

I have always valued my membership in the Elder Law Section. I've also appreciated the excellent work the Executive Committee does, which I have now seen first-hand by attending meetings as the Elder Law Section's Board liaison. I know myself what dedication it takes to volunteer time on governance while also working full-time as a busy attorney, and the commitment of the Executive Committee's members in that regard is admirable. My service on the WSBA Board of Governors Legislative Committee over the past nearly four years has helped my understanding of the interplay between the sections, the Legislative Committee, and the state legislature, as well as tracking legislation and potential issues. It would also be an honor to work with Karen Boxx on legislative matters, and it would be a real pleasure to serve on the Executive Committee.

ABBREVIATED CURRICULUM VITAE

CARLA J. HIGGINSON
175 Second Street North
Friday Harbor, Washington 98250
Telephone: (360) 378-2185
Facsimile: (360) 378-3935
Email: carla@higginsonbeyer.com

Education

Western Washington University: B.A. 1976, *cum laude*; Outstanding Senior in Speech Communications; Minors in Biology and Music Performance

University of Washington School of Law: Juris Doctor, 1979

Admitted to Practice

Washington State, 1980
Federal District Court, Western District of Washington, 1980
United States Supreme Court, 1987

Professional Experience

Current employment:

Managing partner and attorney, Higginson Beyer, P.S, Friday Harbor: 1980-present; general practice with a significant portion devoted to elder law and civil litigation; other practice areas include family law, estate planning, business formation and transactional work, real estate, & criminal defense - felonies & misdemeanors (first 30 years of my practice)

Judicial positions:

Municipal Court Judge, Friday Harbor: 1981-1989

Guardian for adult persons:

I have served as guardian for a number of adult persons over the years

Colleges & University positions:

Board of Trustees, Bastyr University, Seattle: 1982 - 1984
Adjunct Professor, Skagit Valley College, two terms

Administrative agency position:

San Juan County Planning Commission: 1994-1999, including two terms as chair

Non-profit organizations and volunteer work:

Friday Harbor High School mock trial coordinator and judge, 2002-2019

Officer & director, San Juan Recovery (substance abuse and mental health treatment facility) Friday Harbor: 1981-1990 & 1999-2008

Founder & president, San Juan Pilots Association, Friday Harbor: 1987-1992, and volunteer attorney, 1987-present

Incorporating attorney & volunteer attorney, Animal Protection Society, Friday Harbor: 1982-2006

Incorporating attorney & volunteer attorney, Hospice of San Juan, Friday Harbor: 1985-present

Volunteer attorney, San Juan Historical Society, 2000-present

Volunteer attorney, Friday Harbor Presbyterian Church, 2010-present

San Juan County Bar Association president, five terms

Washington State Bar Association Board of Governors, 2018-present (term ends September 2022)

Professional speaking engagements:

Frequent speaker over the first 35 years of my practice at Continuing Legal Education seminars sponsored by the Washington State Bar Association on a variety of topics including and ethics. Selected as one of the best ten speakers of the year in five different years.

Current Professional Memberships

WSBA Elder Law Section, Real Property, Probate & Trust Section, Family Law Section, Solo & Small Practice Section

Domestic Relations Attorneys of Washington (DRAW)

San Juan County Bar Association, 1980-present, including five terms as president and three terms as secretary (currently serving fourth term as secretary)