



Alternative Dispute Resolution Section

Washington State Bar Association

1325 Fourth Ave., Ste. 600
Seattle, WA 98101-2539

2016-2017 Executive Committee

Adrienne Keith Wills, Chair
Courtney Kaylor, Chair-Elect
Craig Beles, Past Chair
Courtland Shafer, Treasurer
Joanna Roth, Secretary

Hon. Paris K. Kallas
Paul McVicker
Lish Whitson
Sasha Philip
Mel Simburg
Alan Alhadeff

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

October 21, 2016

12:00 – 1:30pm

1. **Roll Call** – Meeting called to order at 12:05.

- a. In-Person: Adrienne Keith, Mel Simburg, Paul McVicker, Julianne Unite, Joanna Roth, Sasha Philip.
- b. Via Phone: Craig Beles, Lish Whitson, Alan Alhadeff.

2. **Update from Julianne Unite:**

- a. The 2017 fiscal year began 10/1/16. Expense reimbursement requests need to be submitted immediately.
- b. WSBA conference space is not available for the Nov 18, March 17, April 21 and May 19 meetings. We can reserve other spaces through the WSBA at other UNICO properties, but no bat phone would be available.
- c. Agreement to hold November meeting, even though it is immediately following the retreat. Mel and Paul have conference space available close to downtown, which would allow us to have a bat phone. Adrienne will notify us of the alternate meeting space for the dates.
- d. We have a tentative meeting space at Mel's office for November 18.
- e. The annual section report was due September 30; Craig has arranged to submit it early next week.

3. **Meeting Minutes:**

- a. Approved unanimously.

4. **Financial Report (Treasurer – Courtland Shafer):**

- a. Financials through August positive because funds spent on the FY 2017 retreat not accounted within the FY 2016 financials. We have a balance of about 24K in our bank account.

5. **Chair Updates (Craig Beles, Adrienne Keith Wills, Courtney Kaylor):**

- a. Adrienne provided an update on the upcoming section leaders meeting. Mel, Alan and Adrienne met together, and also met with Paula Littlewood and Robin Hayes, Paris Erickson, and Tara Nevin. Mel, Alan and/or Adrienne will also contact other section leaders in advance of the next meeting. We will support the organically flowing dialogue. Mel added that a number of section leaders were taken by

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surprise last year when the WSBA intended to pool section funds. There are some changes, such as putting sections on the same fiscal calendar, which are appropriate and would ease administration for the WSBA. The WSBA efforts to simplify administration last year were met with skepticism, and there are now opportunities to rebuild trust and respect between sections and the bar. A complication is how attorneys view the mission of the bar. Paula Littlewood's position seemed to be that the bar is a state agency meant to serve the public, which necessarily means serving attorneys as well. Alan elaborated that the bar's perspective is that the WSBA is not a trade association run by and for lawyers. We are not there to mediate in a directive way, but to guide a mutually respectful discussion around simplifying management of the sections for the WSBA. The objective of the ADR section is to support both the bar staff and section leaders in order to work well in the future.

- b. John Butler is our Young Lawyer Liaison. He has attended section events, and has now been appointed. He is out of town now, and will join us at the retreat. We are delighted to have him join the executive committee.
- c. 12 spaces have been reserved for the retreat. Paris will not be joining us, and we have invited Helen. Given Helen's exemplary past service as secretary, her input will provide continuity as we plan for the coming year. Input from committee members is most welcome in developing the schedule, which, when complete, Adrienne will send out. Mel requested a copy of last year's retreat minutes, and suggested an agenda item of what it means to be an executive committee member.
- d. The retreat is set for November 11-12. Adrienne requested volunteers to facilitate a portion of the retreat, and Mel accepted. She also needs a final guest list. We do not know now what our AV needs are. Craig suggested Adrienne walk us through the ways we have as a section to communicate with our members.

6. Committee Reports:

- a. Legislative Committee (Paul McVicker):
 - i. Next week, the WSBA Committee on Professional Ethics will get a report from their advisory subcommittee on Advisory Opinion 2223. Efforts to amend King County Family Law Rules around early mediation are ongoing. No bench-bar committee meeting is currently scheduled, and no relevant legislation is forthcoming. A legislative workgroup is considering how the state responds to FOIA requests.
- b. Media & Communications Committee (Adrienne Keith Wills):
 - i. We will discuss social media at the retreat, including guidelines and how to use social media in the coming year.
- c. Land Use and Environmental Mediation Committee (Courtney Kaylor):
 - i. No update.
- d. Membership Committee:
 - i. There is no chair currently, and how to handle membership is a topic for the retreat.
- e. Education Committee (Paris Kallas):
 - i. No update.
- f. Law School Partnership and ECCL Taskforce (Alan Alhadeff):

- i. ECCL remains an opportunity to brand mediation, and Alan will address this in more detail at the retreat.
 - ii. Sasha spoke with Bill Chemnick about creating a mediation/ADR analog to the Trial Advocacy Program. Joanna, Courtland and Adrienne have indicated an interest.
- g. Northwest Dispute Resolution Conference Planning Committee (Sasha Philip, Craig Beles, Adrienne Keith Wills):
- i. Sasha reported that fundraising requests have been sent out to about 183 firms and other possible sponsors. We as a committee have committed to engaging more with the NWDR conference, and fundraising would be a helpful way to participate. Sasha has found a substantial sponsor, who would likely support the creation of an advocacy track for newer attorneys.

7. New Business:

- a. Sasha and Craig attended a summit meeting of Spokane law firms, alumni, and the Gonzaga law school dean and president. Dean Pearson is responsible for accreditation and teaches ADR there. She is working to create an ADR center, and intends to call on our committee for assistance.
- b. Sasha and Craig also attended the open sections night in Spokane, and found much support for ADR. They met several young lawyers, and Sasha pointed out the benefit of establishing connections with law students to support young lawyers to engage with ADR and the section. Mel brought up the difficulty of having non-lawyers join the section; Lish indicated that the ADR section may include non-bar members. Julianne confirmed this by referring to the section bylaws. Mel pointed out that this is a topic of ongoing discussion at the section leader level. Mel supports cultivating stronger ties across the state. Adrienne has begun sending notices to all section members, and expects to communicate with all members at least monthly.

8. Adjourn – 1:35