

PRO BONO AND PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
February 4, 2020 | 1:00-2:00 PM

The Pro Bono and Public Service Committee works to enhance a culture of service by promoting opportunities and best practices that encourage WSBA members to engage in pro bono and public service with a particular focus on services to underserved low and moderate income people.

PRESENT IN PERSON: Nancy, Paul, Nick, Althea
PRESENT BY PHONE: Christine, Kristina, Bonnie
NOT PRESENT: Brendan, Andrew, Kathryn, Yuan
ATJ BOARD LIAISON: Michelle Lucas
WSBA STAFF: Paige

Meeting called to order at 1:03 PM

MEETING MINUTES

- **ACTION:** Paul moved to pass the minutes, Nancy seconded the motion. Adopted unanimously.

LIAISON UPDATES

Nick shared that he attended the last ATJ Board meeting. The [Goldmark Luncheon](#) is on Friday, February 14, at 12:00 PM. Committee members are encouraged to attend. Paul shared that last year the event was a great event. Luncheon has a free admission with an opportunity for attendees to donate to the civil legal aid fund. Michelle added that this year, the event will be honoring Chief Justice Fairhurst. The next ATJ Board meeting will be immediately preceding the Goldmark Luncheon.

Paul shared that he sent the CLE workgroup's draft questions to ELAP. ELAP was super responsive.

Paige shared that the QLAW Foundation is having a full-day CLE for pro bono attorneys on [Monday, February 24](#).

WORKGROUP UPDATES

- **Policy/Rules:** Nick noted that updates for this workgroup will be covered later in agenda.
- **CLE:** Survey is still in draft form and should be finalized soon. Comments or edits should be sent to Brendan or Christine.
- **Communications:** Christine shared that a meeting is scheduled for late this week or early next week.
- **Technology:** Paul noted that the workgroup is meeting this week to go through data from a recent survey. Paul shared that he met with Joanna Boisen and Alycia Dynsmore about Paladin (a potential pro bono opportunity portal company).
- **Strategic Planning:** Nick shared that the workgroup is meeting this month. Nick will share the date and time of this meeting. This workgroup is trying to expand the Committee's mission statement, goals, and values. This, in turn, will help us better communicate our purpose to stakeholders.

EMERITUS PRO BONO PROPOSAL

Nick shared that he and Nancy were involved in the Top Pro Bono Reporter awards. Nick met with Rajeev at the event and checked in about the Emeritus issue. Rajeev does not want the committee to feel obligated to attend the April BOG meeting, if a proposal is not ready for presentation. Instead, Nick shared that the workgroup can meet with Rajeev, the Executive Director, the General Counsel, and some additional WSBA staff. This could take up to two or three reads before the BOG takes a vote.



Althea proposed that if this Committee could make some decisions today with respect to the direction of the workgroup, then the proposal should be close to being completed.

Bonnie and Althea went through their draft memo to accompany the proposed changes. Bonnie shared that the workgroup added a proposed change that would make the emeritus status conditional upon the number of pro bono hours. The workgroup was leaning towards 30 pro bono hours since that is already in the RPC. Bonnie noted that this could be a barrier, for example her organization runs legal clinics in rural counties once a month. If that is the only QLSP option a rural attorney, a rural Emeritus attorney might not be able to meet a 30-hour requirement, even if they volunteered at every monthly clinic. Bonnie noted that she also added an optional fee waiver that would allow some attorneys to pay the \$200 if they do not think they can meet a 30-hour requirement.

Paul noted that a backwards looking fee-capture could be a challenge for the WSBA. Paul suggested that it is a 30-hour pledge requirement. Bonnie added that it could be similar to the CLE reporting process. Committee members discussed the financial concerns with waiving a license fee or minimum hour requirement and the impact on WSBA members.

Bonnie shared that the ABA's [50 State Emeritus Pro Bono chart](#). Colorado uses a backwards looking 50-hour pro bono requirement that requires an attorney to pay a fee if they do not meet the minimum number of hours.

Paige suggested that the workgroup connect with Catherine Brown (Pro Bono Council Manager) and the volunteer lawyer programs (VLPs) to get feedback from some of the QLSPs that work with rural areas attorneys.

Althea noted that another area that is in the proposal includes the definition of "active legal experience" as a barrier to potential emeritus pro bono attorneys. Proposed rule change would include that pro bono work would qualify as active legal experience. This would also include Federal practice for immigration services, which is a huge area for unmet needs.

The workgroup will move forward with updating the proposal and will focus on getting feedback from VLPs and QLSPs.

No action on this matter at this meeting.

RPC 6.5 COMMENT UPDATE

Bonnie shared that the draft comment and draft memo are part of the materials. There is only one outstanding issue, whether the comment comes from the Committee or the BOG. Nick will call the Committee's BOG liaison to follow up with her. Bonnie will share updates at the next meeting. Nick noted that this committee has also taken vote to support the comment and memo was already voted.

Announcements/Next Meeting

Nick invited Committee members to attend Seattle University School of Law's [PILF Auction](#) on February 29, PILF Auction at Seattle University.

Nancy shared that the top two attorneys who reported the most pro bono hours had each reported 2,000 hours. This is the equivalent of a full-time job.

Althea raised an issue about Angelica Gonzalez and WSBA Admissions process. This was tabled for next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 2:08 pm.