



**Legal Professionalism Committee Meeting Minutes
October 6, 2015, 10:30 am, Raleigh, NC**

Commissioners attending: Catharine Arrowood, Chair
Richard Boyette
Jay Conison
Drew Erteschik
Judge Robby Hassell
Mark Merritt
Rick Minor
Justice Bob Orr
Matt Sawchak
Lisa Sheppard
Senator Leslie Winner (ex officio commissioner)

Commission staff attending: Will Robinson
Jon Williams
Emily Portner

Issues discussed:

1. Approval of minutes

The committee approved, with one correction, draft minutes of the committee's September 30 meeting.

2. Video presentation by Professor Bill Henderson

Lisa Sheppard described Professor Henderson's background and scholarship. She described the North Carolina Bar Association program that was the setting for the talk that the committee was preparing to watch on video.

The committee watched an extensive segment of a 2014 talk by Professor Henderson. The talk focused on changes in the demand for and supply of legal

services in the U.S. Professor Henderson showed that many recent changes actually continue trends that were talking hold well before the last recession.

The committee discussed possible North Carolina implications of Professor Henderson's points, including:

- the migration of lawyers out of urban communities and the expected side effects on those communities,
- the types of legal services that might currently be undersupplied in North Carolina, and
- reasons why younger lawyers seem to be migrating away from "general practice" and toward other modes of law practice.

3. Reading list overview

Ms. Arrowood highlighted the suggested readings that Mr. Sawchak had already circulated. She also circulated several additional suggested readings.

4. Status of committee charge

Ms. Arrowood noted that the language of the committee's charge is not set in stone.

She suggested that the committee further consider the language of the charge when the committee discusses members' ideas on topics for the committee to study.

5. Presentation by Alice Mine and Peter Bolac of the North Carolina State Bar

Ms. Mine and Mr. Bolac gave an extensive presentation on relevant topics that the State Bar is analyzing. The presentation covered the following general topics:

- Shifts in the demographics of North Carolina and how these changes relate to shifts in the demographics of North Carolina lawyers
- The enforcement of the statute that prohibits the unauthorized practice of law and recent litigation that contests that enforcement
- The law governing business organizations of lawyers
- State Bar initiatives to encourage pro bono legal work

- Technology initiatives
- Issues related to newly minted lawyers

6. Request to commissioners in preparation for next meeting

Ms. Arrowood asked that, before the next meeting, each commissioner share his or her suggestions for four or five topics that the committee could study in in detail. It would be helpful if the topics were of medium breadth.

Ms. Arrowood noted that the Civil Justice Committee is likely to focus on issues involving pro se litigants and how the court system interacts with them.

Please e-mail suggested topics to Catharine Arrowood and Matt Sawchak by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, October 28.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at about 3 p.m.

Next meeting: Tuesday, November 3, 2015, at 10:30 am, at the N.C. Judicial Center in Raleigh

/s/ Matthew W. Sawchak
Reporter