

**Washington State Bar Association
Construction Law Section Executive Committee Meeting
Wednesday, February 11, 2026 — 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM**

Held via Microsoft Teams

Meeting ID: 278 968 886 065 3

Passcode: aM9oH7Xb

Agenda

- Welcome
- Approval of December Meeting Minutes
- Financial Report
 - Treasurer E. Varriano presents updated fiscal status
- CLE subsidies
 - Motion Approved (1/14/26): Law Students, New Members (WSBA members within their first ten years of practice in Washington), and Section Members to get free virtual attendance and reduced section member rate for in person attendance at CLEs.
- Scholarship – T. Colburn, M. Kutsin, J. Leary, H. Fraga
 - Seattle University
 - M. Kutsin reporting
 - SU contact is Erin Fullner
 - Status
 - Need to decide whether scholarship can be used for tuition, books, or bar prep
 - Need to decide whether applications should be sent to section or SU can administer the process
 - University of Washington
 - J. Leary and H. Frago reporting
 - UW contacts are Kelsey La Bianca and William Langevin
 - Status
 - UW Law discussed a potential long-term, repeating Construction Law Section scholarship to expose 1Ls and 2Ls to construction law and build the early-career pipeline.
 - Section needs to decide scope (one vs. multiple law schools), number of annual awards, and eligibility criteria focused on openness to construction law rather than prior experience.
 - Internal Section discussion needed on structure and funding before looping back to UW Law for implementation support.
 - See Email
 - Gonzaga University

- T. Colburn reporting
 - GU contact is Sarah Guzman
 - Status
 - Gonzaga Law can fully administer a WSBA Construction Law scholarship using its standard process, including application review, selection, and fund disbursement.
 - The Section must finalize scholarship criteria (amount, number of recipients, and any participation requirements such as CLE or Section involvement).
 - Gonzaga already has ACH set up with WSBA and can handle logistics once criteria and funding decisions are approved.
 - See Email
 - Decisions Needed
 - Last meeting discussed awarding \$2,500 per school with section administering the process.
 - Would like to make the final call and task J. Leary, M. Kutsin, H. Fraga, and T. Colburn with deciding on criteria.
- Spanish translation of form contracts
 - Spokane CLE – January 22, 2026
 - CLE was successful
 - 41 Attendees
 - 11 virtual
 - \$6,380 total income
 - 70 (SCBA)/30 (Section) split after expenses of approximately \$500
 - Subcommittee Updates and Assignments
 - CLE Committee – R. English, S. Millstein, B. Sinner
 - See Draft Agenda
 - Presenters needed/to confirm
 - Judicial Panel
 - Potentially Judges James Rogers, Sean O’Donnell and Michael Ryan
 - Waiting for confirmation
 - Newsletter – Evan Brown and William Young
 - Waiting on Chair Report
 - Deadlines for next issue
 - Social/Social Events – Erin Variano and Travis Colburn
 - Mariners Report
 - Community Outreach & DEI – Seth Millstein and Saki Yamada
 - Volunteer Opportunities
 - LIHI Opportunities

- S. Millstein to report on potential dates
- Law School Outreach – Travis Colburn and Rita Kutsin
 - Updates on Lunch with Lawyers events
 - Tabling at SU update
 - Intersession
 - T. Colburn Reached out to G. Palachuk – no response regarding syllabus.
- Social Media – Cynthia Park and Rita Kutsin
 - Report on posts & engagement
- Elections Committee: Saki Yamada, Bryce Sinner, and Evan Brown
 - Set-Up Forms Due
- Legislative Committee: Erin Varriano, Jackie Jensen Erler, and Saki Yamada
 - Updates on current session
- Lifetime Achievement Award/Awards Committee: Seth Millstein
- Conclusion
 - Discussion of new cases or statutes.
 - Additional comments or announcements.
- Adjourn

**WSBA Construction Law Section
Executive Committee Roster (2025–2026)**

Officers:

- Chair: R. Bryce Sinner
Email: bryce.sinner@landerholm.com
- Chair Elect: Masaki Yamada
Email: masaki.yamada@acslawyers.com
- Vice Chair: Evan Brown
Email: evan.brown@stoel.com
- Secretary: Travis Colburn
Email: travis.colburn@acslawyers.com
- Treasurer: Erin Varriano
Email: erinvarriano@johnlscott.com
- Immediate Past Chair: Seth Millstein
Email: seth@pillar-law.com
- Past Chair: Bart Reed
Email: bart.reed@stoel.com
- Past Chair: Ron English
Email: rjenglish@yahoo.com

At-Large Members:

- Jackie Jensen Erler (Term ending 9/30/28)
Email: jackie.jensenerler@acslawyers.com
- Allen Benson (Term ending 9/30/28)
Email: abenson@omwlaw.com
- Margarita “Rita” Kutsin (Term ending 9/30/28)
Email: margarita.kutsin@acslawyers.com
- Ryan Gilchrist (Term ending 9/30/27)
Email: rgilchrist@seyfarth.com
- Cynthia Park (Term ending 9/30/27)
Email: cpark@omwlaw.com

- Kainui Smith (Term ending 9/30/27)
Email: kainui.smith@absherco.com
- John Leary (Term ending 9/30/26)
Email: jleary@grsm.com
- William Young (Term ending 9/30/26)
Email: WillY@mckinstry.com
- William “Scott” Noel (Term ending 9/30/26)
Email: snoel@bpmlaw.com

Other Positions:

- Young Lawyer Liaison: Hugo Fraga
Email: hugo.fraga@acslawyers.com
- WSBA Sections Program Coordinator: Carolyn MacGregor
Email: Carolynm@wsba.org
- WSBA Board of Governors Liaison: Kevin Fay
Email: kevinfaybog@yahoo.com

Attendance

	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept
Sinner	X	X	X	X								
Yamada	X	X	X	X								
Brown	X	X	Exc.	X								
Colburn	X	Exc.	X	X								
Varriano	Exc.	X	X	X								
Millstein	X	X	X	X								
Erlar	X	X	X	X								
Benson	Exc.	X	X	X								
Kutsin	Exc.	Exc.	X	X								
Gilchrist	X	Exc.	X	X								
Park	X	X	Exc.	X								
Smith	X	Exc.		X								
Leary	X	Exc.	X	X								
Young	X	X	Exc.	X								
Noel	X	X	X	X								
Fraga	X	X	X	X								
Other	R. English, C. MacGregor (Exc.), Kevin Fay											