

SENIOR LAWYERS SECTION ANNUAL REPORT
(October 1, 2011- September 30, 2012)

Another successful Annual Meeting/CLE was held on May 11, 2012, at the Sea-Tac Marriott. The seminar provided 6.25 CLE credits. The speakers and their topics were the following: a panel consisting of Thomas F. Ahearne, Ross Hunter (48th District State Representative), and Ben Rarick (Executive Director of the Washington State Board of Education), and chaired by Hugh Spitzer, on “K-12 Education Funding and Washington Constitution”, discussing the implications of McCleary v. State, and the meaning of the “paramount duty of the state” to educate children; Hon. Debra L. Stephens, “Unique Traditions under the Washington Constitution”, an analysis of the critical differences between the Washington State and the U.S. Constitutions and the role of state courts in developing constitutional law; Hon. Donald J. Horowitz and Russell J. Speidel, “State and Gift Planning in the Current Environment – and Professional Judgment”; Dean Vickie J. Williams, “Commerce, Spending, Taxes and Healthcare: Constitutionality of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA)”, including a review of the highlights of oral argument in the US Supreme Court in March 2012; Scott B. Osborne, “Recent Developments in Residential Foreclosures”; and Associate Professor Karen E. Boxx, “Remains of the Day: Disposition After Death”, including the disposition of our digital presence-social media, email and the like.

Prompted in part by the results of the 2012 WSBA Membership Study that identified that 21% of WSBA members are 60 and older, and 56% of the existing members are projected to either retire, depart the profession, or significantly reduce their practice during the next 5 years, the Executive Committee of the Section held a retreat in June to discuss the mission of the Senior Lawyers Section in light of these changing demographics, and whether the Section should continue its current scope of activities or expand it to provide other services to members of the Bar and to the public in the form of pro bono services. A subcommittee was appointed to investigate and make recommendations about possible expansion.

On July 2, 2012, the APR Task Force sent to the WSBA Board of Governors its recommendations for amendments to the Admission to Practice Rules and Regulations, including changes that are intended to address the issues pertaining to the closing of a law practice, which the Section had requested in comments submitted to the MCLE Board.

The Section’s periodic newsletter, *Life Begins...*, edited by Carole Grayson, and assisted by Fred Frederickson and Jerry Greenan, contained its usual mix of interesting and informative articles.

The BOG liaison to the Section is Bill Viall. Paris Seabrook, the Section Leaders Liaison, has been a frequent and helpful contributor at Executive Committee meetings.

The Section’s next Annual Meeting/CLE has been scheduled for May 10, 2013, at the Sea-Tac Marriott.