**DEI Council Retreat Minutes**

**May 13, 2023 – 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 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, WSBA Gov. Sunitha Anjilvel, Miryam Gordon, Sharon Sakamoto, Mike Rhodes, Laine Ellison, Noelle Chung, Mia Scavella Little, SaNni Lemonidis

**WSBA Staff:** Diana Singleton, Saleena Salango, Terra Nevitt

**Guests:** Hunter Abell

Retreat was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

**Welcome and Check-In**Raina and Sunitha welcomed everyone and went over the retreat goals which include: continue to build relationships with each other; learn about the President and President-Elect’s vision for DEI at WSBA; engage in learning about how we can center underrepresented and marginalized people in the

DEI Council work; learn about best practices for a statewide planning process; and discuss and decide on next steps for the DEI Plan planning process. We spent a brief time checking in with each other.

**President’s Perspective**  
Sunitha and Raina welcomed President-Elect Hunter Abell who shared comments from President Dan Clark and his own. Hunter shared that DEI is a priority for both him and Dan. Hunter shared that he plans to focus on the public during his presidency, working to build trust and confidence.

**Training**   
Saleena presented a training on working with communities in a way that centers them and led a discussion on where the council is on the continuum of community engagement and how we can move towards inclusion. The council expressed how valuable the training was and requested to continue to learn and plan together.

**DEI Plan Discussion**Terra shared about her experience working with ATJ Board and Alliance for Equal Justice and shared about the approach and challenges they experienced. The council discussed how to learn from that experience and what they can do for the DEI plan planning process. It was suggested to include others in the process besides council member; others could include people from the Joint Minority Mentorship Program, Minority and Justice Commission, Initiative for Diversity, ATJ Board’s Community Advisory Panel, and community-based organizations. Council members discussed that we should start with listening sessions and think of the new DEI plan as a living, breathing document and recognize that the plan is for the public and the members.