

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
CRIMINAL LAW SECTION

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes for *Saturday, January 10, 2015*

Meeting Location: 13 Coins, Seatac **Called to order:** 9:05 am **Adjourned:** 10:00 am

Present: Edwin Aralica, Hugh Birgenheier, John Fairgrieve, Tessa Gorman, Ronald Hammett, James Hershey, Jimmy Hung, Jana Jorgensen, Blythe Phillips, Dale Slack, John Strait (by phone), Aimee Sutton, Mark Vovos
Julianne Unite

Absent: Kim Hunter, June Riley, John Sheeran

Welcome new members – introductions

Calendaring for the year:

- Meeting dates and locations: Decided on a minimum of quarterly, in-person meetings with one meeting in Spokane
 - **March 28, 2015** – we hope to correlate this meeting date with a spring member-benefit CLE.
 - **June 27, 2015** – Meeting to be held in Spokane
 - **Mark** will find a place to meet – maybe at Gonzaga?
 - Maybe we can have another event on the east side of the state coordinated with this? It was proposed that we could do something with law students, but a few people pointed out that students would likely be gone for the summer by the end of June.
 - **August 29, 2015** – this will be the last meeting before CJI
 - **October 24, 2015** – Members were not sure that we would need this meeting, but it might be a good idea since elections will be close by this time. We can cancel if we don't need it.
- Criminal Justice Institute
 - **Hugh** will email training center about dates this week. We're aiming for September
 - Usually the days are a Thursday-Friday, but we might consider a Friday-Saturday
 - CJI Committee - **Hugh, Kim, Blythe, Dale**
- The consensus is that we do not need additional meetings by telephone conference.
- Mark mentioned that participating by speaker phone – as John Strait did today – is a good option for travelling members that can get stuck in the pass. **John Strait** volunteered to bring in conference phone equipment if he knows in advance that it would be needed
 - John Strait mentioned that it would be nice to see video conferencing available. This is more effective than telephone communication for getting to know each other, bringing people face to face, and bringing down barriers between defense and prosecution
 - **Jimmy** asked **John Strait** to get the conference phone for the next meeting.
- John Strait notified the committee that there are some changes happening at the bar and that they haven't been very transparent to bar members. The changes generally separate the regulatory functions and insulate them from the membership, removing the membership from any of the control over the delegate functions.

Member benefit CLE – date, content

- **March 28 - John Strait** will look into a room at SU Law School
 - All ethics CLE – John Strait can do something, **Hugh** may join him.
- **Edwin** is on the Jury Instruction Committee with Washington State Courts and the WSBA. The Jury Instruction Committee asked Edwin to coordinate a CLE with WACDL, WDA and us because he is on committees with all these organizations. Another member of the committee, Pam Loginsky, taking the CLE to WAPA.
 - The CLE will be an informational presentation about new jury instructions; those jury instructions are anticipated to be in place at the end of 2015 or in 2016.
 - The CLE will take place after the instructions are implemented. The plan is to:
 - bring in a speaker to talk about the new jury instructions
 - Conduct CLEs in Seattle and maybe also in Spokane
 - Hold the CLE in late 2015 or 2016 after the instructions are in place.
 - Edwin needs to work with a prosecutor on the criminal law section executive committee and to coordinate with the jury instruction committee. Money is available from the committee for this CLE. **John Fairgrieve** volunteered to work with Edwin.
- **October 24** – Member benefit CLE – content to be discussed in the future

Legislative Committee **John Sheeran, John Fairgrieve, Hugh Birgenheier, John Strait, Edwin Aralica, Ron Hammett**

- John Strait will take the lead on the legislative committee - He will receive information on legislation from the bar and then pass it to the other committee members for review and input
- We need 75% approval from the executive committee for the section to take a position on a bill

Membership

- Reminder to renew membership
- Goal of contested elections this year? Maybe start focusing on convening nomination committee earlier to discuss bringing people in for the ballot
- Can we amend the bylaws to include electronic voting? Would need to start that now
- Benefits to membership + budget surplus
 - Ideas listed in the agenda:
 - Scholarship for summer internship for a law student at a prosecutor or public defender office
 - Increase in scholarships for CJI
 - High profile speaker at CJI or at the “member benefit” CLE
 - Adding a member benefit event to the calendar: CLE or happy hour
 - Award/Recognition for criminal law practitioner who is outstanding in his/her field or demonstrates great civility to other members of the criminal bar in the course of practice.
 - Section donation to a particular fund that relates to our section such as:
 - Prisoner education or programs that reduce recidivism
 - Mental health treatment organizations
 - Drug treatment organizations
 - Programs for juvenile offenders or ARYs that prevent adult criminal activity
 - Support for mothers in prison
 - Pocket criminal rules books suggested at the August meeting
 - Executive committee discussion tabled for now

- Ideas were revisited with the section members at the annual meeting following the executive committee meeting.
- Clarify & confirm length of terms for EC members – everyone said the current chart looks accurate.

Bylaws

Proposed amendments? E-mail voting?

John Strait and **Tessa Gorman** will work on updating the bylaws.

Young Lawyer Liaison: **Erika Wunderlich**, **Jimmy** will reach out to bring her into section events more. At this time we do not want to change the bylaws to make the liaison an ex-officio member of the section

Newsletter: Not discussed at the executive committee meeting but discussed before the meeting and at the annual meeting. Dale has completed it, it went up on the WSBA website, and an email with a link was distributed to the full membership.

Adjourn: Motion to Adjourn (Blythe), Second (Hugh)