

**Washington State Bar Association  
Construction Law Section Executive Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, March 11, 2026 — 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM**

**Held via Microsoft Teams**

Meeting ID: 278 968 886 065 3

Passcode: aM9oH7Xb

**Agenda**

- Welcome
  
- Approval of December Meeting Minutes
  - Note: February meeting was held February 18, 2026, after being postponed one week due to the Seahawks Super Bowl victory parade.
  - Motion to approve February meeting minutes.
  
- Financial Report
  - Treasurer E. Varriano presenting
  
- CLE subsidies
  - Motion Approved (1/14/26): Law Students, New Members (WSBA members within their first ten years of practice in Washington), and Section Members to get free virtual attendance and reduced section member rate for in person attendance at CLEs.
  - Do we want to rethink free virtual attendance for section members? It could discourage in-person attendance.
  
- Scholarship – T. Colburn, M. Kutsin, J. Leary, H. Fraga
  - Seattle University
    - M. Kutsin reporting
    - SU contact is Erin Fullner
    - Status
      - Need to decide whether scholarship can be used for tuition, books, or bar prep
      - Need to decide whether applications should be sent to section or SU can administer the process
      - Need to decide on amount and who administers
  - University of Washington
    - J. Leary and H. Frago reporting
    - UW contacts are Kelsey La Bianca and William Langevin
    - Status
      - UW Law discussed a potential long-term, repeating Construction Law Section scholarship to expose 1Ls and 2Ls to construction law and build the early-career pipeline.

- Section needs to decide scope (one vs. multiple law schools), number of annual awards, and eligibility criteria focused on openness to construction law rather than prior experience.
    - Internal Section discussion needed on structure and funding before looping back to UW Law for implementation support.
    - Need to decide on amount and who administers. Taked to contact and they recommended that you have the University handle it. They do a good job of administering.
  - Gonzaga University
    - T. Colburn reporting
    - GU contact is Sarah Guzman
    - Status
      - Gonzaga Law can fully administer a WSBA Construction Law scholarship using its standard process, including application review, selection, and fund disbursement.
      - The Section must finalize scholarship criteria (amount, number of recipients, and any participation requirements such as CLE or Section involvement).
      - Gonzaga already has ACH set up with WSBA and can handle logistics once criteria and funding decisions are approved.
  - Discussion
    - \$2,500 per school? Erin and Carolyn – revising budget?
    - Section or Schools to administer?
    - See draft Form
    - Give John, Hugo, Rita, Travis authority to figure out the process with the university
- Spokane CLE
  - Final financials
- Subcommittee Updates and Assignments
  - CLE Committee – R. English, S. Millstein, B. Sinner
    - See Email from Kim Oakley
    - Presenters needed/to confirm
      - Judicial Panel
        - Potentially Judges James Rogers, Sean O’Donnell and Michael Ryan
        - Waiting for confirmation
  - Newsletter – Evan Brown and William Young
    - Waiting on Chair Report
    - Deadlines for next issue April 3rd
  - Social/Social Events – Erin Variano and Travis Colburn
    - Mariners Report
    - Thursday night dinner before CLE

- Community Outreach & DEI – Seth Millstein and Saki Yamada
  - Volunteer Opportunities
    - LIHI Opportunities
    - S. Millstein to report on potential dates
- Law School Outreach – Travis Colburn and Rita Kutsin
  - Updates on Lunch with Lawyers events
  - Tabling at SU update
  - Intersession – On Hold
- Social Media – Cynthia Park and Rita Kutsin
  - Report on posts & engagement
- Elections Committee: Saki Yamada, Bryce Sinner, and Evan Brown
  - Set-Up Forms Submitted
- Legislative Committee: Erin Varriano, Jackie Jensen Erler, and Saki Yamada
  - Updates?
- Lifetime Achievement Award/Awards Committee: Seth Millstein
- Conclusion
  - Discussion of new cases or statutes.
  - Additional comments or announcements.
- Adjourn

**WSBA Construction Law Section  
Executive Committee Roster (2025–2026)**

**Officers:**

- Chair: R. Bryce Sinner  
Email: bryce.sinner@landerholm.com
- Chair Elect: Masaki Yamada  
Email: masaki.yamada@acslawyers.com
- Vice Chair: Evan Brown  
Email: evan.brown@stoel.com
- Secretary: Travis Colburn  
Email: travis.colburn@acslawyers.com
- Treasurer: Erin Varriano  
Email: erinvarriano@johnlscott.com
- Immediate Past Chair: Seth Millstein  
Email: seth@pillar-law.com
- Past Chair: Bart Reed  
Email: bart.reed@stoel.com
- Past Chair: Ron English  
Email: rjenglish@yahoo.com

**At-Large Members:**

- Jackie Jensen Erler (Term ending 9/30/28)  
Email: jackie.jensenerler@acslawyers.com
- Allen Benson (Term ending 9/30/28)  
Email: abenson@omwlaw.com
- Margarita “Rita” Kutsin (Term ending 9/30/28)  
Email: margarita.kutsin@acslawyers.com
- Ryan Gilchrist (Term ending 9/30/27)  
Email: rgilchrist@seyfarth.com
- Cynthia Park (Term ending 9/30/27)  
Email: cpark@omwlaw.com

- Kainui Smith (Term ending 9/30/27)  
Email: kainui.smith@absherco.com
- John Leary (Term ending 9/30/26)  
Email: jleary@grsm.com
- William Young (Term ending 9/30/26)  
Email: WillY@mckinstry.com
- William “Scott” Noel (Term ending 9/30/26)  
Email: snoel@bpmlaw.com

**Other Positions:**

- Young Lawyer Liaison: Hugo Fraga  
Email: hugo.fraga@acslawyers.com
- WSBA Sections Program Coordinator: Carolyn MacGregor  
Email: Carolynm@wsba.org
- WSBA Board of Governors Liaison: Kevin Fay  
Email: kevinfaybog@yahoo.com

### Attendance

	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept
<b>Sinner</b>	X	X	X	X	X							
<b>Yamada</b>	X	X	X	X	X							
<b>Brown</b>	X	X	Exc.	X	X							
<b>Colburn</b>	X	Exc.	X	X	X							
<b>Varriano</b>	Exc.	X	X	X	X							
<b>Millstein</b>	X	X	X	X	Exc.							
<b>Erler</b>	X	X	X	X	Exc.							
<b>Benson</b>	Exc.	X	X	X	X							
<b>Kutsin</b>	Exc.	Exc.	X	X	X							
<b>Gilchrist</b>	X	Exc.	X	X	X							
<b>Park</b>	X	X	Exc.	X	X							
<b>Smith</b>	X	Exc.		X	X							
<b>Leary</b>	X	Exc.	X	X	X							
<b>Young</b>	X	X	Exc.	X	X							
<b>Noel</b>	X	X	X	X	X							
<b>Fraga</b>	X	X	X	X	X							
<b>Other</b>	R. English (Exc.), C. MacGregor (Exc.), Kevin Fay (Exc.)											