

**PRO BONO AND PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Agenda**

**August 9th, 2022 1 – 2:30 p.m.**, or until all business is completed

**Remote Participant Information:**

Link to access the Zoom meeting:

<https://wsba.zoom.us/j/85282066460?pwd=cVRLbWdoNEsxVXJrL251YTRkQkdHdz09>

Zoom Conference Call Lines: **LOCAL OPTION:** (253) 215-8782 || **TOLL-FREE OPTION:** (888) 788-0099

Meeting ID: 852 8206 6460 || Passcode: 200331

*The Pro Bono and Public Service Committee serves WSBA members by communicating opportunities and eliminating barriers to providing pro bono services to communities that experience poverty and injustice.*

20 minutes	Welcome & Lunch <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lunch</li> <li>- Zoom group photo</li> </ul>	All		
<b>2 minutes</b>	<b>July Meeting Minutes</b>	<b>Michael Addams</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Pgs 2-3</b>
15 minutes	Subcommittee Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communications</li> <li>• Rules and Policy</li> <li>• CLE</li> </ul>	All	Report	
<b>10 minutes</b>	<b>Proposed Rule Change to APR 1(e)(8) - QLSP Eligibility</b>	<b>Deborah Perluss</b>	<b>Discussion &amp; Potential Action</b>	<b>Pgs 3-4</b>
5 minutes	BOG Liaison Updates	Matthew Dresden	Report	
3 minutes	ATJ Board Liaison Updates	Esperanza Borboa	Report	
2 minutes	Additional news/updates	All	Discussion	
30 minutes	Strategic Planning Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review subcommittee descriptions, scope, &amp; meeting times</li> <li>- Subcommittee structure, roles &amp; expectations</li> <li>- Implementation of community engagement plan</li> <li>- FY 23 transition, midyear retreat</li> </ul>	Bonnie Rosinbum Michael Addams	Discussion	

**Next meeting will be Tuesday, September 13th, 2022 1 – 2 p.m.**

**PRO BONO AND PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE**

**July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** Tacy Gillespie, Bonnie Rosinbum, Erin Fortney, Ritu Jain, David Weafer, Natalie Reber, Jacqui Merrill Martin, Thuy Nguyen

**WSBA staff:** Nicholas Mejía, Saleena Salango

**BOG Liaison:** Gov. Matthew Dresden

**Absent:** Deborah Perluss, Yuan Ting, Natalie Reber, Sandy García, Michael Adams

General discussion took place beginning 1:07 p.m. Meeting called to order at 1:30 p.m.

**Subcommittee Updates**

*Communications/ Technology Subcommittee* – Met on June 23<sup>rd</sup> to discuss next year’s goals starting in October. Ritu is going to be taking on the leadership of the Communications Subcommittee. Goals include maintaining and optimizing Pro bono Washington, publishing two articles per year, compiling a welcome guide for new members so that people have a clear understanding of what they are signing up to do and the work of the committee in general. Michael Addams is working on an article for the October issue of the Bar News that centers on public service. Erin Fortney recommended reaching out to an attorney that is involved with local politics in the Spokane area. Natalie suggested one of the goals was to reach out to people that are board members of organizations, etc., and suggested remaining apolitical in the article. *Rules and Policy Subcommittee* – No updates

*CLE Subcommittee* – No updates

*Strategic Planning Subcommittee* – The subcommittee met on June 27<sup>th</sup>, with members from each of the subcommittees. The subcommittee went through the draft community engagement plan and its proposals, deciding where in the process they are for each of the proposals. They are going to be doing a survey asking which projects members are interested in working on and are looking more into having members attend community events, working on a centralized mailing list, considering changes to the bylaws to have nonmembers participate in town halls and other events.

The Strategic Planning Subcommittee will meet twice a year. In the past the PBPS Committee had a longer mid-year meeting in April, but that did not occur this year, instead the next Strategic Planning meeting will immediately follow the full committee meeting on August 9<sup>th</sup>, from 2 – 2:30 p.m. Each subcommittee should come with a draft description of their subcommittee’s work for new members.

**Proposed Rule Change to APR 1(e)(8) – QLSP Eligibility**

No action taken; item moved to August meeting agenda.

# WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

## **August Meeting**

The committee will host the August meeting via Zoom. The meeting will be from 1 – 2:30 p.m., with meal vouchers for attendees. Since it will be online there will be some sort of food voucher that is sent out. Saleena will send out an update on the August meeting details. The committee would not be able to get an in-person quorum and it wouldn't be equitable to have a hybrid meeting due to the WSBA's tech capabilities. There was a proposed budget for the 2023 for the ATJ access to justice conference for travel.

From 2 – 2:30p.m. there will be a Strategic Planning session where members who participate can help define the scope of the work that the committee does and the goals they will be working towards in the upcoming session.

## **BOG Liaison Updates**

The next BOG meeting will be July 20-21 in Tacoma, Washington.

Matthew Dresden reported on the status of ETHOS, the Bar Structure Study. The WSBA will host 2-3 more sessions for members to provide stakeholder feedback. By the end of the process, the BOG will give the Washington State Supreme Court their recommendation. There will be a survey going out in the next few weeks asking the WSBA members what they think. Natalie stated that she has concerns about people stating they want the bar split into two for the purpose of a lower attorney fee. Matthew stated it was not clear that the dues will be lower if the WSBA splits into two entities. There was a question as to where things would fall under, such as CLEs which aid not only help fund the CLE program, but also puts money towards other things. Gov. Dresden stated that it is likely that if the WSBA splits into two, DEI work will likely fall under the mandatory bar. Whenever there are voluntary bars, the membership falls decently dramatically typically. There are distinctions between referrals and enabling people to find their own resources for attorneys. Saleena mentioned that there is something in the works to help members of the public to find attorneys, such as Utah's [licensedlawyer.org](https://www.licensedlawyer.org).

## **June Meeting Minutes**

Erin moved to approve, David seconded, unanimously voted to approve by all.

## **ATJ Board Liaison Updates**

Esperanza Borboa will be the new ATJ Board Liaison beginning next month.

Meeting adjourned at 2:01 p.m.



TO: Pro Bono and Public Service Committee (PBPSA)  
FROM: Rules and Policy Subcommittee  
DATE: June 6, 2022  
RE: Proposed change to APR 1 regarding the definition of a “Qualified Legal Services Provider”

**DISCUSSION / ACTION:** To approve the proposed rule change to APR 1(e)(8) and present for consideration to the Board of Governors.

(8) “Qualified legal services provider” means a not for profit legal services organization in Washington State or pro bono legal services program sponsored by a governmental entity in Washington state whose primary purpose is to provide legal services to low income clients.

#### **Rationale for Proposed Change**

APR 1(e)(C)(8) defines “qualified legal services provider (QLSP)” for all purposes under the General Court Rules, MCLE credits and the Rules of Professional Conduct. See GR 34, RPC 6.1 Comment [14]. APR 1 specifically defines a QLSP as a not for profit legal services organization ... “whose primary purpose is to provide legal services to low income clients,” (APR 1(e)(8)).

The WSBA itself and not the Supreme Court is the entity authorized to designate an organization as a QLSP. The WSBA website provides the criteria and process of how an entity can seek to become a QLSP as follows:

#### **Become a QLSP**

To become a Qualified Legal Service Provider, an organization must meet these five criteria:

- Must be a not-for-profit legal services organization whose primary purpose is to provide legal services to low-income clients, per APR 1(e)(8).
- Must have a financial screening mechanism in place to ensure clients are low-income.
- Must either provide malpractice insurance for volunteers or have a policy in place to require that all volunteers carry their own malpractice insurance.
- Ensure volunteers receive at least two hours of relevant training.
- Must be in Washington state or predominantly serve Washington state residents.

Programs meeting these criteria submit a one-page letter addressing how their organization qualifies to the WSBA’s Public Service Specialist.

## **Expansion of Eligibility**

The Office of the Attorney General operates an in-house pro bono program to provide legal services to indigent veterans. The volunteer attorneys include both staff of the AGO as well as some private attorneys. Currently, this program does not fit the definition of a QLSP. The AGO has asked that it be entitled to QLSP status. This would enable its volunteers to obtain CLE credit, as well as pro bono time credits, and allow waiver of the filing fee for state court proceedings for persons they represent.

The PBPSC Sub-committee on Rules and Policy recommends amending the definition of “QLSP” to include pro bono legal services programs sponsored by a governmental entity in Washington. The sub-committee recognizes that the AGO program provides a necessary service to indigent veterans in need of representation. As it expands access to justice by providing direct individualized representation on veteran specific matters, it is no different in mission or function than the existing pro bono of staffed legal aid programs. For this reason, the sub-committee sees no reason to exclude the AGO project (and others with similar goals and functions that may arise within other government entities) from the benefits enjoyed by the QLSPs under Washington rules.