**DEI Council Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, June 12, 2023 from 12:00 noon - 1:30 p.m.**

*The DEI Council advances diversity, equity, and inclusion and addresses the problems of bias, systemic inequities and underrepresentation in the legal profession and legal system.*

**Member Attendees:** Raina Wagner, Sunitha Anjilvel, Alec Stephens, Matthew Dresden, Mia Little, Mike Rhodes, Noelle Chung, SaNni Lemonidis, Sharon Sakamoto

**WSBA Staff:** Diana Singleton, Nicholas Mejía, Saleena Salango

**Guests:** Immediate Past President Brian Tollefson

**April/May Meeting Minutes**

Sharon moved to approve the minutes with Alec Stephens seconding. Minutes approved unanimously.

**BOG Relationship with MBAs and Goal-Planning**

WSBA Gov. Sunitha Anjilvel started off the conversation mentioning they have met with President Clark and President Elect Hunter Abell. One question that remained was, “what can they do to be proactive?” So far President Clark has sent a letter to the MBAs responding to their feedback to the BOG.

There will be a DEI training at the next BOG meeting. The training itself will be a closed session but there will be a report of what occurred in the public meeting. Gov. Anjilvel mentioned one of the goals is the DEI commitments are institutionalized. She added she would like for a policy to be put in place so there is yearslong commitments. Saleena mentioned the BOG will be starting in an area of mistrust, adding it can be important to be transparent about how members are showing up and “what hat they are wearing”, whether that be as a member of the DEI Council or as an MBA member. Additionally, she reminded members of the DEI Council they have a budget where they can attend MBA meetings and events.

Sharon asked if any BOG members were able to attend MBA meetings as well using existing budgets. Diana confirmed that there was funding to attend MBA events, adding there is a DEI calendar that is proactively being updated. WSBA Gov. Alec Stephens stated his health and safety concerns relating to his attendance of in person events.

**MCLE Board’s Request for Input re: Proposal for APR 11**

The MCLE board is choosing to take feedback and input from different entities but there may not be actionable items. Gov. Stephens mentioned the reduced number may be a concern. The proposal is from 6 to 8, 5 general and 3 specialized ethics MCLEs. There is a fair amount of pushback related to making the ethics credits because it limits the type of things that can be discussed if they all must tie back to ethics. The question for the council remains is, would the DEI council like to weigh in on the matter or not.

The current request is a preliminary request, and they are requesting potential input by Wednesday June 15th. The MCLE Board will likely send the request for input out again for a second round of input, after which it will be sent to the Supreme Court

Gov. Anjilvel mentioned it may be critical to look at matters with an equity-based framework when matters come to the DEI council. Miryam mentioned she is afraid the bifurcation effort may dilute the effort to stay up to date because the credit will be a single credit every three years. Raina asked if councilmembers could make comments as themselves and/or a member of the DEI council. The council agreed the period for response was too short and would come back to it at a later date.

**Follow Up to Centering Community Discussion**

Saleena started the conversation around the creation of a list of organizations and communities that could be centered. Two questions posed are: “are there opportunities to create leadership roles?”, and “are there groups the DEI Council wants to be more collaborative with?”.

Gov. Anjilvel invited all members of the council to remain informed about what the D&I plan committee is doing and to participate in the workgroup. Saleena mentioned part of the plan will increase trust within the legal profession, mentioning the committee intends to incorporate engaging with the public into the framework. Miryam suggested that a contractor be considered to help develop the plan.

**DEI Council New Member Update**

Raina mentioned the DEI council applications were opened and the review process will occur soon. There were 18 applications with the anticipation of the 19th to be returned shortly. There are 4 slots that will be open for new members. The BOG at large candidates were forwarded, and the election has occurred, resulting in an upcoming runoff.

**Membership Demographic Survey Update**

Ben Kim Garvey is working to finalize his survey. The scheduled launch may be as soon as next week but may be delayed as they may need additional materials.

**Pipeline to Profession Workgroup Update**

Mia gave a brief update, stating the workgroup is working to get volunteers for the ARC reception. The ARC reception will be July 20th from 5-7 pm. Members were encouraged to participate if they were able to. She also mentioned she, Diana, and Nicholas met with the New York Bar Association and collected more information relating to various pipeline models and events they employ.

**DEI Plan Subcommittee Update**

Miryam gave a brief update stating the committee is looking into bringing in an individual who will serve as a project manager to ensure the plan is updated and enacted in a timely and comprehensive manner. They anticipate there be interviews for the position by August and put the recommendation forward, where the council would have to ratify the suggestion.

**Announcements**

There will be a year end retreat will occur on September 16th and requested members place a hold on their calendar for that. Gov. Stephens mentioned it will be Rosh Hashanah and to be mindful of that.

The ATJ conference will be held September 28th through the 30th and will be held in a hybrid fashion. Members were invited to join the conference and register.

Sunitha mentioned the ABA is hosting an event around DEI, stating she and President Clark will be participating as contributors/panelists. It will be held June 20th at 5:00 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned 1:35 p.m.