

Minutes of Senior Lawyers Section Executive Committee meeting of October 16, 2024

Submitted by Carole Grayson, interim secretary

Present: *EC members:* Al Armstrong (interim chair), Joe Gordon (treasurer), Carole Grayson (interim secretary), William Cameron, Steve DeForest, Jim Riehl.

Non-EC members: L. Parvin Price (BOG liaison to our section), Ruth Apahidean (Young Lawyers liaison to our section), Carolyn MacGregor (WSBA Sections Program Coordinator), Rachel Matz (WSBA Education Programs Lead), Paris Eriksen (WSBA Volunteer Engagement Advisor)

Not able to be present: EC members Brian Comstock, Jenny Rydberg, David Sprinkle

Interim chair's report: For Al Armstrong, this was his first meeting as interim chair. He thanked WSBA's Carolyn MacGregor for her help with his transition from longtime secretary to interim chair. Al's quarterly stint as interim chair will conclude after the end of this December. October is the first month of the new FY, and Al noted that our EC has at least two openings.

Minutes of prior EC meeting: The EC approved the minutes of our September 18 meeting.

Liaisons to our section: Parvin Price of the BOG and Ruth Apahidean of the Young Lawyers Committee introduced themselves. Parvin practiced for 40+ years in Indiana in various capacities. He became a member of WSBA in 2021, when he and his wife moved to Bothell to be near family. Like some members of our section, Parvin is not actively practicing law. Ruth was admitted to WSBA in 2020; she practices estate planning and related matters in Edmonds.

Financial report: Joe Gordon reported that WSBA's FY ended September 30 and its staff is working on finalizing fiscal year-end matters. As a result, WSBA has not provided an updated monthly financial report since our September meeting, at which he reported on our August balance. Joe expects our next monthly financial report to include our October 4 CLE.

CLE on October 4: Our Section's remote CLE, "Scams and Fraud: Detection and Strategies", was well-received and well-attended. Rachel Matz said that the 53 attendees was the highest number she had ever seen for a four-hour remote CLE. Rachel also said she has never seen such extensive use of the chats both among attendees and for Q&A. Our CLE committee (William Cameron, Carole Grayson, Jenny Rydberg, David Sprinkle, and John Rapp) was authorized to attend on a complimentary basis; David was also a presenter. WSBA is compiling evaluations submitted by attendees. Rachel will have these available for our November 20 EC meeting.

Next CLE: The EC envisions holding our next CLE sometime in the spring of 2025. Date, theme, speakers TBD. Al wondered if our section should only do remote (on-line, virtual) CLEs in the future. Rachel said that she is seeing nationally that in-person CLEs have the best chance of success if they have a fabulous venue and last more than one day. Jim Riehl, who is active in the American Bar Association, said that all ABA CLEs are on-line, allowing easy access. Rachel said that sections can produce their own two hour mini-CLEs, though WSBA doesn't assist these in the same ways that it does with longer CLEs. Although no formal motion was made, no one

on the EC disputed that remote CLEs are the best fit for our section, and the socializing possible at an in-person CLE will be missed.

Newsletter: *Next issue:* “Life Begins” editor Jim Riehl said the deadline for our winter 2025 issue for articles, book recommendations, etc., is November 15. He expects our next issue to be out early in 2025. Al will be writing a summary of our October CLE as well as a column as interim chair. Ruth will be profiled at some point. Jim encourages ethics questions to be sent to Anne Seidel for her column, “Ask Anne about Ethics”.

Transition in editor: “Life Begins” will be needing a new editor in 2025. Jim is stepping off the EC at the end of 2024 and will cease his editorial duties upon publication of the winter 2025 “Life Begins”. Jim spoke about how much he has appreciated serving on the EC and as editor these last several years. He said that reaching the 50-year mark since being admitted to WSBA played a significant role in his decision to step down and begin his next chapter, as has his wife’s own career transition. Jim said that he believed that his regular columnists in “Life Begins” -- Justice Barbara Madsen of the WA Supreme Court, Jeff Tolman, Dr. Charles Ericksen -- will still be willing to contribute, as will Anne Seidel, if she receives ethics questions and scenarios from readers. These factors should allow the new editor, whoever that may turn out to be, to step into the position with relative ease.

Carole has assisted Jim as a second set of eyes and is willing to assist the next editor as well. Carole served as editor from 2007 to 2014 and is not willing to serve again as editor.

Jim and Carole praised the professionalism, responsiveness, and great stylistic eye of Britt Sutherland, publisher of “Life Begins”. Britt’s continued involvement will be a great asset for the next editor.

Member Status Workgroup: Parvin said that the BOG will consider the report and recommendations of the WSBA Member Status Workgroup at its early November meeting. Based on the BOG’s first reading in September of the Workgroup’s materials, he believes the BOG will approve it in November. He will provide an update at our November EC meeting.

Non-lawyer Entity pilot program: Should non-lawyer entities be regulated to protect Washingtonians? Parvin said that the Elder Law Section has voiced concerns about non-lawyer entities functioning in WA. He said that the BOG and the Practice of Law Board will be conducting an on-line survey regarding non-lawyer entities.

WSBACommunity: Paris Eriksen spoke about the new document collaboration option being tested on WSBACommunity. EC members who had tried out a test version of the option said they found it very doable.

Section name: Carole said the New York State Bar’s Section Lawyers Section has changed its name to the 50+ Section (her source was her brother, who is a member of that section). Carole had provided the EC a link to the 50+ Section’s website. She said that regardless of our section name, she would favor seeking WSBA permission to amend our bylaw regarding eligibility for our EC to reduce the minimum age from 55 to 50 (while retaining the required years of practice at 25+). Al said he will place the matter of our section name and EC eligibility criteria on our November EC meeting agenda.

Section Leaders Orientation: Carolyn reminded the EC about WSBA's October 30 Section Leaders Orientation, via Zoom. She said it has value for returning as well as new EC members.

Adjourn: The EC adjourned sometime before noon.

Our next EC meeting is November 20, 2024 via Zoom.