



## Washington State Bar Association • Elder Law Section

Executive Committee Meeting: March 15, 2022

[ZOOM](#) | ID: 810 9779 4142 | Passcode: ElderLaw

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| ✓ Miriam Ayoub, Immediate Past Chair          | Absent:  |
| ✓ Meredith Grigg, Chair                       | Carolyn MacGregor, Sections Program Specialist |
| ✓ Angela Macey-Cushman, Secretary             | Patrick Erker, Grants Chair                    |
| ✓ Matthew Parker, Treasurer                   | Eric Brunstrom, Outreach/Mentorship Chair      |
| ✓ Nicholas Pleasants, CLE Chair               | Sage Graves, Chair-Elect; Legislative Chair    |
| ✓ Suzanne Thompson Winingar, CLE Chair        |  |
| ✓ Mark Vohr, Communications Chair             |  |
| ✓ Karen Boxx, Legislative chair               |  |
| ✓ Ron St. Hilaire, Grants chair               |  |
| ✓ Michael Longyear, Outreach/Mentorship Chair |  |
| ✓ Carla Calogero, At-Large Member             |  |
| ✓ Megan Farr, At-Large Member                 |  |
| ✓ Michelle Siebenaler, At-Large Member        |  |
| ✓ Emily Tyson-Shu, Young Lawyer Liaison       |  |
| ✓ Carla Higginson, Board of Governors Liaison |  |

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12:30 pm - 12:35 pm      **Opening**      Meredith Grigg

12:35 pm - 12:48 pm      **Approval of Meeting Minutes**      Meredith Grigg

Karen Boxx moved to approve the February 15, 2022 meeting minutes; Matthew Parker seconded the motion. All in favor, minutes approved.

12:35 pm - 12:40 pm      **Elections & Bylaws Committee**      Meredith Grigg

Nomination process is open. Everyone in current positions (in addition to new applicants) must apply for their own chosen position; Meredith sent a reminder email. Those who are in the middle of a 2-year position do not need to apply at this time.

Meredith would like the executive committee to consider a subcommittee to bring our election timeline from our bylaws into line with the WSBA election timeline. The bylaws were last updated in 2017; this could also be a good opportunity to make any other needed updates.

12:40 pm-12:45 pm      **Treasurer Report**      Matt Parker

Update: \$18,830 from member dues have been deposited this year, and we are over our predicted revenue level as a result. WSBA does have a per-member fee, but we are still ahead of predictions and there is a \$102,455.87 balance at present.

Upcoming distributions will be our \$15,000 distribution to Northwest Justice Project for the Senior Bulletins, plus nearly \$7,000 for the Peter Greenfield Scholarship.

12:45 pm – 12:50 pm      **CLE Committee Report**      Nicholas Pleasants & Suzanne Thompson Winger

Suzanne Thompson Winger presented. June 7, 2022 is the new date for the spring CLE; September 29, 2022 is the date for the fall event with the annual meeting. The committee is looking at speakers for these events. Topic ideas include trust drafting, problems so far with the UGA, and other possibilities. Mark Vohr suggested a presentation on preparing and reviewing guardianship accountings. Meredith Grigg suggested speakers on the topic of long-term care discharges and the responsibilities of the facilities (including recent rulings). Mark Vohr also suggested the idea of placement under the UGA—how do you approach that issue in a way that respects the preferences and needs of the vulnerable adult who is being placed in long-term care. Nicole Kane may be possible speaker on this topic.

12:35 pm – 12:56 pm      **Grants Committee Report**      Patrick Erker & Ron St. Hilaire

Ron St. Hilaire reported that they are exploring a recurring giving option, rather than having to go back to people again and again. Meredith reported that there were over 35 applications for the internship and she is interviewing applicants, across the different law schools.

Next year, Meredith plans to start sooner with the process, since a lot of students are already trying to commit for summer at this point, or have committed.

12:56 pm – 12:57 pm      **Legislative Report**      Karen Boxx & Sage Graves

Karen Boxx reported that there is nothing to report. Nothing of concern passed this session.

1:10 pm - 1:15 pm      **Communications Report**      Mark Vohr

Mark Vohr reported that there are concerns from members with the listserv, but he has forwarded to Carolyn McGregor (our committee's Sections Program Specialist). Carla Higginson offered a recommended contact as WSBA to also include going forward.

Mark also asked everyone to check the listserv and respond often.

12:59 pm – 1:04 pm      **Outreach/Mentorship Report**      Michael Longyear & Eric Brunstrom

Michael Longyear reported that he is presenting with Meredith and others to the KCBA GELS group; he encouraged everyone to join. He also encouraged the group to include diversity and services available across the state as part of our section's programming.

Carla Calogero asked if we are planning a social event for our section; Meredith Grigg reported that Miriam has been in touch with an Assisted Living Facility downtown (Murano?) for our event. She will connect with Outreach and Grants.

1:05pm - 1:25pm      **WSBA Board of Governors**      Carla Higginson

Carla Higginson reported that the BOG met for two days last week. Pending before the board (on its way to the Supreme Court) to regulate online legal services. This would pertain to Legal Zoom and other services selling legal documents and other legal services online. The proposal will come before the BOG and will end up before the Washington Supreme Court, who is the ultimate decision-maker on this proposal. The proposal is that online providers must register, pay a fee, and participate in supervision to evaluate whether there is danger to the public. Carla assumes the Washington Supreme Court will send this out for comment at a later point.

The “pro” side argues this is happening anyway so we should be supervising it; the “con” side is largely that we are diverting WSBA funds to validate non-attorney legal services.

Mark mentioned that these providers are sued frequently in other states for the unauthorized practice of law. He shared that Ohana Fiduciary Corp. has seen very poor documents generated through online legal service providers.

Megan Farr asked if there are Access to Justice issues being used to support these programs, and expressed concern about using these forms for Wills and prior arguments that came up in opposition to Electronic Wills.

Meredith added that Northwest Justice Project has forms available for Power of Attorney and Health Care Directive documents, with the idea of avoiding guardianship when possible. The group discussed the balance between accessibility for things like Will forms and the danger of problematic Wills (undue influence, failure to follow required formalities, etc.).

1:25 pm - 1:30 pm            **WSBA Sections Program Specialist** Carolyn MacGregor

Carla Higginson reported that a BOG meeting will be held March 25 9:00am to 4:00pm to hear from other bar associations about their structures and approach to bifurcation. April 23, 2022 will be a meeting for public comment (primarily attorney) about the structure of the association. She does not have a prediction for how this will resolve (stay integrated or move to bifurcation). Some think that integrated bars will not be able to continue because of a violation of the right to free association.

Meredith brought the meeting to a close at 1:33pm