

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION  
SENIOR LAWYERS SECTION  
MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

**January 15, 2019**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Brian Comstock. Present were Executive Committee members Al Armstrong, Carole Grayson, Steve DeForest (by phone), Jeanine Lutzenhiser, Eleanor Doermann (by phone), Dudley Panchot, WSBA Liaison Patrick Mead, and Kevin Plachy of the WSBA (by phone). Not able to be present were Scott Osborne, Jim Riehl, Morrie Shore, and Ron Thompson.

**CHAIR'S REPORT**

Brian distributed the Agenda for today's meeting (and had emailed it to E.C. members prior to the meeting).

Brian noted the on-going issue concerning the current structure of the WSBA in light of a pending case before the U.S. Supreme Court. The decision in that case would determine the future status of integrated bars such as our own. Pursuant to the Bar's efforts to "stay ahead of the game" relative to this question, the Board of Governors, authorized a subcommittee of ten individuals to formulate a plan of action depending upon the decision in that case. Three of those subcommittee members will be chosen from the WSBA sections: one each representing the interests of small sections, medium-sized sections, and large sections, respectively. Those interested in representing the interests of their respective section category were to apply no later than December 7, 2018. Pat indicated he would keep the E.C. members informed so as to allow us to exercise in-put to the small sections' representative.

**CONFIRMATION OF EMERITUS STATUS FOR FORMER REGULAR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

It was determined that our Committee had already duly confirmed Emeritus Status for Phil DeTurk, Jerry Jager, Fred Frederickson, Tom Wampold and John Bergmann. By Motion, Emeritus Status was also unanimously conferred upon former E.C. member Ron Mattson.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT**

The Minutes for the Executive Meeting on November 20 were approved by Motion.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Ron had earlier informed the E.C. members that he had not received the financial reports from the WSBA for September, October and November 2018; Pat indicated that these financial reports should be completed shortly.

## **OPEN SECTIONS' NIGHT, JANUARY 31, 2019 AND SUGGESTED \$50 "CONTRIBUTION."**

It was noted that Brian, Al and Jeanine will be attending this year's open sections night on January 31. The Bar's suggested \$50 voluntary per-section contribution to cover the costs of this event was discussed. Dudley proposed a Motion to approve the expenditure. All were in favor except Carole and Steve. Steve indicated he felt Open Sections Night was a worthy event but that the suggested contribution was an example of the WSBA just "moving money around." Carole noted that we really haven't netted any new Section members from Open Sections Night. Carole did the math, calculating that the Bar, at \$50 for each of 28 sections, would gross \$1,400 from the event. Pat noted that the contribution was voluntary. He added that Open Sections Night is a WSBA event and not a sections event. In the end, an Amended Motion was offered by Dudley, the passing of which approved of the \$50 expenditure but with our reservations noted, with Carole maintaining her "nay" position.

Brian indicated that we should, relative to Open Sections Night and our Membership Task Force's efforts, reflect upon just where our Section is heading, to whom do we wish to appeal, and what will Senior Lawyers look like in the future.

Brian indicated he would bring our Section handouts to the January 31 event.

## **CLE PLANNING NEWS**

Carole referenced the list of our speakers and general topics. It was mentioned that Jean Marie Clavere, our ethics speaker, should perhaps address any ethics-centered issues, court decisions or other changes arising during the previous five years. Steve and Dudley suggested that Doug Lawrence, our estate planning presenter, may want to address potential conflicts of interest situations that could arise during estate probates such as those involving multiple family members' respective interest in inherited businesses, and the avoidance of problems such as these in the estate-planning phase.

The question of the order of the speaker presentations was addressed. It was agreed that we should have an especially compelling speaker as the last presenter of the day, to prevent our attendees from leaving early. Several suggestions were made as to the identity of the final speaker.

Carole mentioned that we need a catchy CLE theme. Kevin reviewed our CLE titles from years past. Dudley noted that a good theme can make a difference in attendance. Brian wanted us to think about "to whom is our Section planning to appeal?" when considering a CLE title. Steve, who has chosen several of our past themes, suggested a one-word theme—"Challenges." It was decided to address this issue at the next telephone conference of the CLE subcommittee. Kevin said he would email the

subcommittee members and arrange for a time for a telephone conference, during which the theme of our CLE can be discussed.

### **YOUNG LAWYER LIAISON—JEANINE LUTZENHISER**

Jeanine indicated she was eager to have our Section engage with members of the Young Lawyer Section in mentoring activities. She indicated she will remain eligible for membership in the Young Lawyer Section for the time being even though she is about to “age out” with respect to the less-than-five-years-in-practice limitation. She indicated that she is in the process of getting clearance from the WSBA to act as our Young Lawyer Liaison. Pat indicated that mentoring can be useful in recruiting new members to our Section.

### **MINI-CLE**

Eleanor was officially named chair of our mini-CLE subcommittee pursuant to Brian’s Motion. Eleanor indicated she would like topic suggestions for this mini-CLE. Steve wondered whether this event should be held prior to the end of the current fiscal year, and it was decided that we should, given that expected proceeds for the mini-CLE are figured into this years’ budget.

### **PUBLICATION SUBCOMMITTEE**

At our last meeting, Scott volunteered to chair the new Publications Subcommittee and to act as Editor of any publication we eventually choose. Carole suggested that we conduct, at our next meeting, a review of what the mission of our new publication would be, and what would be our plan of action in this regard.

Pat indicated that publisher Ken Yu has retired and that he (Pat) will let us know who his replacement will be.

### **SENIOR LAWYERS’ SECTION QUESTIONNAIRE**

Carole indicated she had a set of five proposed questions for the questionnaire to be sent to current and former Section members, asking them what they would like to see our Section do. Others may have other suggestions for questions. She will send these questions to Pat, who will then work with Carole to put together a proposed list; all agreed that the final list of questions should be a short one. Pat will then send these questions to the Executive Committee members to comment on at the next meeting.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Brian adjourned the meeting.

The next Executive Committee meeting will take place at the Broadmoor Golf Club at 10:30 am on February 19, 2019.

