

PRO BONO AND PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING
November 10, 2020 – 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Present: Nick Larson, Bonnie Aslagson, Sandy Garcia, Christine Kuglin, Yuan Ting, Christine Anderson, Michael Addams, Nancy Chupp, Althea Paulson, Mike Liebert, Erin Fortney

BOG Liaison: Matthew Dresden.

WSBA Staff: Paige Hardy

Meeting called to order at 1:02 PM.

Welcome and Meeting Minutes

New members that were unavailable for last meeting and introduced themselves to the committee.

BOG liaison, Governor Matthew Dresden, also introduced himself to the committee members.

ACTION: Christine K. moved to pass October Meeting Minutes, motion passed unanimously without revisions.

RPC 6.5 Updates & Next Steps

Bonnie shared an update about the RPC 6.5 rule change proposal. Bonnie gave some contextual background about RPC 6.5 and the organizations that the rule impacts. Last year, the Pro Bono Council submitted a proposal to WA Supreme Court to add a new comment to RPC 6.5 that determines when conflict checks need to happen during legal aid clinics. Rule requires proper screening mechanisms and notice of conflicts be provided to clients. This could result in alerting an abuser when a survivor might also be seeking domestic violence-related legal services. The proposed comment would allow prospective notice.

The updated proposal and GR9 coversheet are included in the meeting materials. In September, the committee voted to submit a statement of support in favor of approval of this proposal. Connected with Committee on Professional Ethics. Between the two committees, this will try to go forward before the Board of Governors at their January meeting.

Workgroup Updates

Nick shared that the goal is for workgroups to meet monthly. The leader will set up the meetings. Paige can provide conference or zoom line.

CLE Workgroup

Christine shared that the first meeting will likely meet early next week. Bonnie and Christine K. both shared that the family law legal lunchbox was incredibly well done.

Rules & Policy Workgroup



Althea shared that the Rule & Policy Workgroup is coming from the great success of the new pro bono status. Althea is now officially pro bono status.

The workgroup met last week and decided to dive right into revisions to RPC 1.8(e), which prohibits lawyers from advancing costs to their clients. This makes it difficult for non-profits to provide cash assistance to clients that are being represented by the organization. RPC 1.8(e) is not in line with the ABA model or close to 20 states that allow for exceptions for indigent clients. Workgroup is currently doing research.

Althea shared that Judge Erlich is potentially going to push this as well in his circle, which could expedite the process. Workgroup will continue to move forward in the event that this other avenue does not work out.

Communications Workgroup (fka Publications)

Nancy shared that the workgroup will be having a meeting in the near future. Workgroup will also connect with Paige to talk about ideas.

Technology Workgroup

Nick shared this workgroup includes people outside of the committee that have been really involved...include updates about website.

Jacqui shared that a directory for non-profit organizations more generally could also be a really helpful resource for organizations.

Strategic Planning Workgroup

Nick shared that the workgroup will have its first meeting later this month. Strategic planning looks at ways that the committee can meet the mission and goals of the committee.

Liaison Updates

Bonnie shared that the list of updated contact information is still being finalized, but will be shared with the broader group. Goal is for every committee member to be a liaison to at least one entity. The communications workgroup will also be working to develop content that can be sent out by liaisons.

Nick added that there were liaison talking points in previous years. These will be updated and sent out to everyone. The bottom line message is that the WSBA PBPSC is to listen and hear needs from the public community, but also to share the work of the committee.

New Initiatives

OMVLA – Paige shared that the Attorney General's Office has a veterans-related office (OMVLA) that is interested in connecting with the Committee and its work. Michael Addams expressed interest in being a part of this.

Additional News & Updates

Paige shared that the Washington Attorneys with Disabilities Association was hosting a free CLE later that day and encouraged committee members to attend.

Governor Dresden noted that a BOG meeting is taking place this upcoming Friday and Saturday. There is an item related to pro bono status. The amendments to the bylaws did not fully capture all the changes, so some non-substantive revisions are being made.