

**MINUTES OF THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION SECTION  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
March 10, 2017**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Jenny Ogawa called the Executive Committee (EC) to order at 12:02 PM.

EC Committee members attending or absent were:

<b>Exec Board Member</b>	<b>Present in Person</b>	<b>Present by Phone</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Bohy, Ronald	X			
Caldwell, Kate	X			
Chen, Bin			X	
Conratt, Linda	X			
Dibartolomeo, Joe		X		
Fisher, Martin		X		
Frost, Christine	X			
Garrow, Phil			X	
Harrell, Tom	X			
Lesh, Allison		X		
Ogawa, Jenny	X			
Olney, Kathryn	X			
Oswald, John	X			
Patrick, Jovanna	X			
Semple, Keith		X		left at 12:38
Smith, Bruce		X		
Wren, Geoffrey		X		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	

**II. MINUTES**

The February minutes were approved with the correction to the roll call to reflect that Martin Fisher was present by phone.

**III. CHAIR REPORT**

Nominees for 2018 EC

Chair Ogawa presented nominees for the 2018 Executive Committee, noting that the committee needs two defense members and one claimant member to stay balanced. Suggestions from the nominating committee for defense side were Bill

Replogle and John Klor. For claimant side, the nominating committee suggested Colin Hackett, Sydney Montanero and Martie McQuain.

Linda Conratt expressed interest in taking over the Treasurer role after Ron Bohy leaves the committee. Bruce Smith is interested in taking on the Secretary role. The committee discussed whether the Secretary and eventually the Chair roles could be effectively performed remotely. The Bar offices have video conferencing capabilities, and Chair Ogawa suggested we test this at the June meeting, unless arrangements can be made in time for the April meeting. The Bar liaison will check on specifics and whether there is any cost associated with video conferencing.

#### New admittees

The swearing in ceremony for new OSB admittees is Thursday, May 18th in Salem. The WC section usually prepares a handout to distribute. John Oswald will check with the Going Forward Committee to see if one of its members is able to attend and distribute the handout. If the ceremony is later in the day, Kathryn Olney volunteered to take on the distribution duties.

### **IV. TREASURER REPORT**

Treasurer Ron Bohy reported that the ending fund balance for December 2016 was \$17,986. For 2016 we met our budgeted section membership with a total of 349 members, 332 of which were paid memberships.

For January 2017, the fund balance was \$23,370 and section membership was up to 320 members, which is up compared to January of 2017. Chair Ogawa reported that 16 of the members this year were “new” memberships, though not all those members were actually first-time section members.

### **V. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **A. Professionalism Award**

The award committee received nominations and, after review, made a recommendation to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee voted on the nominees and Dale Johnson was named as this year’s recipient, receiving 14 Aye votes and 1 Nay vote.

Chair Ogawa will ask Dale who he wants to introduce him at Salishan and how he would like his name to appear on the award plaque. Ron Bohy will arrange for the plaque to be made by Award Presentations in Tigard.

Chair Ogawa also proposed that the committee recognize Ron Bohy at Salishan for his many years as treasurer. The motion was made, seconded, and passed.

## **B. Access to Justice**

Kate Caldwell reported that the Access to Justice committee's last meeting was on 3/6/2017.

Access to Justice is working on the following issues:

- Translation of forms and notices – the committee is still waiting to hear back from Matt Shields with Public Affairs to move this issue forward.
- Attorney fee issues - claimant attorney membership seems to have gone down, the committee is looking into that and whether that is true and whether there is appropriate action for the committee to take.
- Whether the current MCO rules create access to medical care issues. The committee is continuing to investigate whether MCO lists are up to date, whether the doctors listed are actually willing to take on workers' compensation patient and what options, such as more training for medical billing staff, might be available to help remove barriers. Chair Ogawa noted that Lou Savage with WCD has expressed interested in doing outreach with the section. Ron Bohy suggested that Lou attend an EC meeting and that Access to Justice could put together a summary of its concerns for Lou and the EC to address. Jovanna Patrick will coordinate with Access to Justice to put something together.
- Looking into whether the number of vocational service providers has decreased to determine whether this is resulting in an access to justice problem.

## **C. Salishan**

Geoff Wren reported for the Salishan committee. He said they are nearly ready to go for May's conference, with the exception of a speaker to address issues regarding marijuana in the workplace. Ron Bohy pointed out that there is a Cannabis Section of the OSB. The Salishan committee will reach out to them for a possible speaker.

#### **D. Bench Bar Forum**

Tom Harrell reported that he spoke with Katie Krametbauer of the Bench Bar Forum committee. They have a child abuse speaker lined up for the BBF and are hoping to have an attorney for the ethics presentation lined up shortly. They still need one more topic and welcome ideas.

#### **E. Going Forward**

John Oswald reported that the Going Forward committee last met on 2/21/2017. They are working with the Young Lawyers' Division to put together a summer reception. They hope to have date and agenda/proposal by end of month.

#### **F. Legislative and Rules**

Keith Semple reported for the Legislative and Rules committee. He was at MLAC this morning and bills are still in the process of being discussed. The MLAC website has updates on each proposal. WCD just issued new medical fee and medical services rules, but it is nothing extremely new or unusual.

#### **G. New Technologies/Communications**

No report.

#### **H. Nominations**

No report.

#### **VI. OLD BUSINESS**

Kathryn Olney and Linda Conratt put together a memo with suggestions for the section website, which they emailed to committee members on 2/14/2017. The memo follows:

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Workers' Compensation Section Website  
Proposal: Improvements and Expansions

Current content:

1. EC minutes need to be updated after 7/16; secretary should send webmaster minutes once they have been approved;
2. Annual Report needs to be updated after 2014; \_\_\_\_ should send to webmaster after approval by EC;
3. EC member list is not current, nor is list of subcommittee chairs. Can this be data-dragged from OSB? If not, send new list to webmaster.
4. Upcoming events: Salishan and Bench-Bar Forum should be on there, with location.
5. Other upcoming events: subcommittees scheduling events (i.e. Going Forward scheduling happy hour for interested new lawyers) should give event information to webmaster ASAP after scheduling.
6. Link to membership: What did Jenny Ogawa learn about whether that could be limited to just Section membership. (I.e., does it need to pull entire bar membership?)
7. Section News: we no longer have a newsletter (at least at this time.) Suggest not having this tab.
8. Contact us link: should have two choices – the webmaster for those things that need Julie Masters' attention; and the Section Chair (?) for everything else. We shouldn't have all inquiries going to Julie, and abuse her patience.

Proposed content:

In reviewing the websites of other Sections, we considered these potentially helpful to our members:

9. Something listing the current MLAC-linked bills in the legislature, with brief descriptions, and hot links to bill language. (See the Construction Law website for a good example of this.)
10. A link to join the section, and a statement about the benefits of membership (i.e. free Bench-Bar forum, listserv)
11. A link to the listserv, with instructions/place to send group email, and list of policies. (See Family Law website for a good example of this.)
12. A tab with a list of Professionalism Award winners, brief bios, pics. Also a place to put information on when and how to nominate a candidate.
13. CLE Materials tab (see Business Law section website)
14. Info on how to apply to be a WCBoard member? (See Debtor/Creditor website)
15. Section Bylaws.

We also need to have the webmaster fix the broken links.

It is our hope that EC members will take a few minutes before our next meeting to look at some of the other Section websites to see both examples of changes we are proposing and also other things which we may have missed, but which members would find useful.

Kathryn Olney, Linda Conratt

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Regarding the current content suggestions, the committee agreed that the section chairs should send information regarding current section membership and meetings to Webmaster, Julie Masters. The committee also discussed that questions regarding the calendar should go to Julie Masters, while “questions for the section” should go to the EC chair. The committee agreed that the “newsletter” tab should be eliminated. Chair Ogawa reported that she talked to the OSB and they can do a link just to our section members. Chair Ogawa will tell Anna at OSB to make that change.

Regarding the proposed content suggestions, the committee liked the idea of including pending legislation and Linda and Kathryn will ask Keith Semple for suggestions on how/what to link. The committee agreed with the rest of the proposed content suggestions from the Olney-Conratt memo, with the exception of number 15, which the committee did not feel needed to be included. The committee agreed with including number 14, if the Board is currently looking for a new member, which they currently are.

Ron Bohy suggested we include a mission statement for the section. He thinks a mission statement already exists and might be in an old Chair Report (possibly from Dale’s tenure as Chair).

Kathryn Olney and Linda Conratt will put the proposed content together and bring it back to EC for review. Kathryn will contact Julie Masters and talk with her about the proposed additions and whether she can handle all the suggestions.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

None.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING**

The EC meeting adjourned at 1:13 PM.

The next meeting will be 4/14/2017 at noon at the OSB offices.