



WSBA

PRO BONO AND PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE

Conference Call: 1.866.577.9294 | Participant Code: 52111#

Thursday, March 9, 2017 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

WSBA Office, 1325 4th Ave., Suite 600, Seattle, WA

DRAFT MINUTES

In Attendance: Kevin McGuire, Brendan Vandor, Catherine Brown

Staff: Jennifer Small, Kelly Nee, Joy Williams

Attend by Phone: Lindy Laurence, Paul Okner, Leslie Blankman, Chiedza Nziramasanga, Adam Yeaton, Judy Lin, Sara MacDuff, Jordann Hallstrom

Unable to Attend: Governor Bill Pickett, Emily Nelson, Na Crabtree, Angeline Thomas, Beth Leonard, Priya Cloutier, Bruce Conklin, Kristina Ralls, Amanda Williamson, Hilary Hibbeln, Liz Lee

PURPOSE STATEMENT: *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.*

AGENDA

Thursday, March 9 – 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

1. **Welcome and approval of Minutes (January)** Committee Co-Chairs, Kevin McGuire and Emily Nelson
 - Not enough to approve minutes, postponed until next meeting

1. **Pro Bono Council** Pro Bono Council Manager, Catherine Brown
 - Overall, the PBC is meant to create a community and support for the 17 Volunteer Lawyers Programs in the state.
 - Projects for 2017 include: helping the pro bono community and individual pro bono Volunteer Lawyer Programs participate in drafting/feedback of the State Plan for Civil/Legal Aid, shoring up Volunteer Lawyer Programs outside of the I-5 corridors (programs that generally have less support) and helping them stay connected to the civil/legal aid community statewide, working with WAWebLawyer
 - Catherine Brown informed the committee that WAWebLawyer was created as a pilot program, funding is coming to an end from this 2 year pilot program. WAWebLawyer is undergoing an evaluation and an advisory committee is going to determine how to move forward with the program based on the evaluations.
 - Brendan Vandor (Barriers Subcommittee) confirmed with Catherine Brown that malpractice coverage is provided through the Tacoma-Pierce County Bar VLS with WAWebLawyer
 - Catherine Brown informed that the VLP's throughout WA are affiliated with their local county bar associations (there are 17 programs total), these programs identify their own priorities, and provide services including family law and consumer law
 - Judy Lin and Beth Leonard are resources on this committee

2. Subcommittee Updates

- a. **Promotion** – Emily Nelson (unable to attend)
 - Jennifer Small informed the committee that this subcommittee is working on an idea for NWLawyer, and how to promote MCLE credits
- b. **Policies** – Chiedza Nziramasanga
 - The Policy Subcommittee has been making efforts to gather information on pro bono activity in different organizations (large firms, small firms, government agencies, etc.) and whether or not these firms need a pro bono policy
 - Small firms have reported more hours of pro bono activity
 - Angeline Thomas in contact with the Seattle Pro Bono Coordinators list serve to learn about different policies around pro bono work
 - The subcommittee is also looking at local and national pro bono initiatives to inform members how they can further participate in pro bono activity
 - Paul Okner asked the subcommittee to take a closer look at document review attorneys/ contract attorneys, as these attorneys are not typically engaging with pro bono. The subcommittee is working to find out why they are discouraged or not allowed to volunteer.
 - Kevin McGuire spoke with K&L Gates, it would be beneficial to provide more information to the firm about what other firms are doing to encourage a review of their current policies.
 - K&L Gates has a concern about labor laws and paying for overtime when it comes to document review attorneys and contract attorneys
 - Can this information help firms allow document reviews to volunteer on their own time?
 - Lindy Laurence informed the Committee that she has had a number of volunteers from Perkins-Coie that are contract attorneys that have gotten approval to do volunteer work
- c. **Barriers** – Paul Okner
 - Brendan Vandor will be looking into Emeritus Status
 - Liz Lee, a new member of the committee has also joined this subcommittee
- d. **ABA Survey** – Beth Leonard
 - Jennifer Small informed the committee that there has not been a huge response (only 2% of the member population)
 - The ABA has extended the deadline to Friday, March 17
 - The raw data will then be looked at and analyzed
 - The subcommittee will then report back to this committee, ATJ and others about the results/stats/correlations from this survey

3. Session Post-Goldmark Luncheon – Kevin McGuire

- Joy Williams informed that WSBA can provide a summary of this session

4. Updates Public Service/Pro Bono Specialist, Jennifer Small

- Lindy Laurence discussed the successful turnout from Lobby Day
- The ATJ Conference is coming up June 2-4 in Yakima. Registration is now open.
- Jennifer Small will send the State Plan, the deadline to provide feedback is April 17
- Jennifer Small defined the difference between reporting pro bono publico hours on licensing forms vs pro bono hours for credit with a QLSP
 - Pro bono publico hours include volunteering (not required to be a QLSP), and serving on a committee
 - Volunteers who provide 50 or more hours of pro bono publico hours are recognized and receive a certificate
- Recruitment for this committee ends 3/10/17
- April 13th in Bellingham

- Combining an event with WSBA’s Diversity Committee and MMP
- There will be an hour long free CLE about going to a paperless office
- Following the CLE there will be a Community Networking Event, partnered with WWL and Whatcom County Bar
 - This is an opportunity to meet with and network with attorneys in the area and inform members about the work of this committee

5. Announcements

- Kevin McGuire informed the committee that this meeting marks the halfway point
- Please send Kevin an individual email about how you feel about the work that this committee is doing, what can be improved, what is working, and feedback/suggestions about how the committee runs

Meeting adjourned at 12:50.

2016-17 Meeting Dates | All meetings @ WSBA, 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

November 10th	March 9th	July 13th
January 12th	May 11th	September 14th