



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
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Oliver Garrison, At-Large Member
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Ted Hunter, At-Large Member
Mel Simburg, At-Large Member
Lish Whitson, At-Large Member

Jody Leff, Advisor
Bob Oberstein, Advisor

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AGENDA

August 22, 2025, 12:00pm – 1:30pm PST

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86301779629?pwd=KJ1ph8qbMPJqkrM6rMK9RTaVx2dYlU.1>

Meeting ID: 863 0177 9629, Passcode: 619025

12:00: Welcome and Meeting Matters

- 1. Confirm quorum**
 - a. Quorum confirmed**
- 2. Agenda additions and changes, approve agenda and July meeting minutes**
 - a. Agenda approved**
 - b. July meeting minutes approved**

12:05: Announcements

- **Lish's award to be shared on listserv by Melissa.**
- **2024 Retreat minutes, locating final copy. Carolyn confirmed did not have October meeting minutes**
 - o **Minutes get posted to website, reminder that we may want to share this with membership**
 - o **Paula tracking down retreat minutes and sending all available minutes to Carolyn for posting to the website**
- **Julia not received information from WSBA regarding YLL. Paula and Julia to confer, Carolyn to look into WSBA communications.**

12:10: Finances & Budget (Courtland)

- **June financials, consistent**
- **Looks that FY25, moderately low 4-digit positive year.**

12:20: 2026 NWDR Conference

- **Bernie Mayer, confirmed keynote**
 - o **Still waiting Bio & photo for website and social media**
- **Julie Mcfarlane, confirmed plenary speaker**
 - o **Still waiting Bio & photo for website and social media**
- **Colin Rule, confirmed plenary speaker**
 - o **Have Bio & photo for website and social media**
- **Please promote: [Requests for workshop proposals](#) accepted through October 17, 2025**
 - o **Posted in four different areas, Conference website, LinkedIn, Facebook and Bluesky**
 - o **Please promote: [Conference website](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#) and [Bluesky](#)**
 - o **Working on finding other avenues to cross pollinate**

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- Paula shared a 2-page summary of the event with the ExComm members
- Shoutout to Jody for bringing 2 members of the community mediation group to join conference planning committee!
- Trying to reinforce that this is not mediator only conference, for attorney advocates and other community members. Will be highlighted by Colin Rule and AI presentation.
- How honorariums and expenses are managed and handled
- Working on a theme to capture the event
- Planning committee used to utilize Burke Museum, it is now cost prohibitive to gather there. Hosting Thursday happy hour to the law school is financially feasible for us at this time.

12:40: Board Retreat planning: Mel/Ted

- Appears that people wanted Friday/Sat
- Paula and Donna preferred end of October
- Melissa is traveling 10/24, but will attempt to pop in (virtually)
- Mel may or may not be available on 10/24
- Decided that 10/24-25 is the date that will be the retreat
- Regarding Saturday after lunch session, would we want to plan for one or not? Decision is made to have robust morning session, no lunch and no after lunch session.
- Potential to have breakout sessions for committees at retreat
- Paula will draft a model agenda, incorporating discussions from budget conversations
 - Looking for ExComm members to identify and take on tasks
- Dinner at same place as last time
- Happy hour on the agenda, in the lobby. To include non-alcoholic drinks.
- Update on alcohol policy: event that is open and intended for all section members, can use section funds to purchase alcohol. Can use for corkage fee, as that is a service fee since it is not the direct purchase of alcohol.
- Tentative Headcount
 - Paula
 - Donna
 - Chris
 - Julia
 - Courtland
 - Ted
 - Mel
 - Bob
 - Mark
 - Jody
 - Oliver – potentially unavailable, counted in the room now.

1:00: Committee Reports

- a. Legislation & Public Policy (Jody)
 - a. Meets again next week where they will be discussing the July meeting and discussing next steps on early mediation legislation and priorities for the coming session.
 - b. Jody plans to stay on as chair for the committee and will lead that discussion at retreat
- b. Membership & Outreach (Mel)
 - a. Nothing new
- c. Academic Relationships (Julia)
 - a. SU has client counseling competition on 9/19
 - b. Julia to post to list serve

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d. Continuing Legal Education (Donna, and all)

- a. Has reached out to a potential speaker to do a webinar. Paula to share. Jason Rosen.**

1:30: Adjourn