

**PRO BONO AND PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
**December 1, 2020 – 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.**

Present: Mike Addams, Christine Kuglin, Nick Larson, Erin Fortney, Yuan Ting, Bonnie Aslagson, Sandy Garcia, Jacqui Merrill Martin, Naiomy DeLaRocha-Minckler, Nancy Chupp  
WSBA BOG Liaison: Governor Matthew Dresden  
WSBA Staff: Paige Hardy

Meeting called to order at 1:02 PM

**November Meeting Minutes**

**ACTION:** Nick moved to approve meeting minutes, seconded by Christine K. Motion carries unanimously.

**Workgroup Updates**

*Rules/Policy Workgroup:* Bonnie shared that the workgroup is currently focused on update RPC 1.8, about humanitarian/financial support to clients. The workgroup is also focusing on pushing the Pro Bono Council's proposed comment to RPC 6.5. Paige and Bonnie met with members of WSBA's Committee on Professional Ethics (CPE). The goal is to put the committee's proposed comment in support before the Board of Governors (BOG) for first read with possible action in January. The hope is that CPE has a chance to review the proposal and submit feedback. Paige shared that oftentimes, when a proposed change to a RPC goes before the BOG, they send the proposal to CPE for review and recommendation. In an effort to minimize the back and forth, the workgroup has reached out to CPE in advance of the BOG meeting to avoid triangulation and get the process started sooner.

*CLE Workgroup:* Erin shared that the workgroup discussed surveying the various QLSPs to identify potential topics, recognizing that family law is always a popular topic. The workgroup also discussed something that responds to a new COVID relief bill, if one comes up. As well as a rapid response for any new immigration changes under the new administration. Christine K. also shared COVID-related CLES such as advanced healthcare directives, especially for frontline workers. Nick shared that last year, the liaisons did send out a survey related to CLE needs to their entities. This would be a good project for January then.

*Communications Workgroup:* Nancy shared that the workgroup met to discuss the various WSBA communications channels, as well as working through the liaison talking points (attached to meeting materials). The talking points is just suggested language to send out to the entity, as well as initial talking points for first phone call. Communications workgroup will meet monthly and draft another sample script for committee members to share with their entities. Members are encouraged to reach out to the communications workgroup for ideas. The other conversation they had was discussing the upcoming themes for the WSBA magazine, the Bar News. Upcoming themes of the magazine include Black History month, effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, transitioning your practice. Mike A. shared that he has spoken



with Kirsten Abel, the magazine editor. They are exploring the topic of voter suppression in Washington and will be reaching out to the Loren Miller Bar Association and Civil Rights Section, to try a co-write an article. Christine K. shared that the workgroup is very interested in feedback from the rest of the Committee. Jacqui shared one angle includes voter suppression for people currently and formerly incarcerated.

*Technology Workgroup:* Nick shared that the next step is to plan a meeting soon. Naiomy shared that the workgroup is looking for feedback from the committee for content to update. People with ideas for content should email Naiomy and Nick. Opportunities to work with the Communications workgroup to reach out to QLSPs to update their content and then eventually with the broader WSBA membership for potential pro bono volunteers. Jacqui shared an idea that one role for liaisons can be to make sure the organization's listings are up-to-date on the webpage.

*Strategic Planning Workgroup:* Nick shared that the workgroup will be having a call later this month to discuss goals for the remainder of the year. Committee members are invited to attend.

### **Liaison Updates**

Nick noted that the goal is to reach out to your entity before the first of the New Year and getting the initial contact made is important to start building a relationship.

Nick shared that he attended the most recent ATJ Board meeting with new leadership. The staff liaison to that group is Diana Singleton. They are dealing with state/federal budgets for pro bono work, access to justice issues, like immigration. Their meeting minutes are posted on their website and very extensive. They supported this committee's Emeritus issue. Nick will be bringing up RPC 1.8 with them.

Naiomy has been liaising with the Blue Mountain Action Council (BMAC)—they have been incredibly swamped and are trying to get as much support for the community. Naiomy mentioned that any survey should be very short given their time constraints.

Bonnie shared that Thurston County Volunteer Legal Services (TCVLS) is similarly swamped. TCVLS also recently lost their program coordinator with a position at the Washington State Human Rights Commission. Legal clinics are being provided remotely. TCVLS received some CARES Act and state funding focusing on COVID-related family safety issues and were able to hire a temporary staff attorney.

Governor Dresden shared that the BOG is having a special election for the at-large governor position. The election is open until December 15, 2020.

### **OMVLA Update**

Bonnie and Mike A. met with two people from the Office of Military & Veterans Legal Aid (OMVLA—an office within the AGO). Bonnie shared that Joyce Bruce recently took over that position in August of this year. OMVLA connects active duty and veterans to low bono and pro bono legal aid lawyers for direct representation for full range of civil legal issues. Want to collaborate with PBPS on trainings and

communications to help OMVLA recruit and train volunteers. In the early stages of exploring a legal clinic with the law schools. Discussed insurance coverage.

Mike A. shared that he is in contact with Gonzaga U Law School and will be raising this with them.

Jacqui asked if there is criteria for low bono. Bonnie shared that moderate means generally means people that are between 200-400% of the Federal Poverty Line. Mike A. also shared that low bono services often includes sliding scale payment services and unbundled services.

### **Additional Updates/News**

Erin shared that today is Giving Tuesday.

Paige shared that they are leaving.

Next meeting is January 5, 2021.

Meeting adjourned at 1:57 PM.