



MINUTES

Executive Committee Call

April 22, 2026 | 4 PM

Participants: Jennifer Calkins, Vanessa Hunsberger, Katarina Mitrovic, Parvin Price, Nandini Rao, and Dwight Van Winkle.

Quorum achieved.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The Executive Committee approved the meeting notes taken at our March 2026 meeting.

Request for Cosponsorship

Nandini met with Secretary/Treasurer of International Practice about a May 22nd online CLE on international family law. They're asking whether we'd like to co-sponsor. Co-sponsorship means splitting the cost and being backup tech support (although it's a WSBA event so unlikely we need to intervene). Would we like to cosponsor? We'd like to know more about the angle/topics to be addressed/speakers before agreeing. *Nandini will find out more and share with us so that we can make a decision.*

Section Elections and Recruitment

Application window closed on April 20. Nandini did a lot of outreach to her network and liaised regularly with WSBA but we did not receive any applications other than Vanessa's for Secretary/Treasurer. Jennifer also outreached her network and found that folks are at capacity or feel like other associations/sections are a better fit within the environmental sector.

How about sharing more about WPTL's history? Would sharing more about our section's origins make it clearer what it is about and help attorneys to connect more with us? Communicate our conceptual framework better. Is there a way to put more out about the different types of programs that we've put on? We could communicate how in this section, you can really do programming on areas you care about. This might help us connect better with public interest attorneys.

Jennifer offered to do more research on our section history. She will share what she's found. Dwight recalls some earlier research that he also did on this that he will try to dig up.

Shall we revisit the idea of hosting an event at UW Law in the fall? We could open it up to students from other law schools. We had previously budgeted for an outreach event at Gonzaga too! Katarina will start connecting with UW about this. Dwight suggested that Chelle Gegax at WSBA is the right point of contact for law student outreach. It seems that the fall is the best time to catch students in terms of motivation, interest in networking, and bandwidth to participate.

What about an article connecting WPTL with the US' 250th anniversary? WSBA has been looking for contributors on this topic. Dwight offered to start writing with Jennifer and Katarina's input.

BOG Updates

BOG met in March:

- Bylaw updates: current bylaws limit BOG members from participating in community activity that could seem political, which doesn't seem right. They revised the bylaws subject to the WA Supreme Court's approval. Revised to say that BOG members can participate in those activities but cannot do so as WSBA representatives.
- Pledge: signed on to National Conference of Bar Presidents pledge – uphold rule of law and constitution, preserve independence of legal prof and judiciary, uphold legal process and respect for courts, promote public trust and confidence in law, ensure access to justice for all, advancing prof excellence and ethical leadership, fostering unity and collab across profession. The Bar Association President will be sharing these ideas with other bars in the country.
- Rule of Law Ambassador Program: want people to volunteer for this. There will be a CLE in July "Executive Orders: what do they mean?" Lunchbox Series
- Met w/Supreme Court Justices. Told them about DOJ proposed rule and they have filed own comments objecting to rule. DOJ proposed rule that all Fed. Attys are first investigated by fed and not by state. Overwhelming majority of board decided to **oppose** the proposed rule. Filed on April 3rd.
- Next meeting is May 1st and 2nd for Board of Governors
- Question re: Rule of Law Ambassador program – is there space for international law? NATO countries have been talking about the RoL. Overarching comment is that countries want to have rules that provide for society that discuss difficult issues and then can go on together. Countries recently have felt compelled to talk about maritime law across the world. Sarah Nagowski is in charge of the ambassador's program.
- Question re: Retired Judges CLE: even conservative judges are in agreement that RoL is nonpartisan issue. One judge is now on Iran Tribunal, and she talked about sanctioning of Judges on international courts/tribunals by the US. Should WSBA speak out about this via a resolution? Regardless of US sign on to ICC? Probably we cannot do this, because the general rules reduce our opportunity to pass resolutions that are not related to ATTYs/Judiciary of WA state. Refer to *Keller*, which discusses Rule 12. But is this administration of justice and not in violation of Rule 12?