

# Washington State Bar Association • Elder Law Section

# Executive Committee Meeting Minutes - Dated: 2024-02-20

Present (Checked):	Kate Shreiner, Young Lawyer Liaison
🖂 Sage Graves Slugić, Immediate Past Chair	🛛 Meredith Griggs, Grants Co- Chair
🛛 Ronald St. Hilaire, Chair	🛛 Angela Macey-Cushman, Grants Co-chair
⊠ Nicholas Pleasants, Chair-Elect	🛛 Megan Farr, Grants Co-Chair
⊠ Mark Vohr, Secretary	Miriam Ayoub, Outreach/Mentorship Co-Chair
⊠ Matthew Parker, Treasurer	Nancy Lee, Outreach/Mentorship Co-Chair
Emily Tyson-Shu, CLE Co-Chair	🛛 Catherine Kardong, At Large Member
⊠ Elizabeth Jennings, CLE Do-Chair	🛛 Patrick Erker, At Large Member
$\Box$ Suzanne Thompson Wininger, Communications Co-	Michael Longyear, At Large Member
Chair	oxtimes Brent Williams-Ruth, Board of Governors Liaison
Carla Calogero, Communications Co-Chair	🛛 Carolyn MacGregor, Sections Program Specialist
⊠ Karen Boxx, Legislative Co-Chair	
Carla Higginson, Legislative Co-Chair	

12:32	Opening	Ronald St. Hilaire
12:34	Approval of Meeting Minutes	Mark Vohr

Mark presented the minutes. Sage moved to approve without corrections, Matt seconded the motion. All voted in favor of approving the 1/16/2024 minutes. Angela, Mike and Nick abstained.

## 12:36 Treasurer Report Matt Parker

First of this fiscal year. Matt reviewed the December Statement with the board. Refer to statement for details. New fund balance: \$104,001.06. Had some general discussion about options for placing that money for advancement of the section goals. Increasing the internship stipend was discussed as an option.

12:37 Grants Committee Report Meredith Grigg, Angela Macey-Cushman, Megan Farr

Issues with hiring. Only two applications compared to 30 in the past. Interviewed both. Offered to one of the applicants, but the applicant declined. The plan is to repost, but a little tricky because we also declined one application. Because posting has been out for two months to all WA law schools and there has never been an applicant from UW Law School, plan is to post only to UW Law School and focus on applicants from those students. Brent is going to check if posting to only one school is OK with the WSBA.

Meeting upcoming to discuss fundraiser in fall.

12:43 CLE Committee Report Emily Tyson-Shu and Elizabeth Jennings

Scheduled for April 5<sup>th</sup>. Half day CLE – 3.5 credits. Speakers lined up. Not published yet.

#### Skipped Communications Report Suzanne Thompson Wininger and Carla Calogero

12:42	Outreach/Mentorship Report	Miriam Ayoub and Nancy Lee
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Emailed in report. Working on Fundraiser – See above. Further reports to come.

#### 12:45 WSBA Board of Governors Brent Williams-Ruth

Board meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of March. The bar licensure task force will be voting on whether there should be alternate pathways to licensure.

#### 12:49 WSBA Sections Program Specialist Carolyn MacGregor

Working on election preparation (fun things). Section meeting date yet to be established.

#### 12:50 Legislative Report Karen Boxx and Carla Higginson

Karen reporting on Carla's written report, which was as follows:

BILL #: SB 5787 - Enacting the uniform electronic estate planning documents act.

This bill passed the Senate and is scheduled for executive session in the House Committee on Civil Rights & Judiciary on February 20th. The staff summary of the testimony at Senate Law & Justice Committee in January was as follows: PRO: There is a gap of estate planning documents that are unable to be prepared electronically, such as powers of attorney, trust agreements, health care directives, and other documents. The purpose of this act is to make sure that all estate planning documents can be prepared electronically. It is uncertain how often electronic estate planning documents will be used. However, the COVID-19 pandemic taught us that flexibility to electronically prepare estate planning documents is important. Electronic estate planning documents would be significantly utilized in rural communities, where people can sign such documents from home rather than commute to an attorney's office. The software used to prepare and sign electronic estate planning documents are secure. Estate, probate, and litigation lawyers who have reviewed this act are comfortable with the language. CON: [No one spoke in opposition to this bill.]

BILL #: HB 1886 - Concerning prearrangement funeral services.

This bill passed the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Business and was referred to the Rules Committee, where it still sits.

BILL #: HB 1867 - Eliminating the estate tax filing requirement for certain estates involving a qualifying familial residence.

This bill passed the House and is scheduled for a public hearing in the Senate Ways & Means Committee on February 20th.

BILL #: SB 5825 - Concerning guardianship and conservatorship. SB 5825 (concerning guardianship and conservatorship). A second substitute bill passed the Senate and is scheduled for a public hearing in the House Civil Rights & Judiciary Committee on February 20th.

BILL #: SB 5811 - Expanding the definition of family member for individual providers. This bill passed the Senate and is scheduled for a public hearing in the House Committee on Health Care & Wellness on February 20th.

Bill #: SB 5589 – Homestead Act. Executive action today. Out of committee. Fix the problem RCW 11.54s attaching it to Homestead, but then fixed to median value of house. Lot more than the old \$125,000. Large number, not clear that was intended. So, the bill is being looked at – old law needing more substantial revisions.

We are within two weeks of the end of this legislative session. The upcoming deadlines are as follows:

February 21, 2024 - Last day to read in committee reports (pass bills out of committee and read them into the record on the floor) from opposite house, except House fiscal committees and Senate Ways & Means and Transportation committees.

February 26, 2024 - Last day to read in opposite house committee reports (pass bills out of committee and read them into the record on the floor) from House fiscal committees and Senate Ways & Means and Transportation committees.

March 1, 2024 - Last day to consider (pass) opposite house bills (5 p.m.) (except initiatives and alternatives to initiatives, budgets and matters necessary to implement budgets, differences between the houses, and matters incident to the interim and closing of the session).

March 7, 2024 - Last day allowed for regular session under state constitution.

## 12:58 **Other** Ronald St. Hilaire

Nominating committee being established. Had extensive discussion about mentorship and various programs to entice people into elder law.

All

12:22 Closing

Adjourned.