

**SENIOR LAWYERS SECTION
MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

May 21, 2025

This meeting was conducted via Zoom. The following Executive Committee members and WSBA personnel were present at this meeting: Interim Chair David Sprinkle, Steve DeForest, Al Armstrong, Bill Cameron, Carole Grayson, Joe Gordon, Jenny Rydberg, WSBA Sections Program Specialist Carolyn MacGregor, and BOG Liaison Lester Parvin Price, Jr. Not able to be present was Young Lawyer Liaison Ruth Apahidean.

CHAIR'S WELCOME

David welcomed the attendees. David introduced two attendees who were considering joining our Senior Lawyers Executive Committee: Clay Wilson, former managing attorney for the Seattle University School of Law Moderate Means Program, and Laurin Schweet, formerly a partner at the Foster Garvey Firm, later founding the firm of Schweet, Linde and Rosenblum and purchasing a building in the Georgetown neighborhood in the process.

Clay said he would consider joining our Executive Committee and let us know. Laurin decided in the affirmative and was accepted as an Executive Committee member by unanimous vote. Carolyn termed Laurin's E.C. membership an "interim appointment" which would become a regular appointment at the start of the new fiscal year on October 1st. We hope Clay joins us too.

David asked all E.C. members present to introduce themselves to our guests. David also said that he may have recruited an additional new E.C. member while attending the Section Leaders' Meeting on May 2.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Al's Minutes of our April 16 meeting were approved by Motion. He indicated that, in light of the WSBA/Community experiment shutting down as of June 13, he would be sending all E.C. members via their respective email addresses.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Joe indicated that he has received financial updates from the Bar. Our fund totaled \$12,969.99 at the end of February, \$12, 906.54 at the end of March, and \$12,913.09 as of the

end of April. We had three new members joining our Section in March, and one new member signing up in April.

Joe stated that the proposed budget for the next fiscal year is due June 7. Joe had worked up some preliminary figures. The WSBA informed Joe that our membership total as of December 31 was 259k. Our membership total as of May 1 was 229. Joe thought he would estimate our member number at 230 for the next fiscal year: “it’s better to underestimate our membership figure than to overestimate” that total. It was noted that the WSBA has increased its per-member charge from \$18.45 to \$18.75. Joe said tht the Bar wants to know, pursuant to this budget estimate, whether or not our Section will be raising our dues. If we do raise our dues, Carolyn said that we would still get to keep anything we raise over the Bar’s take of \$18.75; that the Bar’s share would not increase just because we upped the yearly amount—we would keep anything over the \$18.75 per-member Bar assessment. It was decided not to raise out dues—they would remain at \$25.00 per year.

Joe noted that we have, in the past, budgeted \$4,500 per year for our three-times-a-year newsletter, \$1,500 for each of our editions. He thought it best to keep that figure for next year’s budget, despite our not securing an editor as of yet. The Committee agreed. It was also agreed to keep the same figures as were used for our current fiscal year, on such items as conference calls and the like. Joe indicated that the figures discussed today are not final—we would have more opportunity to revisit these budget entries later on, prior to the submission of our final budget proposal to the WSBA.

Carolyn added that the WSBA, at the start of every fiscal year, purely as an accounting measure, allots 25% of a section’s revenue to the following fiscal year. The overall financial picture is not changed, the sums are just shifted to better align the fiscal year with the calendar year.

REVIEW OF OUR MAY 16 CLE.

Jenny noted that the “CLE went well and everyone presented well.” Surprisingly, attendance turned out to be fairly low, but Carolyn reminded us that generally 2/3 of CLE revenue comes from on-demand orders in the weeks and months following a given live presentation. David noted that we most likely will not be sponsoring in-person CLEs in the future, given that so few attendees select that option when we give it.

Relative to our next CLE, David said that he will place consideration of this on the Agenda for our June meeting.

SECTION ELECTIONS

Carole said that the portal for candidate nominations would remain open until May 23. Carole had secured an extension from the prior deadline so as to enable her to make a

“shameless plug” for E.C. Committee applicants at our May 16 CLE. Carolyn mentioned that the actual voting should take place starting about June 9.

NEWSLETTER

David noted that we still have not secured an editor to Life Begins. He indicated that he would transmit an invitation to be our editor to our Section membership. Carole mentioned that she would be glad to assist a new editor. It was noted that we do have several articles that we haven’t used yet that could be utilized in future issues. David said that he may be willing to act as editor following his retirement. Carole mentioned that Justice Barbara Madsen remains willing to contribute regular articles to our publication, and a number of other past writers will most likely also be willing to continue to contribute.

BOG LIAISON’S REPORT

Parvin reported some highlights of the May 2 meeting of the BOG in Port Angeles and other matters also.

Prior to that meeting, he related, that he was one of 1300 WSBA members who retook Lawyers’ Oath in observance of Law Day, May 1. Parvin also mentioned a CLE he attended on May 6, along with 2000 others, entitled “Rule of Law and Constitutional Crises.” He emphatically said that this was the best CLE he had ever taken. The main ideas presented dealt with: 1. Exactly what is the Separation of Powers doctrine as set forth in the U.S. Constitution? 2. How do the WSBA Rules of Conduct relate to the Separation of Powers doctrine? Parvin encouraged all WSBA members to listen to this program, currently available free of charge from the WSBA CLE store. Questions should be directed to ambassadors@wsba.org.

Parvin also discussed the WSBA’s Rule of Law Ambassador Program. The idea here is to equip interested WSBA members, designated as Ambassadors, to answer questions friends, family and others may have regarding the various executive orders emanating from Washington, D.C.

Another topic taken up at the BOG meeting was the establishment of a procedure to determine our annual license fees. This topic was presented as a first reading at the BOG. The idea here is to formulate an annual procedure to determine the financial status and needs of the WSBA. This would require the Bar to: 1. calibrate changes in the cost of living; 2. take stock of annual expenses and revenue; and 3. determine what our financial reserves should be. Ideally, this would be done every year.

Parvin also mentioned that the Bar recently hosted a meeting of the heads of about 50 heads of local bar associations within the state (i.e. East King County BAR, Snohomish County Bar, etc.) to address methods of growing their respective organizations.

Kari Petrasek, a solo practitioner from Snohomish County, has been selected as President Elect of the Washington State Bar; she will assume office for the 2026-2027 fiscal year.

Parvin said the next BOG meeting is to held in Walla Walla in July.

David thanked Parvin for all his May 2 efforts, noting that he was present for the Section Leaders meeting as well as the BOG meeting that day.

TERMINATION OF THE WSBA/COMMUNITY PROGRAM

David asked, “why are they pulling the plug on the WSBACommunity program?” Carolyn stated that they conducted a thorough survey of groups and WSBA staff regarding this experiment, which reflected “not a resounding yes.” The WSBA looked at the feedback and, balancing the benefits and cost of the system, it was found that the WSBACommunity was not the right fit. Carolyn added that the Bar is looking at other options with respect to intrasection communication strategies. The WSBA is looking at another, more-capable software system. David asked about the documents currently stored in the WSBACommunity library. Carolyn stated that the Bar will keep the documents that are currently stored there, and these would be made available on request, even though the site itself is shutting down on June 13. Carolyn congratulated our Section for meeting the challenge of participating in the WSBACommunity system.

YOUNG LAWYER LIAISON

David said that Ruth will apply to renew her status of Young Lawyer Liaison for the next fiscal year.

ADJOURNMENT

David adjourned the meeting.

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will take place on a remote-attendance basis on June 18, 2025 at 10:30 am.