

Minutes of Senior Lawyers Section Executive Committee meeting of December 18, 2024  
Submitted by Carole Grayson, interim secretary

**Present via Zoom:**

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

*Non-EC members:* Ruth Apahidean (Young Lawyers liaison), Carolyn MacGregor (WSBA Sections Program Coordinator), Rachel Matz (WSBA Education Programs Lead)

**Not able to be present:**

*EC member:* Jenny Rydberg

*Non-EC member:* L. Parvin Price (BOG liaison)

**Interim chair's report:** This was the last one of Al Armstrong's three monthly meetings as interim chair. William Cameron will be interim chair for Q2 (January, February, March 2025), followed by David Sprinkle for Q3 (April, May, June 2025). Interim chair for Q4 is TBD. Carolyn MacGregor, WSBA Sections Program Coordinator, can assist the incoming interim chairs with any questions.

Al spoke of attending, with Carole Grayson, the memorial service for EC member Brian Comstock on December 6.

**Minutes of prior EC meeting:** The EC approved the minutes of our November 20 meeting.

**Financial report:** Treasurer Joe Gordon reported that WSBA staff is working on finalizing end of FY matters and our next financial reports should be available the end of January 2025. He said that the Section has 265 members.

**Next CLE:** With input from Rachel Matz, WSBA Education Programs Lead, the EC selected Friday, May 16, 2025, for our next CLE. TBD: Theme, speakers, length, format (remote is likely), etc. Rachel will provide the evaluations from our section's remote CLE on October 4, "Scams and Fraud: Detection and Strategies", to the CLE committee for any ideas it may spark. EC members David Sprinkle, Carole Grayson, and William Cameron agreed to sit on the CLE committee, along with Young Lawyer liaison Ruth Apahidean. They invited Jenny Rydberg (who was absent) to join them on the committee, subject to her approval.

Rachel said that WSBA is experimenting with another model for presenting CLEs: as a series. For example, a CLE provider can divide 4 hours of presentations into two 2 hr. CLEs on consecutive days *or* the same weekday over two weeks. William Cameron and Jim Riehl thought that offering two 2 hr. CLEs would take as much work, or perhaps more work, than offering one 4 hr. CLE. Rachel said the series model was merely for our information and consideration.

**Newsletter: *Current issue:*** Outgoing "Life Begins" editor Jim Riehl said the Winter 2025 issue had arrived via a link in section members' inboxes on December 17, the day before our EC meeting. He and Britt Sutherland, publisher of "Life Begins", had agreed to call it Winter 2025, rather than Fall 2024. Jim commended the issue's usual broad spectrum of articles. He

mentioned Al's recap of our October CLE, Steve's article on visiting Tuva, Jeff Tolman's article on downsizing, Supreme Court Justice Barbara Madsen's column, and the profile of Ruth Apahidean, our Young Lawyer liaison. Carole Grayson mentioned how helpful she found the ABA reprint on the stages of retirement. Jim said that he had received a note from Paul Luvera praising the newsletter.

This newsletter and EC meeting were the final ones for Jim Riehl, who is stepping down from the EC. Calling WSBA staff a "great group", Jim said he was "so impressed how professional at every level" they have been. He praised Britt's creativity for transforming "Life Begins" into a compelling newsletter that fulfills its tagline: "Relevant. Informative. Entertaining".

***New editor needed:*** Jim had not received any responses to his post on the section listserv announcing the need for a new editor for "Life Begins". He wondered if enlisting co-editors, as he and then-EC member Eleanor Doermann had been, might prove a practical solution. He said that the editor need not be a member of the EC. He had spoken with Section member John Rapp, who had been on the CLE Committee that planned the October 2024 CLE. John expressed interest in participating in the section but is unable to serve as editor or on the EC.

**Remembering Brian Comstock.** Brian Comstock, EC member and former BOG member, died on November 15. His son and law partner, John Comstock, is a member of the Senior Lawyers Section. John joined the EC on Zoom. He and the EC shared memories of his father.

**Bylaw proposal change:** The EC at its November EC meeting had approved a motion to amend the Section's bylaws to allow section members to serve in governance positions (i.e., on the Executive Committee) if they were at least 50 years old (rather than 55 years old, as in the current bylaws) or had been in practice at least 25 years (no change sought to length of practice). Carolyn MacGregor, WSBA Sections Program Coordinator, will provide Al Armstrong a template so that he, in consultation with the EC, can put forth our request to WSBA.

**Section name:** Steve DeForest spoke in favor of changing our section name to The Experienced Section. No EC members expressed agreement with the idea. Al and William said they were proud of being seniors and disliked euphemisms. No motion was made.

**Section legislative liaison:** Sanjay Walvekar, WSBA Legislative Affairs Manager, had contacted the 29 sections seeking section legislative liaisons. David Sprinkle offered to serve as the Section's legislative liaison.

**Adjourn:** The EC adjourned at 12:10 pm.

Our next EC meeting is Wednesday, January 15, 2025, at 10:30 via Zoom.