

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

SENIOR LAWYERS SECTION

Bylaws

As last amended and approved by the WSBA
Board of Governors effective March 10, 2022, and
including 2017 amendments

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this Section shall be the Senior Lawyers Section (the "Section").

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Section shall be to benefit the members of the Washington State Bar Association and the general public, by:

2.1

Developing and promoting programs for members 55 years of age and older, or who have been in practice for 25 years or more, to keep them informed as to matters pertinent to their particular status, whether relating to their age, length or type of practice, or interest in continuing to contribute to the legal profession.

2.2

Providing the opportunity and forum for members of the Washington State Bar Association to exchange ideas in areas particularly of interest to members in the designated age and/or length of practice groups and to engage in educational and related activities in connection with the continuing legal education committee of the Washington State Bar Association, and to maintain communication through a newsletter or other means, and/or set up social engagements.

2.3

Undertaking such other service not inconsistent with the Bylaws of the Washington State Bar Association and the State Bar Act as may be of benefit to the members of the legal profession and the public.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

3.1 Eligibility for Membership

A. Lawyers within the following categories of WSBA status are eligible for voting membership in the Senior Lawyers Section and also in its governance (i.e., its executive committee). These categories of lawyers will be enrolled as a voting member of the Section upon request and payment of annual Section dues in the amount determined by the executive committee of the Section and approved by the Board of Governors of the Washington State Bar Association:

- 1) Active members of the Washington State Bar Association 55 years of age and older or whose length of practice in all jurisdictions is at least 25 years
- 2) Inactive members of the Washington State Bar Association who are 55 years of age and older or whose length of practice in all jurisdictions is at least 25 years. Honorary members are included in the category of inactive members of the Washington State Bar Association,

B. The following categories of persons are eligible to join the Section as non-voting members (“subscribers”) for the purpose of participating in the activities of the Section upon request and payment of annual Section dues in the amount determined by the executive committee of the Section and approved by the Board of Governors of the Washington State Bar Association. However, they may not be involved in the governance of the Section, i.e., cannot be appointed to the executive committee:

- a) Active members of the Washington State Bar Association under 55 years of age and who have been in practice for less than 25 years in all jurisdictions
- b) Law students
- c) APR 6 law clerks
- d) Other persons not otherwise identified

Members enrolled as provided in Section 3.1A and 3.1B shall constitute the membership of the Section.

3.2 Annual Dues

Each member, to maintain membership in the Section, shall pay annual dues as established by the Executive Committee of the Section, subject to the approval of the Board of Governors of the Washington State Bar Association. The dues of subscribers will be determined by the Board of Governors. New applicants for membership and members desiring to restore their membership shall become members of the Section upon full payment of the annual dues amount then in effect.

ARTICLE IV. MEETINGS OF THE MEMBERSHIP

4.1 Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Section shall be held at a time and place determined by the executive committee of the Section.

4.2 Midyear Meeting

The executive committee may schedule a midyear meeting in cooperation with the Washington State Bar Association.

4.3 Quorum

The voting members of the Section present at any regularly scheduled meeting of the Section shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

4.4 Controlling Vote

Acts of the Section shall be made by majority vote of the voting members present at a meeting. Voting by proxy shall not be allowed.

4.5 Special Meetings

Special meetings of the membership of the Section may be called by the executive committee at such time and place as it may determine.

4.6 Meeting Notice

Members shall be given notice of each meeting of the membership of the Section either in person, or by mail or email, at least seven (7) days prior to the scheduled date of such meeting.

ARTICLE V. PRINCIPAL OFFICE

The principal office of the Section shall be maintained in the offices of the Washington State Bar Association.

ARTICLE VI. FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the Section shall coincide with that of the Washington State Bar Association.

ARTICLE VII. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

7.1 Powers and Duties

The executive committee shall be vested with the powers and duties necessary for the administration of the affairs of the Section including, without limitation, the power and duty to act on behalf of the Section in connection with the activities listed in Article II. The executive committee shall have the authority to approve the content and publishing of the Section newsletter, work with the Washington State Bar Association to prepare the annual section budget, ensure expenditures comply with the Washington State Bar Association's fiscal policies and procedures, and perform duties assigned to it by the Board of Governors. The executive committee shall have the responsibility of establishing and discontinuing committees of the Section.

7.2 Composition

The executive committee shall be composed of thirteen (13) members, consisting of (a) the Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer elected for one-year terms as provided in Section 9.1, (b) the Immediate Past Chair who will automatically serve one year beyond his or her service as Chair, and (c) the additional nine (9) members each elected to serve one-year terms as provided in Sections 10.1 and 10.2. The executive committee may in advance of any upcoming annual election either increase or decrease the

number of members to be elected and serve for the ensuing year.

7.3 Term

The term of each member of the executive committee shall begin on October 1.

7.4 Vote

Acts of the executive committee shall be by majority vote of the voting members of the executive committee once a quorum (a majority of the voting members of the executive committee) is established.

7.5 Meetings

Meetings shall be held at such time and place as may be designated by the Chair or a majority of the executive committee. Section members and members of the public shall be entitled to attend executive committee meetings. The executive committee shall conduct a minimum of four (4) meetings per year. Meeting notices shall be given as provided for in these bylaws.

7.6 Emeritus Members

Any member or former member of the executive committee who has served with distinction, may at or following the expiration of his or her term, be designated by a majority of the executive committee as an emeritus member. Such members may attend meetings of the executive committee and participate in discussions, but shall have no vote and shall not be entitled to reimbursement of expenses.

This emeritus member denomination is not to be confused with the emeritus pro bono status category under which a lawyer may engage in the authorized practice of law under the auspices of a Qualified Legal Services Provider. https://www.wsba.org/docs/default-source/legal-community/volunteer/emeritus-flyer-1-12-17.pdf?sfvrsn=58ff3cf1_2.

ARTICLE VIII. COMMITTEES

8.1 Standing and Interim Committees

The executive committee shall have the power to designate committees of this Section. Each committee shall have not less than three or more than eleven members. The Chair of each committee shall be selected by the Chair of the Section, upon the approval of the majority of the executive committee.

8.2 Members

The committee members shall be selected by the Chair of the Section from among members of this Section and shall be approved by a majority of the executive committee.

8.3 Term

The terms of the Chair of each committee and the members of each committee shall run concurrently with the term of office of the officers of this Section.

ARTICLE IX. OFFICERS

9.1 Officers

The officers of this Section are the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer, and shall be elected annually by the members to serve one-year terms which may be extended year-to-year also by annual vote of the members. Each such officer so elected by the members shall automatically become and be a voting member of the executive committee for the term or terms of his or her election.

9.2 Removal

Any member of the executive committee may be removed by a two-thirds majority vote of the executive committee. Grounds for removal include, but are not limited to, regular absence from executive committee meetings and events, failure to perform duties, unprofessional or discourteous conduct or whenever, in the executive committee's judgment, the executive committee member is not acting in the best interest of the Section membership.

9.3 Chair

The Chair shall be the chief executive officer of the Section and, subject to the executive committee's control, shall supervise and control all of the affairs of the Section. The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the Section and of the executive committee.

9.4 Secretary

The Secretary shall maintain minutes of the proceedings of all meetings of the Section and of all meetings of the executive committee, and provide approved minutes to the Washington State Bar Association for publication and record retention. Upon direction by the Chair, and as authorized by the executive committee, the Secretary shall attend generally to the business of the Section.

9.5 Treasurer

The Treasurer will work with the Washington State Bar Association to ensure that the Section complies with Washington State Bar Association fiscal policies and procedures, work with the Washington State Bar Association to prepare the Section's annual budget, and review the Section's monthly financial statements for accuracy and comparison to budget.

9.6 Term

The term of office of each of the officers shall commence on October 1.

ARTICLE X. ELECTIONS

10.1 Officers and Members of the Executive Committee

The Section shall hold a regular annual election for the election of officers and other members of the executive committee. The regular annual election shall be conducted by the Washington State Bar Association electronically between March and May each year.

10.2 Nominating Committee

Each year, the executive committee shall appoint two of its committee members and one other person to serve as its nominating committee. All applicants will apply through an electronic process administered by the Washington State Bar Association. The executive committee will also have an alternative process to allow for nominations to occur outside of the nominating committee process. The nominating committee shall nominate one or more members of the Section for each office and position up for annual election. The executive committee will review and approve the final list of nominees for each open position which is to be submitted to members of the Section for the regular annual election. The Washington State Bar Association will administer the elections by electronic means and certify the results, unless the Section develops its own equivalent electronic election process.

10.3 Interim Appointments

The executive committee will appoint, by majority vote, members to fill vacancies on the executive committee. When a member is appointed to fill a vacancy in an unexpired term, the member will do so until the next annual election when an individual will be elected to serve the remainder of the vacated term.

ARTICLE XI. AMENDMENTS

These bylaws may be amended at an annual meeting of the Section by a majority vote of the voting members of the Section present. These bylaws may also be amended at any regular or special meeting of the executive committee of the Section called for the purpose of amending the bylaws and upon seven (7) days written notice, by a majority vote of the voting members of the executive committee present, once a quorum is established. No amendment to these bylaws shall become effective until approved by the Board of Governors of the Washington State Bar Association.

ARTICLE XII. LIMITATIONS

These bylaws have been adopted subject to the applicable Washington statutes and the Bylaws of the Washington State Bar Association and shall be construed to be in conformity therewith.