

## **Washington State Chapter of the FBA Monthly Meeting**

### **June 14, 2021 Minutes**

1. **Attendance:** Susan Pitchford (President) convened the WebEx meeting at 12 p.m. and concluded at 12:50 p.m. Also in attendance were Joan Brady (Secretary), Brenda George (New Lawyers Liaison) and Elizabeth Kelley (newly affiliated member). Due to the low attendance and lack of a quorum, the meeting consisted only of informal discussion. No motions were made or voted upon.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Review of the May minutes was postponed until the July meeting.
3. **Officer Report:**
  - a. President's Report – Susan Pitchford reported that she continues to make follow-up telephone calls to federal judges to whom both introductory snail mail and email letters have now been sent. To date, Magistrate Judge Michelle Peterson has responded affirmatively to the introductory letter. Elizabeth pointed out that U.S. District Judge Roseanna M. Peterson has a strong connection with Gonzaga University School of Law, so Susan will prioritize telephoning her soon. In addition, Susan plans to reach out to Lauren King, a Native American and FBA Indian Law Section member who was recently nominated by President Biden (along with Tana Lin and David Estudillo) to the WA federal bench. (Brenda George volunteered that she can assist in reaching out to Ms. King, as she knows her personally).
  - b. President Elect Report – Diane Butler was unable to attend but passed along that the appropriate 1024 form has been filed with the IRS, and we should receive our official 501(c)(6) entity status letter soon.
  - c. Secretary's Report – In addition to transmitting a draft of the May minutes, Joan Brady reported that she continues to make somewhat slow progress on making follow-up calls to unaffiliated (or neighboring state affiliated) members who live or practice in WA, as part of our ongoing effort to capture all current National FBA members who reside or practice in our state.
  - d. Treasurer - Meliha Jusupovic – did not attend, no report.
4. **Liaisons:**
  - a. WD Representative – Susan received a letter from the existing WD FBA entity declining to appoint a liaison to our Board. Joan suggested that for now, we appoint someone who is a member of our Statewide chapter who also is a member of the WD FBA – possibly a judicial law clerk? We will have to take a look at bylaws to ensure that is an option. Susan further suggested that – regardless of whether we can make a “transition” appointment – we reach out

to the WD FBA again to re-introduce the liaison concept in 1-2 years when our chapter is better established.

- b. ED Representative (none yet selected; no response as yet to inquiry). Elizabeth has good contacts at Gonzaga and offered to make virtual introductions to Susan, which may help with the liaison position as well as with the establishment of a future student chapter (see below).
- c. Tribal Liaison – Cynthia Cartwright (no report, did not attend). Brenda George, who practices in this arena, previously sent Susan of the list of the Northwest Tribal Court Judges Association Board members. Susan will send out invitations to this group of judges in the coming weeks. Also, because our new chapter was not able to get out information this year prior to the annual April Indian Law conference (which many Indian Law practitioners attend), our chapter will work on getting info out over the winter for next spring's conference. Ideally, we should be able to convince some folks to join the new WA State Chapter based on this strong federal FBA connection.
- d. Diversity & Inclusion Liaison's Report – Cynthia Rios conveyed she was unable to attend today. She previously sent several emails concerning her membership efforts. The ED WA Clerk has agreed to send out an introductory letter to the cm/ecf users once our chapter provides one to them. Cynthia is hopeful that the WD WA Clerk will follow suit after that takes place.

Cynthia also conveyed (via email) that she continues to follow-up with FBA members who reside in or work in WA State. She plans to continue following up on phone calls via email, using the WA Chapter Email Logo that she previously forwarded to the Board.

- e. New Lawyers Liaison - Brenda George sought ideas beyond seeking contacts from the state bar list. She had focused initially on student law chapters at UW and Seattle U but because the universities are now in summer recess, those efforts will need to reconvene in August. Joan discussed the "ground game" of how her prior Cincinnati chapter started up two law school chapters. Susan also offered suggestions drawn from her prior experience as Oregon's chapter president, including offering free student membership as contest prizes or in drawings. Elizabeth has several Gonzaga contacts that she will provide, who also may be helpful in starting a Gonzaga student chapter.

As to new lawyers, Susan offered suggestions and ideas based upon the New Lawyer Division materials on the national fedbar.org website. Joan suggested that incoming associates in the larger firms in the state might have interest in a national FBA membership, particularly in practice areas like Labor & Employment. With respect to large law firm of Jackson Lewis in particular, Susan also will follow up with an earlier contact that former National President Judge Newman had provided as someone supportive of building our WA State chapter.

**5. Committees and Projects:**

- a. Programming
- b. Membership (see above)
- c. Communications - Greg McLawsen was unable to attend. He conveyed apologies for being unusually busy and hopes to be able to assist again soon.

**6. New Business:**

None.

Next Meeting – July 12, 2021