prof. George Critchlow, Brooks Goode, Dominiqué Jinhong, Amber Rush, Gary Swearingen, and Doug Walsh. Jean McElroy, Chief Regulatory Counsel, and Sherry Lindner, OGC Paralegal II, also attended.

Minutes

The Board approved the June 21, 2018 minutes by consensus, with amendments.

Legal Health Check Up

The Board was notified that WSBA contracted with Curo to create the app and possibly including the Spanish language as an option. The contract has been completed and paper work has been submitted to the Court. Curo will provide the WSBA with a link and a law student/intern will be hired to help with the process. The interface is easy to process and understand.

The Board discussed that it would like to be involved in creating the questions for the questionnaire. WSBA COMM will be creating focus groups around the state to test the app out. One or two Board members will assist. The Board also discussed that, as a whole Board, it would like to see all questions and answers from the focus groups to make sure clarification is giving from the responses.

LLLT Letter to the Court and the BOG

On January 4, 2018 the Court entered an order increasing the size of the BOG to include two seats for community members and one seat specifically designated for an LPO or LLLT. At the March and April BOG meeting, the BOG held special meetings to discuss the possibility of removing the three positions. On July 2, 2018, the LLLT's submitted a letter asking the Court to lift the stay, and that the BOG complies with the Court's January 4, 2018 order.

A motion was made and seconded, for the POLB to adopt a resolution and send it to the Washington Supreme Court and the WSBA Board of Governors. The resolution should include statements reflecting the POLB's historical and current involvement with proposing affordable legal services including through the development of the LLLT license, and its historical and ongoing purpose to promote expanded access to affordable and reliable legal and law-related services and to expand public confidence in the administration of justice, and a statement that the POLB strongly supports lifting of the BOG's "stay" of the implementation of Supreme Court Order No. 25700-B-583 entered on January 4, 2018 and expeditious compliance by the BOG with that order as issued.

Motion passed unanimously.

GR 24 and Online Document Preparation Services

The Board continued and discussed the scope of this project. The Board discussed, but did not decide as to whether the Immigration Assistance Act and the State Distribution Documents should be exempt because they are governed by statutes.

The Board continued to discuss, but did not decide, the regulatory function – who should keep registration and payments.

Further discussion ensued whether disbarred or disciplined lawyers should have any ownership.

Mr. Walsh will circulate an updated draft of the GR 24 changes to the Board for review and consideration at the next meeting. The Board will also circulate the draft proposal to Ms. Littlewood and Mr. Ende for their input.

There was no executive session, and the meeting was adjourned at 2 p.m.