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Washington State Bar Association

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COUNCIL ON PUBLIC DEFENSE  
JULY 22, 2022, 1:00PM– 3:30PM VIRTUAL/VIDEOCONFERENCE  
MINUTES

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**CPD voting members:** Travis Stearns (Chair), Jason Schwarz (Vice-Chair), Abraham Ritter, Arian Noma, Christie Hedman, Jonathan Nomamiukor, Rachel Cortez, Rebecca Stith, Christopher Swaby, Anita Khandwelwal, Larry Jefferson, Maialisa Vanyo, Judge Drew Henke, Louis Frantz

**CPD Emeritus members (non-voting members):** Bob Boruchowitz, Ann Christian

**WSBA Staff:** Bonnie Sterken

**Guests:** Nicole Dodge, Sophia Byrd McSherry, Barbara Harris, Shoshana Keho-Ehlers, Geoffrey Hulse

**Absent:** Brenda Williams, Judge Patricia Fassett, Jason Bragg, Matt Anderson, Justice Sheryl Gordon McCloud, Leandra Craft, Mohammad Hamoudi, Eileen Farley, Paul Holland

**Minutes:** The June minutes were approved with a few typo corrections.

**Office of Public Defense Update:** Larry Jefferson reported that on July 11 they hosted Public Defense Day in person and virtually. It was a time to talk about the youth access to counsel program, one of the first of its kind. They shared about how the program works including some of the successes and challenges. The Seattle Clemency Project was in attendance and representatives spoke, including an individual who was released due to the Blake decision and is now doing advocacy work. The ABC Law Group also attended and described what they are doing around the state and heard stories from folks who have been impacted by the legal system.

Larry also shared that the advisory committee for OPD met yesterday and discussed the budget. Larry also shared that he has been approached about some legal clinics with law schools and is exploring the possibility. He invited input from the Council on setting up this type of partnership.

Sophia Byrd McSherry requested that OPD to present their budget request to the CPD in September and then vote on a letter of support no later than the October CPD meeting to send to the BOG in November.

**Washington Defender Association Update:** Christie Hedman reported that WDA is planning the CLE programming for the remainder of the year. They are launching their leadership training again and would like to partner with others on that. They have hired for the Redemption Project including a community outreach specialist and others to work on trainings and resentencing. They are contracting with a communications firm to help WDA create messaging to grow the programs. They also have a new felony resource attorney in Eastern Washington. Christie is working to support these new attorneys to highlight their experience and qualifications. The Council had a discussion.

**Race Equity Training:** Barbara Harris led the Council through a Race Equity Training that covered bias, stereotypes, microaggressions and their impacts on legal system. The Council split into breakout rooms to discuss the learnings from the training and at the end of the meeting the Council took a few moments to debrief. The Council expressed interest in holding more trainings and the Race Equity Committee encouraged more folks to join the planning.

The meeting adjourned 3:32pm