

LGBT Law Section Meeting – January 18, 2022

Meeting Called to Order: 4:05 PM

Meeting Adjourned: 4:31 PM.

Present: Kelsey Kittleson, Sierra Ogasawara, Brent Williams Ruth, Nic Doherty, Peder Punsalan-Teigan, Johnathan McCoy, Samantha Gouveia, Carolyn MacGregor, Megan Dawson, Rachel da Silva

Absent: Dana O'Day-Senior, Corrine Smith, Jesse Taylor, Betsy Crumb, Amy Phillips, Eleen Trang, Dennis Cronin, Catherine Hardison, Justin Bingham, Mike Ryan, Kenneth Wells

Quorum: Yes

Approval of Agenda: N/A

Approval of Minutes: N/A, postponed to March 2022 meeting

Business From Previous Meeting:

N/A

New Business:

1. Treasurer's Update: Jonathan McCoy met with Carolyn MacGregor to discuss fiscal issues, mostly around reimbursement, and will get a report mailed out.
2. CLE Committee Update: The end of the year CLE went well. 23 people attended, 25 were signed up. The majority of attendees were non-section members, including people from a personal injury firm. The CLE committee was happy with the results. During the CLE, the speakers recapped and followed up on the Arlene's Flowers resolution. The next planned CLE is a mini-CLE. The topic and date need fleshing out, but will most likely be in March or April, 2022. The CLE committee will meet to plan prior to 6 weeks before the hoped for date.
3. BOG Update: Last Thursday/Friday a BOG meeting focused on diversity requirements put in place by the Washington Supreme Court occurred. Denise Diskin and Dana Savage spoke on the topics of diversity, equality and inclusion.

Meanwhile, ETHOS, a plan to have eight full-day meetings is moving between now and mid-August is moving forward. Attendees will be able to ask questions of the BOG and provide feedback and commentary whether the bar should remain integrated.

Relatedly, an issue has arisen involving some volunteers from the WSBA being perceived as bullies off the record, leading to some people not being comfortable opposing integration.

Additionally, 93% of people who responded to the customer satisfaction style survey of Bar members are not involved with the Bar outside of their own practice; they don't volunteer and are not members of any sections. They have questions regarding bar due costs. ETHOS meetings will be a good venue to allow these questions to be addressed.

The BOG needs public comments on the issue of integration, and will be focusing on the three questions presented by Chief Justice Gonzalez: What is best for the public? What is best for members? What is best for historically underrepresented individuals?

In the meantime, the bar is going to continue to operate as usual; if the section has any laws or bills they are tracking they should notify the BOG after doing a GR12 analysis, and let them know the results of that analysis, and open the issue of involvement to the BOG for review. The issues don't need to be strictly about rules governing the practice of law, as long as they are GR12 compliant.

4. Section Spotlight: Peder Punsalan-Teigan drafted answers to the questions and sent them by email looking for thoughts, comments and additions. The final draft will be sent for review after revisions are made (hopefully by January 21, 2022). If someone wants to write a more detailed article about the section, they are welcome to do so.
5. Megan Dawson provided an update on the Diversity Committee, which is putting together comments on the proposed rules amending RPC 8.4 and Court Rule 9 – whether discriminating against someone based on gender identity or sexual orientation should be added into their language. The Committee is hoping to draft proposed language by February 14, 2022 and is open to comment.

This section may want some input and to review the proposed changes. No draft work needs to be done on our part and the Committee will handle it.

6. Elections are coming up and Kelsey Kittleson will have a report on the 2022 elections next month. We need to vote on the chair-elect to be chair. There are also four BOG positions opening up, including at large positions, and for the 2nd, 4th, 9th, and 10th congressional districts. Geographic and demographic diversity are desirable for those positions. The deadline for at-large position is April 15th, and February 15th for congressional district positions.

Minutes Submitted by: Samantha Gouveia

Minutes Approved by: