

PRO BONO AND PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

January 5, 2021 – 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Present: Nick Larson, Yuan Ting, Michael Addams, Bonnie Aslagson, Nancy Chupp, Erin Fortney, Jacqui Merrill Martin, Christine Kuglin, Althea Paulson, Naiomy DeLaRocha-Minckler

BOG Liaison: Matthew Dresden

WSBA Staff: paige hardy

Meeting called to order at 1:01 pm.

December Meeting Minutes

Nancy noted attendance at the December meeting.

ACTION: Nick moved to approve minutes with amendment. Motion passed without objection.

Workgroup Updates

Rules/Policy: Bonnie shared that the RPC 6.5 proposal was considered by the CPE. The CPE voted in favor of generally approving the changes to the RPC 6.5, they did make some suggestions, but voted in favor. They did not comment on the substance, but mostly focused on the resolved drafted issues they raised last year. This is on the BOG agenda for January's meeting. Paige will share the BOG meeting information for the committee members that want to attend.

CLE: Christine K. shared that the CLE group has created an initial survey/questionnaire for potential CLE topics. These questions came from conversations through liaison relationships. The questionnaire is drafted and will be forthcoming. Questions included changes to guardianship laws, evictions, and family-focused content due to the financial implications of COVID. Christine will send out the draft to the committee for feedback and comments.

Communications: Nancy shared that the workgroup met in mid-December and spent time discussing things to include for future talking points. Right now, people are doing their initial outreach, but hoping to develop new talking points at their next meeting. People with updates should reach out to the Communications workgroup to discuss with their justice partners. Nancy also shared that Christine and Michael A. are working an article with Tracy Flood (from the Loren Miller Bar Association) about Jim Crow laws and voter suppression. Michael A. shared that a draft was submitted to the editor of NW Bar News. Tracy drafted the "current events" of voter suppression and Christine drafted the introduction in the article. The workgroup also pitched a topic on women's suffrage, but the editors were hesitant since they recently had similar content. They also pitched Latinx voter suppression and will look into working on that article. Christine shared that Michael provided historical context that was also used in the article.

Technology: Paige shared that Pro Bono Net is sending out a proposal about the changes they are making to the search filters. Nick shared that the Technology Workgroup should meet later this month.



Strategic Planning: Nick shared that there is a strategic planning meeting on January 21 at 1 pm. Paige will send out meeting invite. Bonnie shared that the mid-year planning will be heavily covered at this meeting. Bonnie invited feedback and suggestions from the committee members.

Liaison Updates

Nick is a liaison to the Access to Justice (ATJ) Board. The meetings are in depth and there are good meeting notes that are on the Alliance for Equal Justice website. Nick notifies the ATJ Board when PBPSC takes action on things.

Bonnie is a liaison to the Pro Bono Council and shared that the Pro Bono Council manager is Michael Terasaki. Bonnie has had a lot of opportunity to work with Michael on the RPC 6.5 issue. Bonnie also used the talking points to start a conversation about the liaison role and hoping to connect more formally. Bonnie is also a liaison to TCVLS—they just had their third staff attorney join on a one-year fellowship. This staff attorney will be doing work related to domestic violence and landlord-tenant law.

Nancy is the liaison to SU Law School, Nancy connected to Cindy Yeung (Director of the Access to Justice Institute). Identified some programs that the committee can possibly support: the SU Law incubator program (always looking for mentors to solo practitioners who are hanging their own shingle), October legal clinic (recruiting volunteer attorneys), Social Justice Mondays (speak to a law students about a topic). Cindy is also on the WSBA rural practice workgroup and will be thinking of ways that PBPSC can connect.

Christine K. shared there is some transition happening with the Spokane Volunteer Lawyers Program, but they identified the need for volunteer lawyers to provide legal assistance for legal clinics. They also identified need for training for changes to guardianship laws. Christine also connected with Huy Nguyen at UW Law School. There is a desire to get students involved in more professional activities. UW law has a pro bono honor society and they discussed ways to get law students involved. Another idea was to get law students to co-authors on articles that are published in the Bar News. Committee discussed possibly having informal liaison positions for law students. Committee also discussed inviting law students from any of the law schools to join future meetings. The three law student liaisons will coordinate a message to the law schools to invite law students.

Yuan is liaison to the Association of Corporate Counsel Washington. Yuan spoke with Christopher Graves and discussed: (1) A potential article that he wants to author for the WSBA Bar News. (2) The organization has monthly newsletters and PBPSC could author an article introducing the committee to its members. (Yuan will share this information when Yuan receives). (3) Christopher estimated that there are about 20 members in their organization that are interested in volunteering and providing pro bono services, many of them are doing so through ELAP since they have offices in Bellevue. However, wants to spread out pro bono services to rural areas of Washington. There is a possibility to use switch to remote platforms to be able to get coverage in these more rural areas. Wondering if these rural organization will continue to provide remote services post-COVID. (4) They want their organization to be listed on the probonowa.org website. They want to see if their organization can provide remote pro bono services via the website.

Bonnie noted that TCVLS serves Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Grays Harbor counties and intends to continue offering a hybrid model for legal clinics (in person and remote). IT would be great to have a pool of remote volunteers. Bonnie shared that Michael Terasaki is the best contact.

Naiomy is liaison to BMAC. No real updates, they are very busy due to COVID but also took some time off for the holidays.

Erin is liaison to the QLaw Foundation and has made contact and to schedule an introductory phone call.

Jacqui is liaison to Tacoma Pro Bono and Yakima VAS. Jacqui connected with Quinn Dalan from Yakima VAS, the Executive Director. They have a high volume of family law clients, but this is also a high burnout for family law attorneys. They are also hoping to offer hybrid model for legal consultations post-COVID. They have mentor attorneys who are available for assistance, if you are not a family law attorney. Jacqui will be added to their listserv and asked that we share any family law CLEs for their volunteer attorneys.

Jacqui connected with Carly Roberts from Tacoma Pro Bono and they have a call scheduled for tomorrow.

Michael is liaison to Gonzaga Law and OMVLA. Michael has a meeting with OMVLA next Thursday. Both roles will have some overlap between the Gonzaga Law's veterans wills clinic and OMVLA. Hoping to try and connect the two groups, as well as connecting with the other two law schools to expand veteran-related opportunities.

Kudos given by everyone to Nancy for talking points that were helpful.

Althea is liaison to King County Pro Bono Services and the Latina/o Bar Association for Washington.

Matthew shared that the at-large governor runoff election goes until 1/14 and that the January BOG meeting will be dealing with the RPC 6.5 issue.

Updates/News

Bonnie shared that the mid-year meeting is on April 6 (1:00-3:00 pm). This will be a two-hour meeting, instead of a one-hour meeting to dig in a little deeper. This will provide some time to think more big-picture about the committee. Committee members should attend strategic planning meeting if they want to help plan.

Paige shared ATJ Conference will be remote and takes place in August of this year. Historically, a member of the PBPSC has attended. Paige also shared that the Powerful Communities Project grant is due on January 11 and will share information to committee members to share with their entities.

Meeting adjourned at 2:01 pm.