



## Washington State Bar Association • Elder Law Section

### Executive Committee Minutes - July 18, 2023

#### Present:

Sage Graves Slugic, Chair  
Ron St. Hilaire, Chair-Elect  
Elizabeth Jennings, Secretary  
Matthew Parker, Treasurer  
Nicholas Pleasants, CLE Chair  
Emily Tyson-Shu, CLE Chair  
Suzanne Thompson Wininger, Communications Chair  
Patrick Erker, Grants Chair  
Miriam Ayoub, Outreach/Mentorship Chair  
Carla Calogero, At-Large Member  
Carolyn MacGregor, Sections Program Specialist  
Karen Boxx, Legislative Chair  
Carla Higginson, Legislative Chair  
Meredith Grigg, Immediate Past Chair  
Brent Williams-Ruth, Board of Governors Liaison  
Kate Shreiner, Young Lawyer Liaison  
Megan Farr, At-Large Member

#### Absent:

Michael Longyear, At-Large Member  
Angela Macey-Cushman, Grants Chair  
Nancy Lee, Outreach/Mentorship Chair  
Mark Vohr, Communications Chair  
Kari Petrasek, Board of Governors Liaison

#### 12:30 pm **Opening and Elections Results** Sage Graves Slugic

Sage Graves Slugic opened the meeting and announced election results for the coming year, including the addition of a new member, Catherine Kardong, from Eastern Washington.

#### 12:34 pm **Approval of Meeting Minutes** Elizabeth Jennings

Carla Calogero moved to approve the May 16, 2023, minutes. Sage seconded. There were no abstentions, and all remaining members voted in favor to approve the minutes.

#### 12:36 pm **Grants** Patrick Erker

Patrick discussed Angela's prior idea of honoring donors to the scholarship fund on the website and modifying the donation form about whether donors would like to remain anonymous. Patrick and Angela would be following up on how to carry that out and whether prior donors should be included as well.

Meredith Griggs introduced Calvin Forsythe, the Greenfield Elder Law Scholarship Recipient who is

interning with her.

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

Matt Parker gave the latest report through May 31st of year-to-date total revenue of over \$27,000, including additional section dues received. Matt explained there would be section distributions to Northwest Justice Project for publication of the senior bulletins to make up for 2021 and 2022. Mark explained the committee would need to vote on the circulated budget, and the WSBA had some slight changes to the initial proposed budget based on membership and dues numbers. With the discussed changes, Sage voted to approve the budget. Mark Parker seconded. All members voted to approve the budget with no votes against or abstentions.

12:46 pm **CLE Committee Report** Nicholas Pleasants & Emily Tyson-Shu

Nicholas shared that the Fall CLE would be September 21st with a planned focus on representing lay guardians and a DEI presentation, along with case law updates. Emily is working on putting a panel together on how the UGA is being addressed in different counties.

12:50 pm **Legislative Report** Carla Higginson and Karen Boxx

Carla followed up on the emailed request to the committee about the bill with proposed changes to the powers of attorney statute regarding long-term care facilities. The committee voted via email to oppose the proposed change. Karen testified at the hearing; it did not pass. Karen mentioned a uniform law bill up for review would be a revision to the Health Care Decisions act.

1:03 pm **Communications Report** Suzanne Thompson Wininger

Suzanne shared that there were no updates to report but suggested the committee consider whether there should be monthly snapshot emails with information on section meetings, events, and legislation to watch. She will be putting some ideas together.

1:07 pm **Outreach/Mentorship Report** Miriam Ayoub

Miriam followed up on prior discussions about hosting a networking event in Eastern Washington, including Mike Longyear's recommendation that it coincides with the Hop Fest in Yakima October 7-8, but opened up discussions for other locations, including Yakima.

1:10 pm **Board of Governors Liaisons** Brent Williams-Ruth

Brent shared information from legislators that the Washington estate tax exemption is not likely to be indexed for inflation. Brent shared that the Board of Governors meeting on August 11-12 would continue discussions about the location of WSBA headquarters, a budget for the coming year, and ongoing discussions about WSBA deskbooks. There would also be public comments about alternatives to the bar exam and changes to the character and fitness component, so input was welcome.

Nicholas and Carla also raised questions about the WSBA's alcohol spending policies, but Brent clarified those were not discussions on the BOG level but more so for individual sections to address and potentially change in their bylaws and how changes would impact the focus on membership wellness.

1:19 pm **WSBA Sections Program Specialist** Carolyn MacGregor

Carolyn mentioned the section leader discussion coming up on July 24th to talk about section leadership recruitment and how to fill positions for contested races.

1:21 pm **New Lawyer Liaison** Kate Schreiner

Kate discussed issues with the Court Visitor program and her conversation with Nadia Simpson at King County about Court Visitor shortages and the caseload of the one full-time Court Visitor on staff and how a second full-time position would be able to take over another 240 cases per year. Kate shared that the Court's financial forecast does not look good in light of county budget shortfalls and that layoffs may affect the Ex Parte department. Kate encouraged Court Visitors to accurately report all hours worked.

Kate offered an idea that the role of attorney for Respondent could be marketed as pro bono work under the RPCs as well as the need for specific trainings for attorneys for the Respondent beyond just the chapter in the Court Visitor training manual.

1:30 pm **Closing** Sage Graves Slugic

Sage mentioned that an attorney with a pro bono elder law firm, the Long-Term Elder Care Project, was looking for volunteers.

Sage then closed the meeting.