

PRO BONO AND PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

February 2, 2021 – 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Present: Nick Larson, Michael Addams, Bonnie Rosinbum (Aslagson), Nancy Chupp, Erin Fortney, Jacqui Merrill Martin, Christine Kuglin, Althea Paulson, Naiomy DeLaRocha-Minckler, Natalie Reber, BOG

Liaison: Matthew Dresden

ATJ Board Liaison: Michelle Lucas WSBA Staff: Diana Singleton, Janice Pasion Allred

Meeting called to order at 1:01 PM

January Meeting Minutes

ACTION: Nick moved to approve minutes with no amendments. Althea Paulson seconded. Motion passed without objection.

Welcome Session

Nick Larson welcomed back Diana Singleton and thanked WSBA staff, Janice Pasion Allred and Tyler Washington for supporting the committee. Nick Larson welcomed and introduced the new member of the committee, Natalie Reber.

Natalie Reber's background is leading non-profit organizations and is currently in contract with FEMA, working on the side of municipalities and non-profits. Natalie's interest in this committee is to add perspective and voice related to regulations and policies around pro-bono work. Natalie would also help be the voice of encouragement for pro bono work and the need, not just in criminal justice but throughout all non-profits working in periphery of those issues.

Nick noted that the committee is looking for one more person and asks the group, should they know anyone interested in this work, to encourage them to apply on My WSBA. Applications will open up this spring and Diana will follow up on the exact date and will discuss recruitment in the next meeting. Nick requested for this to be added in the next meeting agenda.

Nick thanked Board of Governor liaison, Matthew Dresden for the commitment in attending these meetings. BOG liaison Matthew Dresden congratulated Natalie Reber into the committee. Nick welcomed back Michelle Lucas, liaison from ATJ Board and thanks her attendance, input, and ongoing support.

Workgroup Updates

Bonnie Rosinbum welcomed Natalie Reber and liaisons Michelle Lucas and Matthew Dresden. Bonnie provided a brief orientation about this committee and explained that the workgroups are a big bulk of the work, meeting once a month or so. As a committee, they meet once a month providing reports and updates. Bonnie asked Natalie that during these updates, to think about which workgroups sounds interesting and asked Natalie to sign up to at least one (or more). Bonnie added that the liaison updates is the other component of this committee in which Natalie can sign up for.

Rules/Policy: Althea Paulson shared that the workgroup is working on suggesting proposed amendment to the RPC 1.8E that prohibits lawyers to provide financial assistance to the client (other than litigation that will be reimbursed). They are looking into an exception called Humanitarian Exception for indigent

clients which that has been adopted by the ABA and all but 11 jurisdictions in the country. They will do a 50 state survey to look into the existing rules in different states. They will then prepare a memo to the BOG to explain the process and the need. Althea shared that in the ABA journal, they (someone from the ABA) intend to reach out to chief justices in all 50 state supreme courts. Has this happened in this state? How do we begin to ask that question?

Diana said that she can facilitate in reaching out to Chief Justice Gonzales and start a dialogue, or contact ABA for an update. Althea will email Diana. Althea shared that the workgroup can be ready in the next couple of months to present to the committee and asked Diana about the process.

Diana said that before presenting to the BOG, to run it by general counsel for analysis and collaborate with the BOG. Matthew Dresden agreed and added that it is best that this comes as fully formed.

Bonnie discussed about general outreach for the broader network of stakeholders, ATJ board, the VLP's, and other nonprofits and asked Diana about what process, procedure and coordination will look like.

Diana discussed about sequencing and the process. She said that she will check in with the Professional Ethics Committee for their input and also connect with the General Counsel, then circle back with the workgroup.

Nick gave recognition to the workgroup's rules accomplishment. Bonnie shared that the BOG met in January and the workgroup along with Pro Bono Council members presented their recent rules proposal: The comment in support of the Pro Bono Council's proposed changes to RPC 6.5, conflicts notice. Board of Governors approved and the comment will be submitted to the court in favor of that rule change.

CLE: Christine Anderson Rubin shared that the workgroup has put together the October Legal Lunch Box CLE. They are working on other pro bono related CLE's in cooperation with other groups in the next year. Christine Kuglin has put together a draft of a survey to send out to liaison groups and other connections to see what is most pertinent and needed. Christine A. attended a brainstorming group on DEI issues and are looking for areas to collaborate with other groups around DEI issues and pro bono needs. Christine A. shared that these are great opportunities for CLE's.

Christine K. collaborated with the communication workgroup on the survey and Nancy has written a great letter of introduction to the survey. Diana offered for the workgroup to use WSBA's survey monkey or google form accounts for the survey. Members of the workgroup agreed and will send the survey to Diana.

Bonnie explained the liaison process. Each committee member has at least one assignment with an outside group within the PBPSC and the larger ATJ community. The purpose is to have open communication, opportunities for collaborations, bouncing ideas, and help with organizing.

Communications: Nancy Chupp introduced the Communications Workgroup (to Natalie), its members, and how often they meet. Nancy shared that the committee works to identify channels of communication to (1) Convey the work of the committee to the broader bar community (2) Identify ways to connect justice partners and nonprofit groups to WSBA to highlight their work. Other work they do are Bar News articles, developing talking points, samples, suggestions, and draft emails for the committee and members. Nancy provided 3 highlights from their meeting last Friday.

1. All 3 workgroup members are liaisons to law schools. They will reach out to Seattle University, UW, Gonzaga, for possible coordination with the CLE or clinic to address veterans issues.
2. BAR News- they are actively working with Kirsten Abel, editor. Christine K. and Michael have worked with Tracy Flood, Loren Miller Bar Association for February issue on an article for Black History Month, focused on voter suppression issues in black community within WA and national. For April or May issue, same theme and will focus on Latino voters and issues with mismatched signatures. Molly Matters agreed to write this article.
3. They will send a communication to the committee this week, after collaborating with CLE members, the CLE Survey and a Deadline.

Technology: Nick shared that there will be an upcoming Technology Meeting. Nick discussed the website probonowa.org, a portal in which members can access opportunities. They are working (also, with other people outside of the committee, Paul Okner) to come up with content, direction, and substance. They are looking for volunteers to help move this forward. Diana added that this could be a joint committee opportunity (Communications and Technology). Diana shared that in this portal, the areas that need content are: Resources, FAQ's, and About Us and to look for Louisiana as an example. The Search function is currently in process to be improved this year. In the Chat, Michael Addams added that the Communications Workgroup would love to facilitate an article or ad when the site is ready.

Strategic Planning: Nick thanked everyone for their participation and input from the last Strategic Planning meeting. Nick discussed the purpose of this workgroup and its mission. Nick added that the workgroup wants to lay out the committee's goals, values, aspirations and priorities and how those should be handled. Moving forward, the workgroup is currently in discussion about how the committee is structured and looking for more people to be involved.

Liaison Updates :

Jacqui Merrill Martin shared the conversation with Carly Roberts from Tacoma Probono and mentioned that it would be helpful to have access to WSBA CLE's. Jacqui added that Paige mentioned about an existing QLSP access to CLE's and to draft an email (communications) for the liaisons to pass along to QSLPS to inform them of this access.

Diana Singleton added that in the October Bar News issue, Paige created a content outlining the benefits of doing pro bono work which includes Free CLE's.

Nancy shared that Cindy Yeung has left as the ATJ Director at Seattle University. Abby Goldy will replace this position. Nancy shared an SU fundraiser event on March 12 and informed that everyone is invited.

Naiomy DeLaRocha-Minckler shared that Blue Mountain Action Council pro bono services has teamed up with the hospital to provide vaccinations to homeless population and low income families. Vaccinations have started on January 22nd.

Bonnie will meet with Michael Terasaki,, Pro Bono Council Manager next week.

Diana shared that the ABA is organizing for states to sign on to an ABA Covid pro bono response which focuses on eviction defense. The pro bono chair has asked WSBA president and executive director if WA State will sign on. Both (President and ED) have reached out to this committee asking its input. Diana added that she reached out to Jim Bamberger, Michael Terasaki, and Edmond Winner and the response

(from Jim and Edmond) was they are unsure, considering that this a national PR but expressed that pro bono attorneys be managed on a local level. Diana asked the committee to ask their liaisons for their input.

Nick asked Diana to send the information regarding this ABA Covid response proposal to the list serve and to add this item in the next meeting agenda.

Updates/News

Bonnie shared the following events:

Mid-Year Meeting on April 6th, 2 hour meeting

ATJ Conference August 13th through 15th

Powerful Communities Project: Diana gave Christine Kuglin kudos for participating in the selection process. Diana shared that paige appreciated Christine's involvement and the selection has been made to 9 grantees. Christine shared that the process was great and that all have agreed on blind review, all with the same conclusion.

Bonnie and Nick will reach out to Natalie to find out which group(s) she would be interested in.

Naiomy shared that LCYCWA is hiring/seeking for a pro bono manager and added that the organization became a QLSP last year and now expanding this program. Naiomy provided the job link in the chat.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:00pm