

SENIOR LAWYERS SECTION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Agenda for November 15, 2023, 10:30 am - noon

Welcome and Interim Co-Chair Report: Carole Grayson

Acting Secretary's Report: Jenny Rydberg

- Review and approval of minutes of October 18 EC meeting (appendix 1)

Treasurer's Report: Joe Gordon

- *Draft* monthly financial report from WSBA (appendix 3)
- Any other financial matters

CLE Planning for 2024: Carole Grayson/Rachel Matz

- Webinar: spring (April?). # of CLE credits sought: 2.5? Committee: Carole. Other committee members? Potential speakers/topics?
- Half-day with lunch: summer (August?). # of CLE credits sought: 4.5? Committee: Carole, Jenny, David, Jeanine? Potential speakers/topics

Newsletter: Jim Riehl/Carole Grayson

- Feedback on autumn *Life Begins*
- Planning for winter issue

MyCommunity: Carolyn MacGregor

- Section was selected for WSBA pilot program for on-line volunteer engagement (attachment to chair's Nov. 14 email)

BOG Liaison Report: Jordan Couch (At Large)

Social conversations: Joel Gilman (appendix 2)

Section Leaders Fall Orientation: Nov. 13

Task Force on Increasing Membership: Brian Comstock/Al Armstrong

Chair Position Allocations: Q1, Q2, Q3 (fall 2023 - spring 24) are filled

New business/Adjourn

Next EC meeting: December 20, 2023, 10:30 - 12:00 via Zoom.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX ONE: By Jenny Rydberg

SENIOR LAWYERS SECTION

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

October 18, 2023

This meeting was conducted via Zoom. The following Executive Committee members and WSBA personnel were present at this meeting: Interim Co-Chair Carole Grayson, Jeanine Lutzenhiser, Brian Comstock, Jenny Rydberg (who took minutes), Joe Gordon, Bill Cameron, David Sprinkle, Carolyn MacGregor WSBA Sections Program Specialist, Rachel Maetz WSBA CLE, Noah Baetge WSBA Sections Program Coordinator, Not present were Jim Riehl, Steve DeForest, Al Armstrong, Morrie Shore and BOG Liaison Jordan Couch.

CHAIR'S WELCOME

Carole started the meeting at 10:35 am. Al is flying to the Trinity site/Los Alamos in NM today. Steve had login difficulties, and Jim is in Key West, FL.

CLE PLANNING FOR 2024

Should the next CLE be a full day, half day, or 2 hour webinar? Rachel Maetz points out that venue space is filling up fast if hold WSBA CLE outside of WSBA space. Jenny points out downtown has safety and commuting issues. Jeanine points out ease of having it on a Light Rail stop. Bill wonders about an East Washington location. Jim thinks one ½ day and webinars, Rachel asks for clarifications. David thinks doing more than 1 CLE/year is ambitious. Rachel confirms that off-site location can support webinar, just takes a little more WSBA planning, cites doing them in Suncadia, Leavenworth, etc. Rachel says there's a lot of positive feedback to a 2-3 hour webinar, but her superiors advocate each Section doing about 7 hours/year; if 2 half days, then we'd need to do one in the spring. Poll taken of the Executive Committee revealed support for ½ day in person-hybrid + 2 hour webinar. Discussed advantage is that speakers can be anywhere on the planet. Carole says she's gone in March but can support webinar in April. Rachel says there is nearly a CLE daily in September, so aim for before the fiscal year ends 9/30 and suggests July or August so can plan the venue, which often drives the dates. Carole Grayson will send out e-mail requesting volunteers for spring webinar.

Conclusion: The Section will put on a webinar in spring 2024 and an in-person/hybrid CLE in summer 2024, details TBA.

PAGE BREAK -- I , CAROLE, CANNOT FIGURE OUT HOW TO DELETE IT. SORRY FOR ALL THE EMPTY SPACE.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Al Armstrong's minutes from September 20, 2023 meeting had previously been sent to all members of the Executive Committee by e-mail. Bill moved to approve; Joe seconded; Bill's motion was approved unanimously, and the minutes are approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Joe Gordon presented his Treasurer's report. Since last meeting, we have received the August summaries. No activity at all in August. The \$14,825.14 balance 8/31/23 = 7/31/23 balance. September report not yet released to him. Brian moves to approve Joe's treasurer's report, Jeanine seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

CHAIR POSITION INTERIM ALLOCATIONS

Chair position. First 3 quarters of 23-24 fiscal year filled. Fall/1st qtr Carole is chair, Jeanine is 2nd qtr, David is 3rd qtr. Jenny thanked Jeanine again for volunteering for Quarter 2, caused by a change in Jenny's travel plans.

ANNUAL REPORT

Annual Report – Jeanine thanks Eleanor and Carolyn who helped with templates and review. No questions asked. Carole discussed the benefit of having a template. Jeanine says report talks about how much we value WSBA support of the Section.

LIFE BEGINS NEWSLETTER

Fall Newsletter *Life Begins* was sent out by e-blast yesterday. Jim is now in Key West, FL living the good life. New column "Ask Ann" – Ann Seidel is a long-time ethics lawyer, has agreed to write the column but depends on input from the section. Send questions to Ann. Jenny asked about ethics of lawyers running \$\$ for an outside organization – we discussed it and decided that would be an excellent question.

Jeanine thought variety of newsletter was wonderful, Carole's travelog was outstanding with just the right photos (almost the same trip Jeanine had taken with her family) – Carole says the CrazyHorse photo was taken by her publisher. Per Carole, the people who Jim lines up TO contribute to the newsletter is just amazing. The article about the court was very interesting.

Jim is looking for articles for next issue by early December. Al has been asked to write up about the Listening Tour and his current visit to the Trinity site that includes Los Alamos.

WSBA MyCommunity

WSBA wants to know what Sections wish to be included in the pilot program to test this software platform and provide feedback to WSBA, diversity of contributors is requested. WSBA wants a contact person from the Section.

We were to watch a 2 minute video Carolyn showed, but audio won't come through, so Carolyn will e-mail a link to the video to all of us after the meeting.

Purpose of the software platform is to help WSBA entities work more efficiently – is a platform to document share, store agenda & minutes, have a discussion there like a list serve but can reference past messages and archives, can use for scheduling, for the Section as an entity to have all of its work in one place, can sign in with myWSBA login info, individual can choose whether to leave all on platform or have e-mails sent to their addresses, etc. WSBA wants volunteer sections to try it out for a year, wanting to answer the question, “Will it actually be helpful?” If pilot goes well, then WSBA will consider for all Bar entities. Everyone will get training, as would Carolyn. If want to do it, submit form by Friday. When asked, Carolyn says that this or a similar tool will eventually be adopted by WSBA for use by all sections, the question now is, “Is this software the right tool?” Jenny moves, Carole Seconds, submit form to express interest to be considered for pilot program. Not opposed. Motion passed. As we talked, Jenny submitted the on-line form to WSBA that expresses Section interest.

Jenny sort of volunteered to be the Section liaison if the Section is selected for inclusion in the pilot program, disclosed her heavy travel schedule and asked if this would work for WSBA. Carolyn will check on that.

SECTION LEADERS FALL ORIENTATION

Nov. 13, 9 - 11 am via Zoom. Carole cannot attend as she is teaching at this time, looking for volunteers from the group, Carolyn verifies no negative repercussions if no one from the Section attends. Agenda will be sent out in a future e-mail blast. Carole suggests what we wait until a more detailed agenda is received and see if anyone then wants to go.

BOG LIAISON PROCESS AND REPORT

Jordan Couch (At Large) is our BOG liaison. BOG decided to go back to one liaison so Kevin Fay will not be our BOG liaison but will join the Senior Section.

NEW BUSINESS/ADJOURN

1. Brian confirmed that the Task Force re: increasing membership should be put off until next month, when AI can participate, as AI is involved in the task force, too.
2. Noah Baetge, WSBA Sections Programs Coordinator: Senior Section requested the web page, past program, section information, and Section list serve be combined. He showed us how he has reorganized this information as Section History/Information, Past Programs, Section ListServe, + WSBA Member Benefits. Do we like combining all of these? Suggestion: combine WSBA support and Member benefits into one tab. We discussed that it's difficult to find member support/benefits in the WSBA website. Noah explained the difficulty from an IT standpoint and was appreciative of our feedback.
3. On Motion to Adjourn, the meeting ended at 12:01 pm.

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will take place on a remote-attendance basis on Wednesday, November 15, 2023 at 10:30 am.

APPENDIX TWO

Social conversations among Senior Lawyers

Email thread between Section member Joel Gilman and Interim Section Chair Carole Grayson

On Oct 25, 2023, at 10:01 AM, Joel Gilman <joelbgilman@gmail.com> wrote:

Hello Carole,

We met last month at the "Listening Tour" event at the WSBA offices on 4th Avenue. We've probably met a few times before that, but I didn't introduce myself to you until the September event. I enjoyed your comments about the section at that event, as well as the July CLE on transitions.

At the end of the Listening Tour session, I asked you whether it might be possible to organise - if that's the right word - occasional get-togethers of senior lawyers for coffee or lunch to talk about lawyering, trade war stories, etc. and in general share experiences and insights about the legal profession, what drew us into it, how it has changed over the span of our careers as lawyers and where it is heading.

I started thinking about this in the wake of the many lawsuits filed in state and federal courts to challenge the 2020 presidential election. I believe there were about 60-65 such lawsuits and all of them rejected the plaintiffs' claims for a variety of reasons, but mostly due to the lack of evidence supporting such claims. When I was in law school, back when dinosaurs ruled the earth, it was made very clear to us that you don't waltz into court and start pounding the table and demanding justice unless you can present real and credible evidence to support whatever wrong you want the court to correct. Social media gossip or Fox News propaganda just won't do (of course, we didn't even have social media back then, nor Fox News). But it seems perfectly acceptable to bring such actions nowadays. We are seeing bar association discipline imposed on some of the most vocal and aggressive lawyers, such as Giuliani, Eastman, Powell, Wood, etc., and at least two federal courts, in Colorado and Michigan, have slapped huge cost sanctions on some plaintiffs lawyers. But overall, it seems there is no widespread and equivocal condemnation of lawyers - who clearly should know better - filing lawsuits to promote a political viewpoint and raise lots of money from the ensuing publicity, rather than to obtain judgement in a genuine case or controversy.

Or maybe I'm just way out of touch. I lived in Australia for 20 years (lawyering in Australia is very different), coming back to Seattle in February 2020 just in time for the pandemic shut down and more isolation from everyone.

So I've wondered what other lawyers think about these and other matters currently on the boil in our profession. Rather than a formal CLE-type event, I thought it would be

interesting to get together with other senior lawyers now and then, maybe 3-4 times a year, and talk about the state of the profession over coffee or lunch. What changes they see happening, good or bad, and their own encounters.

What do you think? Is this something that many section members might want to do? Perhaps invite interested members to add their contact details to a list of like-minded lawyers.

Thanks again,

Joel Gilman
WSBA #13322

October 25

Hi Joel — Thanks for reaching out to me and for your thoughtful email. I think your idea is wonderful and would interest Senior Lawyers. I've added Al Armstrong of our Executive Committee who also was at the listening tour.
Carole

November 9

On Thu, Nov 9, 2023 at 4:40 PM Carole Grayson <cag8@hotmail.com> wrote:
Joel — Our Executive Committee's next meeting is via Zoom on Wed., Nov. 15, 10:30 - noon. Can you join us at, say, 11 or 11:15?

I am adding your excellent suggestion to our agenda. I'm not sure it takes EC action — you could simply post on our listserv and suggest a time & place. However, having it reach the entire EC, and to hear from you a bit, is always helpful. (Will you allow me to include our email thread as an appendix to the agenda?)

Carole

November 9

Hello Carole,

Thank you for pursuing this. I've added the EC meeting date & time to my calendar.

I've been thinking about how this might work. Maybe the thing to do is to set up a contact list on the Section website where section members who want to participate can provide their name, email and/or telephone number, city/neighborhood where they live or work, and perhaps also indicate preferred days of the week and/or times to have

coffee or lunch. It would be up to interested members to organize these events, and decide where and when and how many people they'd like to invite. The general topic is "lawyering" I suppose, though I imagine some will want to focus on more specific matters. I would make it a point to organise these every 3 or 4 months initially to get things rolling while encouraging other section members to do the same.

Maybe we should have some clear ground rules, such as everyone buys their own coffee/lunch; don't take offense at what others say in the conversation and don't be offensive to others (hate to have to spell out a "rule" like this but such are the times we live in, apparently); if you want to host coffee/lunch in your home that's fine but that could get complicated and the idea is to have relaxed, casual get togethers; if you have strong feelings about a topic that's great but let others speak as well, etc. My concern is that people who add their names and contact details to the list should be able to assume some level of social standards when they participate.

And feel free to share our email thread with the EC. I'm happy to join the meeting that morning. I guess I'll need a Zoom invite.

Thanks again,

Joel

APPENDIX THREE

Washington State Bar Association
Statement of Activities
For the Period from September 1, 2023 to September 30, 2023
100% OF YEAR COMPLETE

	FISCAL 2023 BUDGET	CURRENT MONTH	YEAR TO DATE	REMAINING BALANCE	% USED OF BUDGET
SENIOR LAWYERS SECTION					
REVENUE:					
INTEREST - INVESTMENTS	90.00	-	-	90.00	0.00%
SECTION DUES REVENUE	5,550.00	(1,766.41)	5,299.22	250.78	95.48%
MINI-CLE REVENUE	2,720.00	-	-	2,720.00	0.00%
TOTAL REVENUE:	8,360.00	(1,766.41)	5,299.22	3,060.78	63.39%
DIRECT EXPENSES:					
CONFERENCE CALLS	250.00	-	-	250.00	0.00%
PER MEMBER CHARGE	3,921.00	(1,267.35)	3,802.06	118.94	96.97%
NEWSLETTER EXPENSES	1,800.00	1,147.50	3,997.40	(2,197.40)	222.08%
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE EXPENSES	500.00	-	50.00	450.00	10.00%
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES:	6,471.00	(119.85)	7,849.46	(1,378.46)	121.30%
NET INCOME:	1,889.00	(1,646.56)	(2,550.24)		
FUND BALANCE AS OF 9/30/22:	15,228.82		15,228.82		
NEW FUND BALANCE:	17,117.82		12,678.58		