



**Diversity Committee Minutes**

July 18<sup>th</sup>  
12 – 1:30 pm  
Conference Call

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The Washington State Bar Association's Diversity Committee is dedicated to implementing WSBA's Diversity and Inclusion Plan. The work of the committee promotes historically underrepresented groups to enter and stay in the profession of law. The Diversity Committee does this through collaborative relationships and community building activities which highlight the numerous societal benefits of a diverse law profession.

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In Attendance: Jennifer Lamari, Mubarak Abdur Raheem, Jennifer Cruz, Lionel Greaves, Allison Ross, Stephanie Anderson, Ailene Limric, Roger Hillman, Robert King, Oscar Chaves, Gov. Rajeev Majumdar, Ailene Limric, Laura Wulf

Unable to Attend: Carrie Blackwood, Gov. Jean Kang, Navjot Kaur, Gov. Alec Stephens, Gov. James Doane, Linda Fang

Staff: Dana Barnett, Tyler Washington

**Call to Order, Welcome, Review and Approval of Minutes**– Dana Barnett, Diversity and Inclusion Specialist

June minutes were approved unanimously pending Lionel's review.

The committee reviewed the decisions and discussions of the June meeting:

- The committee will put forward a letter that states their support of Oregon Bar. Carrie, Ailene and Gov. Stephens will draft this letter and submit it to the BOG for approval.
- Past committee members are encouraged to attend the upcoming October orientation. Ailene stated that past committee members are also encouraged to stay involved in events and activities that the WDC supports.
- Dana shared that Train the Trainers will occur during the March committee meeting.
- A discussion ensued about the possibility of the WDC nominating a local hero. Gov. Majumdar suggested that the committee should draft a letter requesting that the BOG allow the committee to completely takeover this award. Ailene to connect with Gov. Stephens to draft this letter.
- The committee discussed collaborating with Washington Women Lawyers on a proposal that would create a diversity and inclusion MCLE requirement. Oscar suggested seeking additional support from more MBAs. Laura and Allison will meet with WWL to coordinate the effort. Gov. Majumdar noted that the formal letter should contain specific language for the proposed change that can be voted on and that the committee should reach out to the BOG before the letter is presented to them. Oscar stated

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that it would be helpful for the committee to have training on how to have difficult conversations for any pushback.

### **BOG Update-** Gov. Rajeev Majumdar

Gov. Majumdar provided an update for May and June BOG Meeting. The board approved bylaw amendments that shift several responsibilities from the WSBA president to the BOG. A workgroup was approved that will examine eligibility and selection criteria for the President-Elect position. At the June special meeting Carla Higginson was elected as Governor from District 2. Gov. Majumdar shared that he plans on staying on the committee as BOG President- Elect.

### **Project Updates – Dana Barnett**

Letter about Oregon Bar / Specialty Bars: Ailene shared that herself, Gov. Stephens and Carrie have been working on a draft. The subcommittee will meet with Oregon Bar's Diversity and Inclusion Director. After the letter is completed it will be forwarded to the BOG for comment. Filipino National Bar has issued a statement of support for the Oregon Bar. Dana will forward the statement to the committee members.

Community Networking Events: Dana provided an update of the Port Townsend CNE. The event was well-received. Many attendees were from Jefferson county and surrounding areas. LBAW and WWL were partners for this event.

The ATJ board staff liaison has asked to partner with Diversity programs for a networking event. The Equity and Justice Mixer will take place on September 20<sup>th</sup> in Walla Walla. Dana is currently soliciting MBA partnerships. Robert King to attend.

ARC Reception: Dana shared that there was positive feedback for the ARC reception. Jennifer, Ailene, Lionel, Jean, and Stephanie were in attendance. Stephanie shared that Judge Whitener and students were inspiring.

Judge Pro Tem Scholarship Subcommittee: Lionel shared that the subcommittee will meet on July 23<sup>rd</sup> to select scholarship recipients. 15 scholarships are available and there were a total of 22 applicants. This year was the pilot program and in the future the Diversity committee will be tasked with selecting scholarship recipients.

Legal Lunchbox: Dana shared that the upcoming September Legal Lunchbox will cover adaptive technologies for law firms and is in partnership with WADA.

WADA Annual Event and CLE: Dana shared that the annual event and program is scheduled for October 24<sup>th</sup>. Dana invited the committee members to follow up with her if they are wish to be part of the event.

### **MBA Updates and Reports – Dana Barnett and committee members with connections to MBAs**

- Lionel shared that Loren Miller Bar Founder's Day Picnic is tentatively set for August 25<sup>th</sup>. Lionel will share finalized details with WSBA staff to be posted in the diversity announcements. Dana recommended that Lionel share the event with the MBA List Serve.
- Ailene shared that FLOW is planning a midyear summit with Nation Filipino America Association during the weekend of July 27<sup>th</sup>. FLOW will host a booth at Seafair and committee members are invited to join. FLOW is also planning more networking events and will be celebrating their 10 year anniversary in October.

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- Dana shared that she is currently scheduling summer MBA meeting. WADA and KABA have signed up. Dana invites committee members to attend these meeting and will follow-up with a survey asking what MBAs committee members have a relationship to and which MBAs they would like to connect with.
- The committee discussed at the June meeting to invite MBA's to committee meeting to provide updates. MBA have also been receptive to having the committee members attend their board meetings. An informal mixer is scheduled on August 2<sup>nd</sup> between LBAW and the Diversity Committee. Tyler will send an invite to all committee members.

### **Meeting Dates for FY19 – Tyler Washington**

Tyler will send out FY 19 committee dates

**Next Meeting: WSBA Office, Saturday, September 15, 10 AM – 3 PM**

**If you need special accommodations contact [diversity@wsba.org](mailto:diversity@wsba.org)**