

**SENIOR LAWYERS SECTION
MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

May 15, 2024

This meeting was conducted via Zoom. The following Executive Committee members and WSBA personnel were present at this meeting: Interim Chair Carole Grayson (substituting for David Sprinkle), Jeanine Lutzenhiser, Al Armstrong, Joe Gordon, Brian Comstock, Jenny Rydberg, Bill Cameron, WSBA Sections Program Specialist Carolyn MacGregor, WSBA Education Programs Lead Rachel Matz and prospective Young Lawyer Liaison Ruth Apahidean. Not able to be present were David Sprinkle, Steve DeForest, Jim Riehl and BOG Liaison Jordan Couch.

CHAIR'S WELCOME

Carole welcomed the attendees and asked that Executive Committee members introduce themselves to our special guest, WSBA Member Status Workgroup member Steve Crossland.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Al's April 2024 meeting minutes were approved by Motion.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Joe presented our Section's financial status as of March 31; our general fund stood at \$14,140.55. Our Section signed up 15 new members, resulting in a net income (after WSBA's per-member charge) of \$94.05. Joe indicated that since our budget proposal for the next fiscal year is due by June 7, if we are going to change our yearly Section dues, we should decide on it fairly soon. Carolyn noted that if we do increase our dues, the Bar's fixed cut would not increase, so any increase would increase our fund balance, dollar-for-dollar. Carole noted that the various sections' yearly dues vary, with some being \$30 or \$35, and some only charging \$15 or \$20.

There was some uncertainty about our current member count; 205 was the prior count, but Carolyn said the Bar's records have us at 244 members. Joe said that if 244 is the correct figure, we should use that.

STEVE CROSSLAND'S REPORT RE MEMBER STATUS WORKGROUP

Our former Executive Committee colleague Steve Crossland (hereinafter "Steve C.") joined us to report on the doings of the Member Licensure Status Workgroup, of which he is one of six members.

Carole asked Steve C. who, besides himself, were serving on the Workgroup. Steve indicated the following individuals were serving on the Workgroup: Mukilteo attorney Kari Patrasek, WSBA Treasurer and Spokane attorney Francis A. Adewale, P.J. Grabicki, also a Spokane attorney, inactive WSBA member Kathleen Pierce, and Kitsap County Pro Bono attorney Althea Paulson.

Steve C. related some of the concerns that the Workgroup is striving to address. He indicated they are endeavoring to select a category name to replace "Voluntarily Resigned," due to a possible erroneous inference, at least on the part of members of the public, that this designation implied some sort of departure from the legal profession under a cloud.

Another question facing the Workgroup is whether older members of the Bar should receive some sort of dues reduction. Steve C. indicated that Washington Bar dues are among the lowest in the nation; however, he said that the Workgroup has run some calculations showing how much revenue the Bar would lose under several dues-reduction scenarios. The calculations sheet was shared with the meeting attendees. The figures showed that, for instance, if all attorneys age 75 or over, or those admitted to the WSBA 45 years or longer, had their dues waived, the cost (or loss) to the Bar would be \$423,894. If said waiver were to apply to those attorneys 70 years of age or older, or who were admitted 35 years or more ago, the loss to the Bar would be \$1,259,298. The sheet noted that if the Bar were to sustain a loss of \$900,000 annually, the Bar would have to make up this loss by raising the standard Bar dues by \$30 per member. Steve C. said that proposals involving dues reductions for older attorneys are part of the Workgroup's discussions.

Jenny said she supports reduced Bar dues for those older attorneys who no longer practice but still wished to give friends and family informal legal advice on an irregular basis—which, ethically they could not do if they were fully retired and no longer Bar members. Perhaps attorneys who would be eligible for this could submit an affidavit setting forth their lack of law practice-related income in their retired status to qualify for this break. Bill agreed, stating that he is approaching his 80th year, has specialized in municipal law and still wishes to render advice in this area, an endeavor which does not bring in a great deal of income.

Brian stated that our Section actually pioneered the discussion regarding license categories when we successfully prevailed upon the Bar to allow WSBA sections to allow inactive members to serve and vote on section executive committees.

Carole thanks Steve for meeting with us, noting that this discussion was "time well spent."

OUR CLEs

May 1 CLE:

Rachel reported that we had eight attendees at our May 1 CLE. She said all is not lost, however, as we can expect others will select our CLE on an on-demand basis later on.

Oct 4 CLE:

Jenny said the October 4 CLE Subcommittee had met yesterday, May 14. The Subcommittee members are in the process of securing speakers, including from the King County Prosecutor's Office. David himself would like to speak at this CLE. Limited Practice Officer Rebecca Cataldo was mentioned as a possible presenter, dealing with land title issues. Other presenters dealing with title issues and fraud are being considered. Jenny said she will be talking to the U.S. Attorney's Office to obtain a speaker.

Rachel reminded us that the October CLE will be a hybrid affair, accessible in-person or remotely.

The next meeting of the Subcommittee will be on June 6 at 9:30 am.

Possible CLE for spring, 2025:

The Subcommittee is making preliminary plans for a social justice-themed CLE for next spring. Former King County Prosecutor Dan Satterberg is considered a possible presenter. Retired King County Superior Court Judge Michael Heavey, CEO of the group "Judges for Justice" was mentioned as a possibility.

ELECTIONS

It was mentioned that we have gotten the list of Executive Committee candidates to Noah Baetge, WSBA Sections Program Coordinator. The election itself will take place from June 3 to June 17.

WSBA YOUNG LAWYER LIAISON

Jeanine introduced our prospective Young Lawyer Liaison Ruth Apahidean. Ruth said she is looking forward to interacting, should she assume this office, with senior attorneys. She is a "Double Dog," a graduate of the U.W. and the U.W. Law School. She has been in practice for four years and specializes in estate planning and related matters.

It was mentioned that there is a drop-in session scheduled for June 26 at 12:00 noon, for section leaders to learn how to best engage with Young Lawyer Liaisons assigned to their respective sections.

INTERIM CO-CHAIR FOR JULY-SEPTEMBER 2024

Carole noted that David's time as Interim Co-Chair expires after June. She noted that we still do not have a co-chair volunteer for July-September 2024. (Carole will act as Interim Co-Chair for the last quarter of 2024).

CALL TO DUTY

This is a Bar-sponsored program involving veterans helping service members with their legal matters. It was decided to table this matter until our next meeting.

OTHER MATTERS

Carole mentioned that she never received the latest *Life Begins* newsletter.

ADJOURNMENT

Carole adjourned the meeting.

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will take place on a remote-attendance basis on June 19, 2024 at 10:30 am.