SENIOR LAWYERS SECTION
MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

December 3, 2025

This meeting was conducted via Zoom. The following Executive Committee members and WSBA personnel were present at this meeting: Chair David Sprinkle, Carole Grayson, Jenny Rydberg, Al Armstrong, Joe Gordon, Laurin Schweet, WSBA Sections Program Specialist Carolyn MacGregor, New Lawyer Liaison Ruth Apahidean, WSBA Education Programs Lead Rachel Matz, and BOG Liaison Lester Parvin Price, Jr. Not able to be present was Bill Cameron (Carolyn reported that Bill was attempting to connect with the meeting but was unable to do so).

CHAIR'S WELCOME

David welcomed all to the meeting.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Al's Minutes of our November 5, 2025 meeting were approved by Motion.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Joe reported that he has received no new news from the WSBA regarding our financial situation. "The Black Hole [of WSBA financial information] is upon us!"

THE BOG OATH REVUE AND DRAFTING TASK FORCE

Parvin mentioned the creation of the Oath Revue and Drafting Task Force (Rajeev D. Majumdar, Chair) recently formed by the BOG to look into whether the WSBA's Oath of Attorney should be altered or supplemented. As Parvin related, some WSBA members felt that the current Oath was too long and/or too old, it having been in use since the 1800's. This Task Force, Parvin related, has asked us, as a section Executive Committee, what our feelings might be. David said he had received some materials relative to the new Task Force.

Carole said she has read the current oath and that she thought it was fine; she liked the continuity over the generations. She opined that the emphasis now upon oath revision might have been triggered by current events. Parvin said he agreed that the current oath did not need to be altered. He added that he didn't recall any kind of lengthy discussion about the Task Force at the last BOG meeting.

Lauren said she hasn't' read the relevant materials on the Task Force yet. Al said he hadn't read it either. David indicated that it is too soon for a Motion either supporting or rejecting the need for change.

David said we will table this matter until our January meeting.

BOG LIAISON REPORT

Parvin indicated that the Next Generation Bar exam will be inaugurated at the July sitting. Washington is one of 15 or 20 states that are instituting the new examination. The new Bar exam will be graded differently. It is expected that the passage rate of the new exam will be the same as the one in current use. The motivation for the switch to the new regimen is that the skills necessary for a successful professional life have changed. Parvin mentioned that he took the exam in 1977, it was all in writing. Ruth said that the current exam is two days long. Carole asked if the bar examiner personnel would change; Parvin said he didn't think so.

Parvin said the BOG has decided on a slight increase in annual Bar dues for the year 2027: from $468 to $475—a $7 change.

Parvin also said he had addressed the relatively low Bar exam passage rate, for the most recent exam, with the three in-state law deans that were present at the last BOG meeting. He indicated that all three indicated that they intended to make efforts to redirect their respective legal curricula toward facilitating a higher rate of exam success. There was some talk, by the deans, of checking on which law grads are becoming successful practitioners. At Seattle University, the faculty will be working with students who did not do very well in basic courses. Parvin opined: "It sounded like their [the deans'] answers were pretty good."

The BOG took up the question of BOG members being able to stand for public office. Currently, BOG members are prohibited from holding public office. The BOG intends to change this.

Also , the BOG sees the need to increase the level of civics education in schools.

NEW MEMBER LIAISON REPORT

Ruth said she had attended the last New Member Committee meeting and she will be attending future meetings also.

OUR DECEMBER 12 CLE

Rachel said that nine people have signed up for our December 12 CLE. Carole noted that ¾ of CLE receipts come from on-demand purchases, as opposed to those received from live attendance. It was mentioned that other WSBA sections have been contacted via e-blasts regarding our upcoming presentation. Carole said she has personally contacted others about attending. Parvin said he will mention our CLE at the next BOG meeting.

Rachel said she is very pleased with the submissions of the presenters. She added that another publicity e-blast will go out on Monday, December 8.

CONTINUING SEARCH FOR A NEWSLETTER EDITOR.

Jenny said she is "still not there yet" regarding her decision to act as our newsletter editor.

NEW BUSINESS

Carolyn said that there will be a Sections Team discussion on January 12 at noon. The themes will center on marketing and communication strategies. An RSVP will be sent out this Friday.

Carole asked David to reach out to John Comstock about joining our Executive Committee. David said he would be glad to do that.

ADJOURNMENT

David adjourned the meeting.

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will take place on a remote attendance basis on January 7, 2026 at 10:30 am.