



Dispute Resolution Section

Washington State Bar Association

1325 Fourth Ave., Ste. 600
Seattle, WA 98101-2539

2024-2025 Executive Committee

Paula Emery, Chair
Chris Casillas, Vice Chair
Courtland Shafer, Treasurer & Past Chair
Dee Knapp, Secretary

Tom Ahearn, Board of Governors Liaison
Julia Doherty, Young Lawyer Liaison

Jasbinder Dhoot, At-Large Member
Melissa Fuller, At-Large Member
Oliver Garrison, At-Large Member
Donna Lurie, At-Large Member
Ted Hunter, At-Large Member
Mel Simburg, At-Large Member
Lish Whitson, At-Large Member

Jody Leff, Advisor
Bob Oberstein, Advisor

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AGENDA

April 25, 2025

12:00pm – 1:30pm PST

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89450085603?pwd=zkyk39hoMaPsf87EaiMe6njgCmUnvV.1>

Meeting ID: 894 5008 5603

Passcode: 272434

Attendees: Paula Emery, Oliver Garrison, Chris Casillas, Mel Simburg, Ted Hunter, Donna Lurie, Courtland Shafer, Jody Leff (at 12:30)

I. Welcome and Meeting Matters

- A. Quorum was confirmed
- B. Agenda additions and changes—Approved with typo corrected
- C. Minutes from October, February and March were approved

II. Announcements

The FY26 Executive Committee application deadline has been extended to 4/28/25. Donna is running for Vice-Chair. The at-large positions are open, as are secretary and treasurer. Please contact friends and colleagues about joining the committee.

III. NWDR Conference Recap (Bob, Chris, Jody, Melissa, Paula)

The conference netted slightly more than last year, approximately \$4,000. There were more sponsors this year but attendance was down. The sponsors were disappointed in the number of attorney/advocates attendees. The CLE processing was smoother this year. The programming was well-received. The committee is hoping to find new keynote speakers for next year since they used the same one two years in a row. They are reaching out to Colin Rule. Paula will follow up with Kristin to see if we can get a survey evaluation out along with updated materials. The DR Section table worked well but we need a new banner. Paula will connect with Carolyn to see if we can get one.

Promoting Informed Use and Best Practices of DR

www.wsba-adr.org

IV. Treasurer's Report (Courtland)

The budget is due in early June. The May meeting will be the last before submittal. Please propose anything that may have a cost by then. For example, things like mini-CLEs. We can also offer scholarships but they have to go through an internal BOG review. Other examples are offering discounts or different levels of registrations for new attorneys or government attorneys. We can also propose paying keynote speakers (although that could be in the conference budget instead), swag for our table and other such things. Send a blurb to Courtland by no later than a week from today.

V. Scholarship follow-up with recipients (Oliver, with Julia & Ted)

Paula asked Oliver and Ted to remind our recipients to write up a brief written report. Donna suggested then posting it on the listserv and website.

VI. Bylaws Vote (Donna and Ted)

MOTION, SECONDED AND PASSED. A letter explaining the changes and a redline edition needs to be sent to the BOG. They may want attendance at a meeting with them as well.

VII. Discussion: Should the DR section pursue issuing a statement on [Defending Conflict Resolution](#) and the [Rule of Law](#)?

PERC has already put out a statement. Ted is in favor of signing onto statements already made. Chris pointed out how we are uniquely situated to defend conflict resolution. Paula will pursue what the parameters are with Carolyn and at the dinner with the BOG.

VIII. Discussion: Topics or Questions for Paula to potentially raise at dinner with the BOG on May 1.

Donna wants Paula to raise the use of the Bar's platform for virtual CLEs being a bar to putting them on and how we need a reliable platform.

IX. Young Lawyers Liaison and section participation for FY26

There is an opportunity oppty to secure a position with a 2-year term. We need a liaison. Oliver is willing to pursue this.

X. Committee Reports**a. Legislation & Public Policy (Jody)**

The Session is ongoing and will probably end this Sunday. There were five bills they were tracking. Two appear to be on track for passage. They are hoping for a meeting with Rep. Goodman on HB 1620 for mediations. The expansion of Foreclosure mediations is SB5686. It appears to be going forward. The bill will expand mediation eligibility to HOA type entities (common interest

communities). There is a tool for tracking that Jody will make sure is made a permanent part of this section's record.

b. Membership & Outreach (Jazs and Mel)

No report. Mel suggested an informal get-together this summer.

c. Academic Relationships (Julia)

No report

d. Education

No report

1:25: Adjourn