

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

August 20, 2025

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

CHAIR'S WELCOME

Carole welcomed all present.

Carole related that the BOG had instituted a new policy regarding alcohol served at section activities. If a given section is sponsoring an in-person activity, alcohol may be purchased with funds from that section's general fund. Carolyn added that the event must be open to that section's general membership, not just that section's executive committee. There would have to be a limit of two drink-tickets per attendee. The server must be a licensed bar server. Parvin added that another section had dubbed this new policy the "booze from dues" rule.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Al's Minutes of our July 16 meeting were approved by Motion.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Joe reported that our fund at the end of June stood at \$12,919.64.

Carolyn added that our proposed budget for the next fiscal year would be considered by the Budget and Audit Committee in a few days, after which, assuming approval, our budget would then be forwarded to the BOG for final adoption.

OUR SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

Laurin had submitted her final draft of a proposed letter to our Section membership requesting opinions about a change, if any there is to be, to our Section name. This draft was circulated by Carole prior to the meeting, and shared by Carolyn with the meeting

attendees this morning. The meeting attendees approved of Laurin's effort. Carole wondered whether, if a section-recipient of the questionnaire suggested a Section name not already included on the list of choices, do we then have to then give all Section members a chance to vote on that suggestion also? It was agreed that, in the event we receive a new suggestion for a section, we would reserve the right to consider that suggestion but would not be obligated to submit that suggestion to another vote of the general Section membership.

Carole thanked Laurin for her contribution.

OUR NEXT CLE

Carole said that Laurin had made some suggestions for topics for our next CLE. Laurin had thought that a discussion of warning signs, "red flags," of cognitive decline in legal practitioners, would be appropriate. Carole said she would like to have Andy Benjamin from the University of Washington School of Law to address this subject. Another suggestion of Laurin's was to have a representative of Consumer Education and Training Services (CENTS) speak on subjects of interest to seniors, such as the possible pitfalls of reverse mortgages. Laurin also informed Carole that she could tap the resources of her old firm, one of whose specialties is debt/creditor issues,

The topic of AI was mentioned, but Rachel cautioned that there have been a multiplicity of AI CLEs offered by other sections, and Rachel did not wish to risk duplicating presentations.

Carole mentioned that she and attorney-psychologist Andy Benjamin are involved in the Washington Lawyers Assisting Lawyers, a free and non-profit assistance program for attorneys. She felt this organization would have something constructive to offer in the way of CLE topics. She felt that "Andy and Leslie" [Leslie Hagin] could present relevant material. It was mentioned that Andy Benjamin, Carole and Leslie Hagin serve on the Board of Washington Lawyers Assisting Lawyers.

Jenny recalled a clever presentation by a speaker at a family law seminar some years ago in Spokane, which involved a humorous comparison of Star Trek's "Ferengi Rules" to the RPCs. Alas, no one could remember the name of the presenter.

Rachel offered that we would need to have a CLE date agreed upon before we reach out to potential speakers. Carole suggested early December. It was decided by the attendees that December 12 would be the CLE date, and that it would be offered on a remote basis, 3-4 hours in duration. Rachel stated that we should have our suggested program formalized by the middle of October, with outreach to potential speakers beginning in early September.

BOG LIAISON REPORT

Parvin indicated that the BOG had met on July 17-18. A Treasurer was elected for the upcoming term.

He mentioned several topics touched upon by the BOG that he considered the high points of the meeting.

Parvin related that the BOG addressed the issue of non-lawyer practice of law in our state. These practitioners often provide fill-in-the-blank legal forms, such as wills and the like, to consumers. It was felt, by the BOG, that these services are probably here to stay, and the aim should be to regulate these enterprises rather than attempt to eliminate them. A pilot program has been authorized: this would involve charging these businesses an application fee of \$2,000 and an annual fee of \$5,000; for services that aimed at low income individuals, the fees would be \$1,000 and \$2,500, respectively.

In order to encourage experienced Bar members to join sections, it was thought to enact a rule allowing for honorary members to join sections. Article IX of the WSBA Bylaws was amended to effect this change.

There will be a change in the Bar's policy of discouraging sections from directly addressing the state legislature or its committees. In the past, there was a general ban on this practice; later, this rule was softened in some instances. Now, a section may address the legislature provided that the position advocated was consistent with the intent of General Rule 12.2, and that $\frac{3}{4}$ of the governing body, such as a section executive committee, agreed with that particular point of view and that this viewpoint merited being presented to the legislature.

The BOG will submit an amicus brief in support of the Perkins Coie firm in its suit against the Trump Administration in the D.C. Federal District Court. The case is currently being appealed by the Administration following an adverse ruling at the federal trial court level.

Parvin mentioned that he will be a BOG member until the end of September, 2027.

YOUNG LAWYER LIAISON REPORT

Ruth joined with Parvin in announcing that the BOG has agreed to change the rules relative to the Washington Young Lawyers Committee. That organization will henceforth be styled the "Washington New Lawyers Committee," with the term "new lawyer" defined as a WSBA member for ten or less years. This change will take effect at the start of the next calendar year.

ADJOURNMENT

Carole adjourned the meeting at 11:41 AM.

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will take place on a remote attendance basis on September 17, 2025 at 10:30 am.