



LIFE BEGINS

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Senior Lawyers Section
(Washington State Bar Association)

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LETTER from the EDITOR

Greetings to Members of the
Senior Lawyers Section

AS YOUR NEWLY-ELECTED CHAIR of the Senior Lawyers Executive Committee, I am pleased to announce the comeback of the Senior Lawyers Section newsletter, now in electronic form. Many of you are familiar with *Life Begins*, our traditional print publication, from years past. The electronic newsletter format is new for our Section, and it represents just one of the ways we are adapting to changing times. We hope that the new format will improve our ability to stay connected with our Section members.

I would first like to introduce myself. I was appointed as chair of the Executive Committee on an interim basis in March, and I was then confirmed in our online election in May. I follow in the footsteps of Brian Comstock in this position. Brian faithfully filled this role since 2017. Brian continues to be actively involved in the Executive Committee, and I thank him on behalf of the committee for his years of leadership.

My initial involvement with the Senior Lawyers Executive Committee was as the young lawyer liaison to the section in 2015. I qualified for membership in the section by virtue of my age, and at the time I was also a young lawyer, based on my number of years in law practice. I was either a young senior lawyer or an old new lawyer, depending on how you look at it. I have now “aged out” of my young lawyer status, but I will never age out of being a senior lawyer. As for my background, I graduated from Seattle University School of Law in 2012, following a long health care career. I was a physical therapist at Swedish Medical Center for 25 years. I am now an elder law attorney in solo practice in Tukwila. My practice includes estate planning, probate, guardianship, and ERISA disability appeals. I also have a particular interest in identifying and serving the legal needs of LGBTQ seniors.

The Senior Lawyers Section has long emphasized and prided itself in its tradition of collegiality and in-person connection, with the annual CLE conference as the most important focus of our work each year. However, I enter my new role as Section chair at a time when our entire world has been turned on its ear, and the Senior Lawyers Section is no exception. Given of the depth of our members’ connections in the legal community, our annual CLE always includes an excellent slate of esteemed presenters. However now, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, we find ourselves needing to minimize physical personal contact, especially because the demographic of our membership is particularly vulnerable to the potential ravages of COVID-19 infection. While valuing our traditions, we must adapt in order to remain connected. It may turn out that this pandemic will be just the catalyst needed for the Section to embrace new traditions.

The planning process for the 2020 CLE conference at the Seatac Marriott was well underway when the coronavirus arrived at our doorsteps this spring. We had an excellent slate of speakers lined up for May 1, but made the necessary decision to postpone the program when the first “Stay at Home” orders were issued by Governor

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Inslee. We initially rescheduled for October 30, hoping the pandemic would be well under control by that time. Little did we know what was ahead. The hard reality has emerged that it will likely be quite a while before we can physically reconvene. We have now forwarded our conference reservation at the Marriott to May 14, 2021, and time will tell whether we will be able to gather then.

In the meantime, we are turning to virtual options for CLE opportunities. Ethics attorney Kurt Bulmer, one of the speakers for the day-long program, has graciously agreed to present a mini-CLE webinar on October 30, the same date we had hoped to hold our annual conference. He will speak on the very timely topic of legal ethics of emerging expectations around gender, sex, and race. We also hope to provide an additional webinar during the winter months.

Regardless of whether we can meet again in person in 2021, it is clear that our world has changed. Instead of getting “back to normal,” we must plan for a “new normal.” The generations that currently make up the Senior Lawyers Section may be more reluctant to embrace virtual technology than younger generations of lawyers, but as a section we can learn. The Executive Committee has now successfully embraced meeting via Zoom, and I dare say enjoys it!

In mapping our course forward, it is important for us to hear from our Section members. I know that you have not been hearing enough from Section leadership recently, and we need to remedy that. We want to hear from you, our members, and to strengthen two-way communication. We want to know how senior lawyers are faring in these times and what is most pressing on your mind. What methods of communication would you like to see? What types of activities and resources would be of use to you? If you have thoughts to share, feel free to share them on our Senior Lawyers list serve. You can also email me or other members of the Executive Committee directly. Most important of all, I hope that you and your families are staying safe and healthy. We look forward to a time when can gather again in the future.

Sincerely,

Eleanor Doermann

Chair, Senior Lawyers Section Executive Committee

SAVE the DATE

Legal Ethics of Emerging Expectations Around Gender, Sex, and Race

October 30, 2020 | 12:00 – 1:30pm

Ethics attorney Kurt Bulmer will present a webinar on October 30, 2020, on the legal ethics of emerging expectations around gender, sex, and race. More information including a link for registration will be coming soon.

REMEMBERANCES

DUDLEY PANCHOT

The Senior Lawyer Executive Committee has lost a most valued member, friend, and colleague.

We are very sad to share that **Dudley Panchot**, an active member of our Committee, passed away suddenly on August 24. Dudley graduated from University of Washington School of Law in 1955. He began practice with the law firm that transitioned to become Wolfstone Panchot & Bloch, which later merged with Keller Rohrbach LLP. He was much admired by all who had contact with him, and will be sorely missed.

Read the full obituary [here](#).

Washington Senior Lawyers QUIZ:

- Who was the first executive secretary of the WSBA?
- Who was the first president of the WSBA?
- What year was the State Bar Act adopted and who were the first members after the Act was passed?
- Who was the first Democrat elected as attorney general of the state of Washington and whose son became a justice of the Washington Supreme Court?

Answers on page 4

FROM *the* HISTORY CORNER

Some of you remember, and others of you may wonder, how the Senior Lawyers Section in Washington first came into existence. **Attorney Phillip DeTurk founded the Section 22 years ago in 1998.**

Phil graciously agreed to share some of this early Section history with us...

PHIL WRITES:

I joined the ABA in 1957 and was a long-time member. Around 1988, I became affiliated with the ABA Senior Lawyers. At the time one needed only be 55 and in good standing with the ABA to be involved. I attended parties and meetings of the Senior Lawyers group at the annual ABA gatherings in Chicago, Atlanta, Hawaii, and New Orleans, and during those sessions, there was discussion about starting a state Senior Lawyers section or division. In 1997 I undertook to create such a group in Washington. I contacted WSBA headquarters in Seattle to find out what was needed, and I learned that it just required ten people petitioning for it. I gathered the names from our attendees at a national convention, and in 1998 we were off and running.

I organized the first CLE-oriented meeting at the Hyatt Hotel on Highway 99 near SeaTac. All lawyers 55 and over were invited. Sitting in my Puyallup office one day, mulling over what to send to our new Section members, I hit upon the name *Life Begins*. At the time I had no thoughts about *Life*, the national magazine, which might claim infringement on their masthead. Rather, I thought, "Life begins when one retires, or perhaps when one retires, life begins." So *Life Begins* began. I wrote most of it, including a synopsis of an important Supreme Court of Washington case, an editorial asking for members, and other articles. The forthcoming division was to be retirement-oriented with CLE sessions, an annual cocktail party at a museum or such, and further issues of *Life Begins*. Later, as we gained more members, we expanded our focus beyond retirement and became more generalized.

I can recall the first CLE meeting. I was completely gratified by the huge attendance, more than I expected. In my darkest dreams, I was the only listener to the program, but there were well over 100, most of whom joined the division soon afterwards. One of the

speakers was Arnold Robbins. His topic was about the first year of retirement which he had just completed. Lots of travel, many hours of leisure, time to read novels and other material which was not law oriented, and then sheer boredom. "What do you do after that first year?" he lamented. Another lesson shared, I think by Arnie, was "Don't give up the second car." This was a byword for not expecting one's spouse to drive the retiree everywhere.

The first Board came out of that first meeting. In the following year, Ken Selander, Robert Berst, and Fred Frederickson all came aboard as officers to help with the future planning of our incipient group. Later we moved our annual meetings across the highway to the Sheraton Hotel, where we held many gatherings, all-day events which included lunch and seven CLE credits for \$100. The speakers addressed current legal topics of interest to lawyers who might not otherwise learn about them, as well as some retirement topics. Sometime around 2000 we set up and ran a program in Spokane at Gonzaga University. Basketball was not big there at the time. We arranged speakers through the law school faculty there. It was fun but not particularly successful, so subsequent meetings have been held in Seattle.

I was still around when we started having meetings at the Broadmoor golf course. In fact, some of us played golf prior to the meetings in those early years. During these times we continued to send out issues of *Life Begins* at least quarterly, containing articles about law as it applied to the geezers in our division, future CLE speakers, new legislation which had been passed, short stories about prominent members, and maybe a joke or two. I continued my involvement in this section until I moved to North Carolina in 2002, where I now reside.

Thanks for the memories, Phil!

2020 - 2021
**SENIOR LAWYERS SECTION
 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

[www.wsba.org/Legal-Community/Sections/
 Senior-Lawyers-Section](http://www.wsba.org/Legal-Community/Sections/Senior-Lawyers-Section)

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- Join a WSBA section
- Register for a CLE seminar
- Shop at the WSBA store (order CLE recorded seminars, deskbooks, etc.)
- Access Casemaker free legal research
- Sign up for the Moderate Means Program

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Washington Senior Lawyers Quiz Answers:

- Alfred J. Schweppe (1933)
- B.F. Dennison (1888-1889)
1933. The first members after the Washington State Bar Act became effective were "all persons now (June 7, 1933) entitled to practice law in this state."
- Garrison Hamilton (1933-1940). His son Orris L. Hamilton served as a justice of the Washington Supreme Court from 1961 to 1979.

- ADMINISTRATIVE LAW
- ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION
- ANIMAL LAW
- ANTITRUST, CONSUMER PROTECTION AND UNFAIR BUSINESS PRACTICES
- BUSINESS LAW
- CANNABIS LAW
- CIVIL RIGHTS LAW
- CONSTRUCTION LAW
- CORPORATE COUNSEL
- CREDITOR DEBTOR RIGHTS
- CRIMINAL LAW
- ELDER LAW
- ENVIRONMENTAL AND LAND USE LAW
- FAMILY LAW
- HEALTH LAW
- INDIAN LAW
- INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
- INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE
- JUVENILE LAW
- LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT LAW
- LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO MILITARY PERSONNEL
- LESBIAN GAY BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER (LGBT) LAW
- LITIGATION
- LOW BONO
- REAL PROPERTY, PROBATE AND TRUST
- SENIOR LAWYERS
- SOLO AND SMALL PRACTICE
- TAXATION
- WORLD PEACE THROUGH LAW

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- Affecting change in your practice area

Is there a section that meets my interest?

With 29 sections, you'll find at least one that aligns with your practice area and/or interest. Learn more about any section at www.wsba.org/sections

What is the membership year?

Jan. 1 to Dec. 31.

What about law students?

Law students can join any section for \$18.75.

What about new members?

Newly admitted members can join one section for free during their first year.

It's easy to join online!



WSBA Sections
www.wsba.org/sections

If you're not already a voting member of the Senior Lawyers Section, JOIN NOW!

- Please check one:
- Voting Membership:**
 I am an active WSBA member. Please enroll me as a voting member of the Senior Lawyers Section.
- Non-voting membership:**
 I am not an active WSBA member. Please enroll me as a subscriber member so I can participate and receive your informational newsletter.

Enclosed is my check for **\$25** for my annual section dues made payable to **Washington State Bar Association**. Section membership dues cover Jan. 1, 2020, to Dec. 31, 2020. (Your canceled check is acknowledgment of membership.)

Send to: Senior Lawyers Section
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 1325 Fourth Avenue, Suite 600
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