



## Meeting Minutes

June 9, 2023

Members Present: Chair Michael Cherry, Lesli Ashley, Sarah Bove, Jeremy Burke, Pearl Gipson-Collier, Kristina Larry, Craig Shank, Prof. Drew Simshaw, and Michael Terasaki.

Members Excused: Dr. June Darling, Ellen Reed, and Dr. David Sattler.

Also Attending: Governor Jordan Couch (BOG Liaison), Julie Shankland (WSBA General Counsel), Thea Jennings (WSBA Assistant General Counsel), and Kyla Reynolds (WSBA Paralegal).

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Chair Cherry called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

### 1. Operations (Recruiting)

The Board discussed the current recruiting process for new members, and brainstormed ideas to improve future recruitment seasons. Suggestions for improvements included:

- Provide clarity about the Board's work to applicants;
- Solicit information about how the candidate has worked in professional situations or volunteer groups to better understand how the candidate can best contribute to the Board;
- Solicit information about how the candidate helps the Board work on its diversity, inclusion, and equity goals with the Court (and communicate such goals to the candidate); and
- Solicit ideas about what the candidate would like to accomplish during their term (professionally and on the Board).

The Board also discussed how to better define membership roles, primarily public roles and individuals that are licensed in another jurisdiction.

The Board will proceed with its current process for Fiscal Year 2024 recruitment. For Fiscal Year 2025, the Board plans to implement new processes to incorporate the above-identified suggestions. Sarah Bove will lead the work for the next recruitment cycle, with assistance from Michael Terasaki and Craig Shank.

### 2. Operations (Policies and Regulations)

The Board discussed drafting policies and/or regulations to create consistency about matters over time. The Board expressed a desire to consider some formalization of its work to ensure consistent progress to accomplishing its goals, while reserving some freedom to accomplish those goals without too much bureaucracy. The Board may draft some documents, such as regulations for recruitment, to ensure consistency in its work. These documents would be sent to the Court as a courtesy to let them know that the Board is managing its work properly.

### 3. Who Does the POLB Serve?

The Board discussed its responsibility to serve the public, while being subject to the direction of the Supreme Court. The Board discussed ways to better include members of the public in its meetings. The Board believes that its work in education, innovation, and UPL coordination should be done with a focus on serving the public first, and legal profession second. The Board would like to confirm with the Court that its role is public facing, and expressed a strong interest in working towards improving the public's knowledge of how the law works.

### 4. Additional Planning Required

The Board identified a need to hold several follow-up meetings to better define short-and long-term goals for each area of the Board's responsibility. The Board discussed holding an education-focused planning meeting via Zoom in July 2023.

### 5. Education

The Board discussed where to focus its education work and identified future areas for discussion:

- Upward (Educating the Court and WSBA about the market for legal services): What does the market for legal services look like (now and in 3 years)? What solutions are out there for the public? What legal services does the public want to buy and what are they willing to pay for them? What changes in the market might reduce/increase the access to justice gap? What are the tiers of services in the legal market? What other gaps exist?
- Outward (Educating the public): Does the Legal Checkup make sense? Do people not understand they have a legal issue, or are they unable to find a service provider they can afford? Should the Board's role be a clearinghouse of all the education that other groups, closer to the problem, are producing? Which is the public not finding?

The Board discussed holding future meetings with stakeholders and legal service providers to determine how the Board can best address educating the public.

### 6. Innovation

The Board discussed its role in Innovation as identifying places where the profession should be innovating, and facilitating conversations with those who know how to innovate. The Board discussed being a clearinghouse for innovation information for the Court, such as what is happening in the market, gathering reliable data, and suggesting possible solutions.

### 7. UPL Coordination

The Board discussed the value in its role in UPL complaints. The Board discussed areas that it can work on UPL, such as:

- Educating the public on what UPL is and how to report it;
- Acting as a clearinghouse of UPL data (how much, types, trends); and
- Examining the UPL/Per Se violation of the Consumer Protection Act.

The Board plans to hold a UP summit in Fiscal Year 2023.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.