

**Washington State Bar Association
Construction Law Section Executive Committee Meeting
Wednesday, October 8, 2025 — 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM**

Held via Microsoft Teams
Meeting ID: 278 968 886 065 3
Passcode: aM9oH7Xb

Agenda

- Welcome

Members – please verify contact information, and let B. Sinner know if there are any questions.

Welcome Hugo Fraga. Joined ACS about three years ago. Graduated from UW Law School in 2019. Worked for a home builder prior to law school. B. Sinner notes that YLL is a voting position within the Section.

- Approval of September Meeting Minutes
 - Minutes are attached for review and approval.

Motion to approve seconded and approved.

- Introduction of New Roster
 - Officers, At-Large Members, and Young Lawyer Liaison
 - Full roster is attached.

See above and below.

- Annual Report Review
 - Review the Section's Draft Annual Report.

B. Sinner reviews current iteration of Section's Annual Draft Report. Section members are encouraged to review and comment.

- Any revisions must be submitted by October 17, 2025.
- Draft report is attached.

- Financial Report and Ideas for Fund Allocation
 - Discussion of current fund balance and spending opportunities.

E. Varriano (Treasurer) is not present. B. Sinner received financial report on Monday. Huge balance of \$74k. Projections for spending for this year could leave a balance of \$60-\$70k.

o Potential funding ideas:

- Reduce member dues.
B. Sinner doesn't think we want to do this.
- Subsidize full-day seminar costs for members.
Could subsidize to certain categories like young lawyers.
- Host a high-visibility or national-level CLE speaker.
Suggestions?
- Provide scholarships for law students.
T. Colburn floated the idea of WSBA Construction law boot strapping onto ABA writing competition. S. Millstein has an aversion to writing competition.

Idea of pure scholarship is floated again by B. Sinner. S. Millstein likes it, but wants it to be based on something construction law related. Could have it triggered by participation in our CLE: free lunch, paid to attend. J. Leary likes the idea, and the idea of getting face time with students. M. Yamada also thinks it's in line with our Section's mission.

C. MacGregor says other sections invite and invitees attend a meeting post-event or a one-page debriefing, which would keep them accountable.

C. Park says could be geared toward students who were about to take the bar. Could go to bar prep or testing fees because taking the bar exam is expensive. Could be for 3Ls with offers to practice in construction.

T. Colburn, M. Kutsin, and H. Fraga to meet/brainstorm some ideas.

- Support educational projects (youth courts, mock trial, law school programs).

Goes along with the above. Sponsoring or getting together a law school class – B. Sinner would like the school outreach committee to discuss.

- Enhance membership resources (newsletter, website, publications).

--

- Establish an annual grant program for community-based civil legal service providers.

Not a lot of community-based legal service providers that are construction-related. Can be other groups (non construction-related).

- Sponsor public information projects (e.g., Citizens' Rights brochures, lawforwa.gov, votingforjudges.org, TVW's The Docket).
- Contribute to or sponsor projects through the Washington State Bar Foundation.

- Spokane CLE – January 22, 2026
 - o Discussion of whether to proceed with planning for this event.

Jason Piskell originally suggested an early 2026 Spokane Bar Association event. B. Sinner notes that 1/22/2026 works best for our group but has not heard back until earlier this week. Spokane bar association has reserved a space at Gonzaga. B. Sinner has not heard back from J. Piskel. C. MacGregor suggests reaching out to Sally Romero to see if the remaining timeline is doable. No section members are willing to take the lead oar on organizing a WSBA roadtrip CLE.

S. Millstein volunteers to reach out to J. Piskell and have him run point on this.

- Subcommittee Updates and Assignments
 - o CLE Committee: Ron English, Bryce Sinner, and ???

B. Sinner believes the multiple CLE committees should be condensed into one. S. Millstein volunteered to continue, and would be happy to do so, if B. Sinner is willing. B. Sinner agrees.

- Topics for next year being considered include insurance claims, public contracts, AI, electronic discovery, bankruptcy, and receivership. Insurance topic favored for upcoming events.

R. English says we need overarching topic by next month. What is the over-arching theme, other than potpourri. Public works, insurance, electronic discovery. Other issue is what law firm is going to host this?

S. Millstein is a fan of potpourri because the others are narrow. Suggests we can tailor this with a cool title. C. Park likes the electronic discovery; J. Jensen Erler likes the insurance topic and could include bonding. S. Millstein said he would contact Ian Birk as a potential speaker. B. Sinner wants to hear about receivership. No one wants a receiver talking though...

R. English says we only have to fill three and a half hours with other standard topics.

B. Sinner says for committee members to email him if there are topics. Expects to devote a lot of time to this next meeting.

Possible host: Seyfarth is potentially open to it. R. English suggests that, historically, it's been two years per firm.

Honorarium. Need to get this \$500 to Seyfarth. R. Gilchrist can coordinate giving this to Kim at Seyfarth. C. MacGregor says she can assist with setting this up and recommends doing this very soon if we want to apply to fiscal year 2025.

- Planning for next year's major CLE event to finalize speakers and host firm by January 2026 with marketing to begin shortly thereafter.
- Honorarium gift motion passed for Seyfarth representative for CLE assistance.

o DEI Committee: ???

M. Yamada and S. Millstein are on this committee. M. Yamada reports that there has not been a lot to do and open to suggestions about how to move this agenda forward. J. Leary inquires into this subcommittee mandate. There is a mandatory section in the annual report about what the section is doing

C. MacGregor suggests consulting WSBA Equity and Justice Team. M. Yamada reached out to that team but heard no response.

J. Leary is willing to assist on this subcommittee.

o Elections Committee: Saki and ???

Incoming chair (M. Yamada), B. Sinner, and E. Brown.

o Law School Outreach / Lunch with Lawyers: Travis Colburn and Rita Kutsin

Adding H. Fraga to this subcommittee.

o Legislative Committee: Erin Varriano and Jackie Jensen Erler

M. Yamada would still like to be a part of this subcommittee.

o Lifetime Achievement Award Committee: ???

Multiple section members volunteer S. Millstein and says he will be the supreme leader (he "agrees") of this so he does not get jealous of B. Sinner's power as chair.

E. Brown suggests maybe just changing this to an "awards committee".

o Newsletter Committee: Evan Brown and William Young

- New articles proposed on Skanska-Howell case, Scarsella case, by members Will Young, Margarita Kutsin, and Seth Millstein.

E. Brown says the current newsletter will go to the designer on Monday (10/13). Accepting articles through 11/26 and will circulate some potential topics. Suggest that we need four to five more, as well as a chair report from B. Sinner.

B. Sinner suggests target dates for the newsletter. E. Brown reports that there are delays that are beyond the newsletter committee's control. S.

Millstein recommends three newsletters as opposed to four. E. Brown agrees that fewer would be better because there is difficulty in getting articles.

- o Social Event Committee: Erin Varriano and Travis Colburn (?)
 - Section funds can be used for alcohol at member-benefit events following WSBA guidance on licensed bartenders and drink limits.

No report. Will meet with E. Varriano regarding Fall Forum / early-Winter get together for executive committee.

- o Community Outreach: Seth Millstein
 - Contacted Sound Foundation regarding volunteer opportunities; no immediate openings, follow-up planned.
 - Discussing possible donation recipients related to construction law or law schools.

No report or changes.

- o Social Media: Cynthia Park and Rita Kutsin
 - Posts ongoing, including newsletter and mid-year report.

B. Sinner suggests adding this to website.

- Conclusion
 - Discussion of new cases or statutes.
 - Additional comments or announcements.

C. Park requests B. Sinner and H. Fraga to submit pictures and bios for social media.

**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

[illegible]