

MEMORANDUM

To: WSBA Sections Policy Workgroup

From: Low Bono Section

Date: January 22, 2016

Re: Opposition to Sections Policy Proposals

The Low Bono Section (LBS) strongly opposes the draft sections policy changes discussed in the WSBA memorandum to section leaders of December 30, 2015.

The LBS opposes the lack of opportunity for the volunteer leadership of the sections to participate meaningfully in preparing the policy proposals. In spite of the *appearance* of having provided opportunities for section leaders to provide input to the workgroup, it is apparent that the workgroup has proposed what are obviously preconceived changes to policy designed to deprive sections of our already limited autonomy, ignoring our input altogether. Had the section leaders had a meaningful voice in shaping the policy proposals, they would look nothing like those the workgroup proposed.

The fast-tracked process of pushing forward preconceived policy proposals demonstrates a complete failure of the workgroup to recognize the value that we, through thousands of volunteer hours each year, generate for the benefit of the WSBA, its members, and the public. The section leaders—as the most invested and dedicated of all section members—are the first stakeholders who should have been given a seat at the table and directly involved in the formation and drafting of proposed policy changes.

The LBS is a young section. The members of our executive committee do not have the long history of section-bar interactions that would inform a more thorough response to these proposals and this process. However, we join the opposition of the longer-standing sections. We share their interest in maintaining the existing autonomy of section leadership and having a seat at the table when discussing significant policy changes.