

# WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

## Washington Young Lawyers Committee

Washington Young Lawyers Committee | Seattle, WA  
Saturday, September 15, 2018 | 10:00am – 2:30pm  
Meeting Minutes Final

**Present:** Kim Sandher, Ryan Griffee, Colin McMahon, Molly Winston, Andrew Van Winkle, Emily Ann Albrecht, Jordan Lee Couch

**Phone:** Mike Mocer, Chelsie Elliot, Jakob McGhie, Ian McCurdy

**Absent:** Zachary Davidson (excused), Nathan Beard (excused), Paul Webber, Alice Bagirova, Geoff Arnold, Andrew Pugsley, Derek Johnson (excused)

**Guests:** Alixanne Pinkerton, Brian Neuharth, Katherine Holm, Amber Rush, Esther Hyun, Joan Wyant

**WSBA Staff:** Julianne Unite, Tyler Washington, Destinee Evers, Terra Nevitt (phone)

**Board of Governors (BOG):** Rajeev Majumdar, Jean Kang (absent)

### **Introductions & Approval of the Minutes**

Kim called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. President-elect Rajeev Majumdar thanked the WYLC members for their dedication. On motion by Ryan and seconded by Jordan, the WYLC approved the July 28 meeting minutes.

### **Program Update**

Julianne provided several program updates. Any communications regarding mentorship, new members or health care should be directed to Julianne while Ana is on leave. Julianne requested that the WYLC assist with recruiting table coaches for the upcoming MentorLink Mixer: New Members. Julianne informed the WYLC that the 2018 fiscal year closes on Sept. 30 and expense reports should be submitted by Oct. 31.

Healthcare Exchange - Julianne reported that the target date for launching the Healthcare Exchange enrollment is Nov. 1, 2018. Andrew asked what the financial impact the health insurance exchange would cause the WSBA. Terra stated that there is no additional expense impact to WSBA resources outside of staff time.

### **BOG Updates**

Julianne shared that the WYLC is slated to be on the September BOG agenda. The final agenda be posted on WSBA.org. Questions regarding the BOG agenda and meeting should be directed to Jean, Russell, Julianne, or Terra.

### **September BOG Meeting Items**

Law School Transparency Report - Jordan shared that the WYLC will request permission from the BOG to declare its support of the Iowa YLD's Law School Transparency Report.

Bylaws – Jordan reported the WYLC will propose a Bylaw amendment that would change the selection process of the Young Lawyer At-Large BOG position. The amendment would allow the WYLC to choose the At-large governor and addresses the issues regarding lack of clarity on the nominations process.

WYLC members recently became aware of a different proposed Bylaw amendment that would change the selection process of all At-large BOG seats from appointments to an election by all members. Jordan suggested that the WYLC discuss whether they should amend their own proposal to specify that the At-large be voted on by the new and young lawyers of the state.

A discussion ensued about the possibility of altering the WYLC's proposed bylaw amendments. Mike shared his concerns that there is no mention of the young lawyer or diversity requirement in the proposed amendments and that the eligibility of the At-large position could be open to interpretation.

Ryan suggested to draft proposed language for the BOG to insert into the amendment that would clarify the eligibility requirements for the At-Large position. Mike suggested to strike WYLC's current amendment proposal and alter it to require that the At-large positions be elected by the constituency the At-large position represents, but noted it would be hard to define the constituency for the diversity seats. Jordan suggested limiting the WYLC's motion to be specific to new and young lawyers.

Terra clarified the amendment process and that the WYLC's proposal is up for first reading at the next BOG meeting and no action will be taken on it.

Ryan moved that the WYLC maintains their current proposal, but give Jordan the authority to speak on behalf of the WYLC on any other bylaw amendments discussed at the BOG meeting, specifically that the Young Lawyer At-large position should be voted on by the new and young lawyers and that the WYLC supports having diversity requirements for the At-large position in the Bylaws. Mike seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Julianne encouraged all WYLC members to attend the September BOG meeting and shared that a call-in option will be available.

### **Practice Management Assistance Program**

Destinee, Practice Management Advisor, presented an overview of WSBA's Practice Management Assistance (PMA) program, a free member benefit. Destinee shared that she provides consultations and training on how to manage a law practice. Destinee shared several PMA program updates including new practice management discounts, lending library upgrades, and upcoming updated practice management guides. Destinee asked that the WYLC assist with raising awareness of the resources PMA offers to new members.

### **ABA Updates**

Scholarship Recipients Updates - Amber and Esther provided a report from the ABA annual meeting in Chicago. The ABA passed a resolution which increases the amount of credits that can be earned through distance learning to one third of student's total credits and a resolution that standardizes law libraries. Amber shared the ABA's Center for Innovation provides a fellowship for those who would like improve the legal system and access to justice

District Representative Updates - Emily shared that the scholarship amounts have changed for FY19. There will be one \$250 scholarship for the midyear ABA meeting and two \$225 scholarships for the annual ABA meeting.

### **Subcommittee Updates**

#### FY18 Report Outs

- Debt and New Lawyer Benefits – Colin shared the financial focus seminar had a 25 percent increase in participation this year compared to last year.
- RRR – Ryan shared that Oregon is still interested in hosting a regional summit and having scheduling it in Spring 2019. Ryan suggested that in the future, the WYLC should reach out to the Idaho Bar Association and host the summit in Spokane or Vancouver, BC. He encouraged the WYLC to think about other areas where they can foster and exchange ideas. Jordan suggested that RRR should focus on Access to Justice and Ryan shared his concern that the focus for rural issues could be lost in a few years if there is a name change. The next steps are to identify access to justice gaps where there are limited attorneys available, and to disseminate information to local law school and stakeholders.
- Outreach – Ryan suggested that after future committee meetings, the WYLC should visit local businesses and organizations and use it as an opportunity to learn about communities outside Seattle and the issues that they face.
- Award - Emily shared that there were five recipients of Public Service Award and there will be an article in the November *NWLawyer* that highlights these recipients.

FY19 Subcommittee Chairs - Kim discussed subcommittee chair responsibilities and asked for chair volunteers for FY19. The FY19 Subcommittee Chairs are as follows:

- Outreach - Colin
- Debt - Andrew
- Awards - Emily
- RRR/ATJ - Jordan
- Bylaw – Mike
- ABA - Ben

Julianne suggested that new chairs create proposed meeting dates to assist with recruiting subcommittee members and set expectations. Julianne notes that subcommittee chair responsibilities have changed. Subcommittee chairs will create and set the agenda and be expected to adhere to WSBA's open meeting policies, which includes taking meeting minutes or delegating the minute-taking, if applicable..

ABA Regional Summit Subgrant - Subgrant is for the amount of \$3,000 that could be put towards the regional summit with Oregon. RRR/ATJ subcommittee will submit an application due Oct.31

### **Generative Discussion: LLLT, LPOs and Public Involvement with WYLC**

The WYLC discussed ways to involve LLLT, LPOs, and the public with the WYLC and generally agreed that there should be an effort in reaching out to these groups. Jordan shared his belief that LLLT/LPOs are a part of the WYLC's membership and that the WYLC consider adding a public member. Mike stated that

LLLTs have specific needs as new members and Jordan stated that new and young lawyers face similar issues. Jordan suggested inviting LLLT/LPOs and the public to WYLC meetings. Ryan stated that many local organizations with a commitment to access to justice issues have leadership that are not members and they could be invited to meetings when appropriate. Jordan inquired what the process is to add a LLLT/LPO or public member to WYLC. Julianne stated that first step is a Bylaw change to the committee name and definition of young lawyer to be inclusive of all members. Ryan noted that the LLLT population is very small, and statistically the representation would be large. Julianne will reach out to LLLT/LPO committee staff liaison to see if there is an interest in meeting with WYLC.

### **Representative Reports**

Kim asked that district representatives report on their accomplishments for FY18.

- Chelsie – Served on the Debt Subcommittee, and is currently working with Destinee on PMA disaster planning guide. Meeting space in Vancouver and social, with an individual in the community now more involved.
- Emily - Involved with KCBA events and served on Awards Subcommittee.
- Ian - Created a Facebook page for Whatcom County Young Lawyers.
- Jordan - Serves on the Tacoma-Pierce County Bar Association's Young Lawyer Board.
- Molly – Serves as a trustee of Spokane County Bar Association YLD. Facilitated monthly mentoring events and a CLE that provided new and young lawyers an intro to the court. Helped with BOG At-large Young Lawyer nominations and had a good experience networking with the BOG in Vancouver.
- Andrew - Served on Bylaws Subcommittee. Focused on local and volunteer engagement.
- Colin - Served on Debt Subcommittee and ran for state legislature. He is currently working on a judicial campaign in Snohomish County.

### **Recognition of Outgoing Members**

Mike recognized members rolling off the committee and thanked them for their involvement.

### **1:38 p.m. Adjourn**

On motion by Jordan and seconded by Colin, the WYLC unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting.