

8/14/2018

**Alternative Pathways Committee
Meeting Notes**

July minutes posted on 8/13.

No motion to correct.

Motion to approve, second, approved.

Two discussions related to charge #2:

- How many people from Maine and NY go through their 2-year program (two years of JD and then one year of legal work) and what are the financials? Contacted state bars for both Maine & NY. Affidavit of work has to be submitted.
- Neither NY nor Maine sets aside any line item for the people going through the process.
 - In NY, person in charge handles foreign degrees, LLMS, and no separate application for those going through 2-year program. No cost savings or cost to the Bar. Very few people participate. Five in a given year is a lot of people. Usually there are 1 or 2. When people come to her wanting to go through the program, she discourages. She cannot recall an applicant who passed the bar after the two-year program. Encourages students to stay in law school because those who don't, don't pass, can't gain access to the bar in another state, and there would be fewer employment opportunities. There have been a few people who have gone back to law school after the year of employment who then return to law school, graduate, and pass.
 - Maine does not have anyone who would go through the program in the last 20 years. No funds are set aside for the program.

Two-year program – charge 3

Gonzaga implemented a 24-month law school. Regular program taught by full-time faculty. Program was dropped and then reintroduced for this coming fall.

Lewis & Clark does allow students to graduate in two years. But degree not awarded until spring. UO allows students to graduate in 2.5 years.

Does the Committee want to move ahead with either or both of the charges?

- Danny: third-year waiver would not be unstructured. Committee (this committee or another committee) would need to structure the experience or require exposure to certain areas of law rather than freelance. Perhaps there is another option to be determined by another committee in another term.
- Diane: Not in favor of charge 2.
- Dallas: Oregon should not do anything different. Creates a second class of attorney who would have difficulty pro hac vice/admission in another state.
- John: Charge was not appropriate for the committee. A lot needs to be done with law schools.

- Nordyke: Just appointed to ABA Commission on future of legal education.

Call the question on charge 2: Should this committee recommend to the BBX recommend to Supreme Court to allow two years of law school, one year of practice and then admission.

There are four options on the table:

- Yes on option 2: twelve
- No on option 2: three
 - 11 votes

ABA should look at legal education and how it can be made more effective

*Nordyke first commission meeting is September 13.

Call the question on charge 1: Does the Committee want to suggest adopting charge 1 (in lieu of law school altogether):

- Option 1: No – 8-6
- Option 2:
- Option 3:

Discussion of minimum qualifications.

- Judy Parker recommends a BA suggests a person can commit to a course of study. Ron and Angela agree.
- John suggests age differentiation:
 - Under 30 – require BA
 - Over 30 – require AA and 10 years of work experience
 - Over 40 – require high school diploma and 15 years of experience
- Diane: Washington LLLT and a recommendation around education and work experience. People could enter into the program with an AA and combination of education and experience.
- Libby – BA
- Laurie – BA.
- Nate – AA plus experience. Shared information about Job Corps and training available to participants. Training is comparable to what students get at a technical training school. Would get a GED. Nate would help connect them with jobs or higher education. The ones who would go to school, would get GED and then enroll in AmeriCorps, Peace Corps, military, trade school. Financial barrier is real for under-represented students who want to complete a degree.
- Judy: important consideration is to weigh a solitary student in an academic program versus weighing responsibility of a job.
- Vanessa: Nate's proposal makes sense. Professionalism and integrity make sense regardless of background. Proposal is also consistent with being an advocate for access to justice and eliminating bias.
- Roy has concerns about not having clearly defined rules.

- Judy: A big cheerleader of this program. Spoke to a paralegal who said she'd finish BA to become eligible for this program. There is a distinction with a classroom setting.
- Nate: law school admission process has discretion.
- Nicole: difficult to have a moving target as a metric. Can have a lot of experience without having the skills for success for academic exercise that is the study of law. BA degree.
- Patricia: 4-year degree
- Roy says that as member of a Board of Governors would be concerned about uniformity, and therefore recommends a BA.
- John: Wants to recommend qualifications but not hard and fast. Recommend AA or alternative equivalent such as AmeriCorps, PeaceCorps, military service.
- Diane: Military also does have paralegals who are highly trained and competent.
- Nate: BA but option for AA plus something else (military, PeaceCorps, AmeriCorps).
- Dallas: officer candidate school in the military requires a 4-year degree.

Question about WA admission process: 34-page application, disclosure of all course work (high school, college, enrollment in law school elsewhere), whether expelled or academic suspension, whether been sanctioned in another jurisdiction, terminated for misconduct or dishonesty, 10 years of employment history, other licensure professions, censured or otherwise disciplined, sureties in which principal but surety paid on your behalf, arrests in past 10 years. Process addresses concern that folks get through program but then are not admissible.

9 people recommend a BA.

8 people recommend an AA.