



Legal Professionalism Committee Meeting Minutes
October 5, 2016, 10:30 am, Raleigh, NC

Commissioners attending: Catharine Arrowood, Chair
Luke Bierman
Richard Boyette
Jay Conison
Rep. Leo Daughtry
Drew Erteschik
Judge Robby Hassell
Mark Merritt
Rick Minor
Bob Orr
Raymond Pierce
Matt Sawchak
Lisa Sheppard

Commission staff attending: Will Robinson
Jon Williams
Emily Portner

Issues discussed:

1. Approval of minutes

The committee unanimously approved draft minutes of its August 31 meeting.

2. Plan and timeline for the committee's input for the Commission's final report

Ms. Arrowood reviewed the general plan and timeline for the Commission's final report.

The report will include an initial section, to be drafted by Professor Jim Drennan, that will overview the findings of the Commission as a whole. After that initial section, each committee will give a final report, probably with the same general format used in the committees' interim reports.

The committees' final reports are due to the Commission staff in late November. In view of that plan, our committee plans to review and discuss a draft final report at our November 16 meeting. Matt Sawchak will circulate a draft report no later than November 9. He will appreciate receiving any comments in advance of the November 16 meeting.

3. Discussion of issue papers related to ABA Futures Commission report

Committee members discussed the most relevant points from the issue papers that led up to the recent ABA Futures Commission report.

The following summaries were presented:

ABA issue A (the future of legal services generally): Drew Erteschik

ABA issue B (new providers): Lisa Sheppard

ABA issue D (unregulated entities): Matt Sawchak

ABA issue E (alternative business structures): Rick Minor

The committee also received a written report from the North Carolina Equal Access to Justice Commission on some of the access-related content in the Futures Commission report.

4. Discussion of issues for committee's final report

The committee discussed points in the committee's interim report that might deserve additional development in the final report.

The bulk of the committee discussion focused on problems with entry into the profession: possible causes for the decline in pass rates on bar exams, as well as the challenges that newly minted lawyers are facing.

On these issues and others, the proposed final committee report reflects the changes and amplifications that the committee discussed.

5. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned by consensus at about 1 p.m.

/s/ Matthew W. Sawchak
Reporter