

**Washington State Bar Association  
Construction Law Section Executive Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, April 8, 2026 — 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM**

**Held via Zoom**

Meeting ID: 822 4495 5538

Passcode: 800216

**In-Person Attendance Optional:**

**Ahlers Cressman & Sleight PLLC**

1325 4th Ave Suite 1850

Seattle, WA 98101

**Agenda**

- Welcome
- Approval of March Meeting Minutes
- Financial Report
  - Treasurer E. Varriano presenting
- 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.
  - CLE Registration Pricing – New Member Virtual Attendance
    - Brief discussion of whether new members (formerly Young Lawyers) should to receive free virtual CLE attendance, or instead be held to section-member pricing, in light of concerns about discouraging in-person attendance and overlap between new members and section members.
- Scholarship – T. Colburn, M. Kutsin, J. Leary, H. Frago
  - Seattle University
    - M. Kutsin reporting
    - SU contact is Erin Fullner
  - University of Washington
    - J. Leary and H. Frago reporting
    - UW contacts are Kelsey La Bianca and William Langevin
  - Gonzaga University
    - T. Colburn reporting
    - GU contact is Sarah Guzman
  - Discussion
    - Update and discussion regarding the Section’s proposed law school scholarship program. The Section previously agreed to award \$2,500 per

participating law school (Seattle University, University of Washington, and Gonzaga University), with law schools administering the application process and the Section making final selection decisions. The group also agreed on an “expressed interest in construction law” standard for applicants (with flexibility to refine the standard year to year), and that applications may include an interview or call with the committee.

- Topics for Discussion / Next Steps:
  - Finalizing applicant qualification language (including use of expressed vs. demonstrated interest)
  - Confirmation of Section authority delegation to finalize process details with each law school
  - Status of proposal review and timeline for submission
  - Any remaining budget or administrative issues before launch
- Spokane CLE
  - Payment received from Spokane County Bar Association for \$1,497.85
- Subcommittee Updates and Assignments
  - CLE Committee – R. English, S. Millstein, B. Sinner
    - Presenters needed/to confirm
      - Judicial Panel
        - Potentially Judges James Rogers, Sean O’Donnell and Michael Ryan
        - Waiting for confirmation
    - Discussion
      - The agenda is largely set, with the primary open issue being confirmation of the judicial panel.
      - Outreach is ongoing, with follow-up and resume requests in progress.
      - Kim Oakley is managing advertising, presenter material deadlines, CLE credits
      - Proposed pricing needs to be finalized (whether New Members get free virtual attendance. Pricing will be \$155 for members, \$190 for nonmembers.
  - Newsletter – Evan Brown and William Young
    - Update
    - Deadlines for next issue
  - Social/Social Events – Erin Varriano and Travis Colburn
    - Mariners Report
    - Thursday night dinner before CLE
  - Community Outreach & DEI – Seth Millstein and Saki Yamada
    - Volunteer 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 – On Hold
- Social Media – Cynthia Park and Rita Kutsin
  - Report on posts & engagement
- Elections Committee: Saki Yamada, Bryce Sinner, and Evan Brown
  - Update?
- Legislative Committee: Erin Varriano, Jackie Jensen Erler, and Saki Yamada
  - Update?
- Lifetime Achievement Award/Awards Committee: Seth Millstein
  - Update?
- 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:**

- New Member 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
<b>Sinner</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X						
<b>Yamada</b>	X	X	X	X	X	Exc.						
<b>Brown</b>	X	X	Exc.	X	X	X						
<b>Colburn</b>	X	Exc.	X	X	X	Exc.						
<b>Varriano</b>	Exc.	X	X	X	X	X						
<b>Millstein</b>	X	X	X	X	Exc.	X						
<b>Erler</b>	X	X	X	X	Exc.	Exc.						
<b>Benson</b>	Exc.	X	X	X	X	X						
<b>Kutsin</b>	Exc.	Exc.	X	X	X	X						
<b>Gilchrist</b>	X	Exc.	X	X	X	X						
<b>Park</b>	X	X	Exc.	X	X	X						
<b>Smith</b>	X	Exc.		X	X	Exc.						
<b>Leary</b>	X	Exc.	X	X	X	X						
<b>Young</b>	X	X	Exc.	X	X	Exc.						
<b>Noel</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X						
<b>Fraga</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X						
<b>Other</b>	R. English (X), C. MacGregor (X), Kevin Fay (Exc.)											