

**Washington State Bar Association
Construction Law Section Executive Committee Meeting
Wednesday, May 13, 2026 — 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM**

Held via Teams

Meeting ID: 262 536 120 495 752

Passcode: xD3ks7YG

Dial in by phone

Phone Number: 207-387-1374

Conference ID: 868 764 930#

Agenda

- Welcome

- Approval of March Meeting Minutes

- Financial Report
 - Treasurer E. Varriano presenting

- CLE subsidies
 - Motion Approved (4/8/26):
 - Law Students free for virtual attendance only; and
 - New Members (WSBA members within their first ten years of practice in Washington) receive Section Member pricing and first 10 registrants for in person attendance get 50% off.

- Scholarship – T. Colburn, M. Kutsin, J. Leary, H. Fraga
 - Seattle University
 - M. Kutsin reporting
 - SU contact is Erin Fullner
 - University of Washington
 - J. Leary and H. Frago reporting
 - UW contacts are Kelsey La Bianca and William Langevin
 - Gonzaga University
 - T. Colburn reporting
 - GU contact is Sarah Guzman
 - Discussion
 - Need EC approval of a budget amendment increasing scholarship line item from \$5,000 to \$7,500.
 - Need various leads to finalize deals with the schools.
 - Finalize applicant language (expressed vs. demonstrated interest)

- Subcommittee Updates and Assignments
 - CLE Committee – R. English, S. Millstein, B. Sinner

- Presenters needed/to confirm
 - Judicial Panel
 - Potentially Judges James Rogers, Sean O'Donnell and Michael Ryan
 - Waiting for confirmation
- Continued discussion:
 - Can Judge Rogers find two more judges?
 - Possible shorter presentation with just Judge Rogers.
 - Possibly add senior arbitrator
 - Judge Andrus? Judge Zilly? Bill Bender? Chris Soelling? John Ahlers?
- Discussion
 - The agenda is largely set, with the primary open issue being confirmation of the judicial panel.
 - Outreach is ongoing, with follow-up and resume requests in progress.
 - Kim Oakley is managing advertising, presenter material deadlines, CLE credits
 - Proposed pricing finalized. Pricing will be \$155 for section members, new members, and law students, the first 10 New Members to register for in person attendance get 50% off, Law students get free virtual attendance, \$190 for nonmembers.
- Seminar Expense Budget
 - Consideration and approval of an increase to the Seminar Expense budget from \$1,500 to \$2,500. As of February 28, expenditure exceeded the current budget by \$265, primarily due to travel-related expenses submitted by EC members in connection with the Spokane CLE. Carolyn has not seen any additional expenses submitted and we are not sure if we will have any for the mid-year, but we could frame this as a “just-in-case” so we have the vote recorded to include in a budget memo.
- Newsletter – Evan Brown and William Young
 - Update
 - Deadlines for next issue extended
 - Need articles
 - Need Chair Report
 - Evan Brown to circulate list of potential topics
- Social/Social Events – Erin Varriano and Travis Colburn
 - Mariners Report
 - Consideration and approval on moving forward with an all-section outing at the Mariners game on September 8. The anticipated expense would be approximately \$2,500. Tickets are \$45 each, with the intent to sell them to section members for \$20. Erin plans to purchase the tickets now (the deposit is fully refundable), and work

with Carolyn to get the CLE store set up so we can be ready to go once (if) the EC approves.

- Thursday night dinner before CLE
- Community Outreach & DEI – Seth Millstein and Saki Yamada
 - Volunteer Opportunities
 - S. Millstein to report on potential dates (September/October?)
 - Construction for Change fundraiser?
- Law School Outreach – Travis Colburn and Rita Kutsin
 - Updates on Lunch with Lawyers events
 - Tabling at SU update
 - SU 4/16 update
 - Intersession – On Hold
- Social Media – Cynthia Park and Rita Kutsin
 - Report on posts & engagement
- Elections Committee: Saki Yamada, Bryce Sinner, and Evan Brown
 - Update?
- Legislative Committee: Erin Varriano, Jackie Jensen Erler, and Saki Yamada
 - Update?
- Lifetime Achievement Award/Awards Committee: Seth Millstein
 - Update?
- Conclusion
 - Discussion of new cases or statutes.
 - Additional comments or announcements.
 - Kerry Lawrence effort to revise the lien statute? Evan Brown list of proposed changes?
- Adjourn

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

Officers:

- Chair: R. Bryce Sinner
Email: bryce.sinner@ecpowerslife.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:

- New Member Liaison: Hugo Fraga
Email: hugo.fraga@millernash.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
Sinner	X	X	X	X	X	X	Exc.					
Yamada	X	X	X	X	X	Exc.	X					
Brown	X	X	Exc.	X	X	X	X					
Colburn	X	Exc.	X	X	X	Exc.	X					
Varriano	Exc.	X	X	X	X	X	X					
Millstein	X	X	X	X	Exc.	X	Exc.					
Erler	X	X	X	X	Exc.	Exc.	Exc.					
Benson	Exc.	X	X	X	X	X	X					
Kutsin	Exc.	Exc.	X	X	X	X	X					
Gilchrist	X	Exc.	X	X	X	X	X					
Park	X	X	Exc.	X	X	X	X					
Smith	X	Exc.		X	X	Exc.	Exc.					
Leary	X	Exc.	X	X	X	X	X					
Young	X	X	Exc.	X	X	Exc.	X					
Noel	X	X	X	X	X	X	Exc.					
Fraga	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
Other	R. English (X); C. MacGregor (X);											