

The West Virginia State Bar
Young Lawyer Section – Young Lawyer Board Meeting
Huntington Museum of Art
Huntington, West Virginia
September 25, 2021

MINUTES

Members Present: Chairperson Brunicardi-Doss; Taylor Coplin; Lauren Estep; Robin Cisco; Kassie Ball; Jay Ford; Morgan Spolarich; David Pfeifer; Nicole Graybeal; Samantha Koreski; Hilary Bright; Dane Henry; Nakia Ridgeway; Nicholas Gordon

Special Guests: Tom Scarr

1. **Call to Order** – Chair Brunicardi-Doss called the meeting to order at 9:06AM
2. **Ascertainment of Quorum** – Chair Brunicardi-Doss ascertained quorum.
3. **Review/Approval of Minutes from April 11, 2020 Quarterly Meeting**

Changes were made and minutes were approved. Jay Ford Moved; Dane Seconded

4. **Reports of Officers:**
 - A. **Chairperson Doss**

Board of Governor’s Meeting

- Went to the Board of Governor’s meeting and met the Dean of the Law School. Dean went over enrollment. Enrollment is low and diversity is down. Bar passage rate was concerning.
- There was a discussion on the public interest scholarship and rural based law practice scholarship. Trying to determine how to recoup money that goes to a person who does not fulfill their requirements under the program.
- Keller discussion. Because we are a mandatory Bar we have a responsibility to not take political positions. Tom Scarr spoke about not lobbying unless its purpose is to improve the judicial system.

Bridge the Gap which will be discussed later.

Bar exam lunches went well, we split costs with the law school. There is another group of 16 being admitted at the end of the month.

- B. **Chair-Elect Bias Harrell - absent**

C. Secretary McIntosh

Looked into getting a banner for our meetings or events. I can get it done for about \$40. Motion to purchase the banner – Dane moved and Copeland seconded

Need the logo in high quality for website and banner. Get the logo from Ashton to Dane.

Sitting on the Diversity and Inclusion work group. There are some good ideas coming out of the group.

District emails went out and they looked good.

5. Update on Board of Governors' Meeting

See Chairperson Doss's report for most of it.

Tom Scarr has prepared a pamphlet that explains what the Bar does. There is a current draft. He passed around a draft and wanted thoughts on it. Wants to get it out soon. We can submit the ideas to any Bar Officers, Tom, Anita.

6. Report of WVU Law School Representative – Ms. Ridgeway

Law school is back fully in person.

There is a new Dean. She has made some changes. Confident about her.

There is a staff of one in the Admission Office.

Have concerns about Bar preparation. They have spoken with Anita about this.

Student Bar Association wants to do an Alumni mixer. Lunch-time lecture. They want to arrange something this semester. These Student Bas Association meetings happen monthly.

Minority recruiter – which is not a position anymore.

7. Committee Reports and Old Business

A. Young Lawyer Education and Mentoring

1. Practice Handbook – Mr. Laird – not present

- Send the updates to Dane.
- We had an assignment list that was last sent in March 2020
- In the next two weeks look at the subjects and then sent us what you want to update.
- We need a new member to take over the practice. Lindsey McIntosh volunteered.
- Is there a way that we can offer something to author these sections. Regional meeting fees waived.

2. Bridge the Gap – Chairperson Doss and Samantha Koreski

- Program Date and Location: November 5, 2021 at Bridgeport Conference Center, Bridgeport, West Virginia.
- Hilary is going to change her presentation to opening up your own firm.

- Going through the agenda. Discussion on what is the agenda needs to be changed.

Went over what we discussed last meeting

- We did not do any break-out sessions and that seemed to work but we need to talk about whether that works
- Adding a state bar presentation
- What can we do for the presenters? Bring cards to the next meeting, make a donation in their honor, paperweight with our logo.
- Panel – Ashton won't be her in November – Dane can do it
- Hillary and Eric – opening your own practice presentation
- Point Person in November – Samantha Koreski. No one volunteered for the Point Person mentee of the April 2022 Bridge the Gap.

Where we are right now

- Coordinator is working on contacting the speakers and making accommodations.
- Angela will be reaching out to the speakers to let them know to work with Samantha.
- We are currently booked for a room of 75 people. The cost for the full ballroom is double then if we use two halves (one for meeting and one to eat).
- Discussing whether we need a bigger space – decided that we do
- Need to determine when registration opens. – Angela is going to talk to Anita about this.
- When Registration opens send out independent blast.
- Confirming the schedule.

Ask Jessica Robey to coordinate the April meeting. Lauren Estep as a co-coordinator.

Need to figure out meals. Build your own sandwich and pastries and coffee in the morning.

3. **Admissions Ceremonies** – Secretary McIntosh

- One on September 9/29 and then one in 10/27. There are some that are virtual and some that are in-person. Angela will send out an email to new admittees, with the link. Would like registration to be open on the 29th.

B. Law Student Education and Mentoring

1. Lunchtime Lecture – Mr. Zak – not present
 - Would like the law school rep to do more with this and another Board member
 - Dane would like to talk about public interest law
2. Bar Exam Box Lunches – Ms. Robey – not present (Jay Ford presented)
 - Chic-Fil-A meals went very well. We will talk about the February bar exam.

C. Community Outreach –

1. Special Projects/Public Service Committee - Lauren Estep and Morgan Spolarich

Formula/Wipes Drive – We have an Amazon link. The Board has asked that we send them the Amazon link. Lauren spoke to Tana about it and is coordinating a Happy Hour to bring donations.

Social media. Include in the District meals that Morgan is going to draft.

Planning on ending the drive at Bridge the Gap and giving them shelters and state agencies.

Habitat for Humanity – Chair-Elect Bias spoke about HFH. Going to wait for a WV site and check for a Charleston site.

2. 2021 Holiday Project – We are going to try to meet at BTG about this. Members were told to determine if there are families in their areas to get donations for. Requests for donations in mid to late November.

Can create an Amazon wish list.

You can use your district funds to use at a District event and collect donations.

Check with District DHHR office to get a family.

D. YLS Technology Committee – Secretary McIntosh and Mr. Henry

1. **YLS Website** – Mr. Henry

1. Gather feedback regarding new website themes

- Mike is wanting to give website a new theme and wants our input.

2. **Social Media** – Instagram and Facebook are being posted to. We are not posting to Twitter. Want to focus on more weekly activity.

E. Budget Committee – Ms. Koreski and Chairperson Doss – Meeting will be in early December and they will present at the BOG meeting in January. There was a presentation on the budget at the BOG meeting. Concerns about the budget being cut due to COVID and not spending all our money. We also will find out soon whether fees are going to be increased.

F. JLAP Liaison – Mr. Zak (not present) – Chairperson Doss discussed

- need to work on determining a new liaison for the next year – Cassie Ball
- Want to invite Robert Alberry to our next meeting. Also a good person to come to Districts individually. Just need to provide a space and food. 1 hour of CLE Ethics credit.

G. Annual Meeting – April 10, 2022 in Charleston, BTG will also be on this weekend

- Sunday will be the meeting and Monday will be BTG
- The Board is working on speakers for the Annual Meeting.

- Need sponsors for the Annual Meeting – requested that members reach out to people/companies they use

H. District Events for the Current Year – District Representatives

- Cassie – Had a District event. Boone is selecting a new judge that they want to have a meeting around.
- Morgan – plan an event around a regional meeting
- Low attendance at Regional meetings.

I. Other Old Business

- Need to be attending. People are not attending.
- Need to work on filling spots for the next year.
 - Whose terms are up? Districts 13-16. Done in April

8. New Business

9. Regional Member Reports

10. Upcoming YLB meetings

January 22, 2022 – Stonewall Resort, Roanoke, WV

April 10-11, 2022 – Embassy Suites, Charleston, WV (Annual Meeting/Bridge the Gap)

11. Announcements

12. Adjournment

Nick Gordon, moved

Lauren Estep, seconded