



Dispute Resolution Section

Washington State Bar Association

1325 Fourth Ave., Ste. 600
Seattle, WA 98101-2539

2024-2025 Executive Committee

Paula Emery, Chair
Chris Casillas, Vice Chair
Courtland Shafer, Treasurer & Past Chair
Dee Knapp, Secretary

Tom Ahearn, Board of Governors Liaison
Julia Doherty, Young Lawyer Liaison

Melissa Fuller, At-Large Member
Oliver Garrison, At-Large Member
Donna Lurie, At-Large Member
Ted Hunter, At-Large Member
Mel Simburg, At-Large Member
Lish Whitson, At-Large Member

Jody Leff, Advisor
Bob Oberstein, Advisor

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

May 23, 2025

12:00pm – 1:30pm PST

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86301779629?pwd=KJ1ph8qbMPJqkrM6rMK9RTaVx2dYIU.1>

Meeting ID: 863 0177 9629

Passcode: 619025

Attendees: Paula Emery, Bob Oberstein, Donna Lurie, Dee Knapp, Mel Simburg, Julia Doherty, Oliver Garrison, Carolyn MacGregor, Jody Leff, Chris Casillas, Melissa Fuller Courtland Shafer

I. Welcome and Meeting Matters

Quorum confirmed and April meeting minutes approved.

II. Announcements

Voting starts June 2 for the FY26 year. A recruit, Mark McCarty is running for an at-large position. His website is: mccartydisputeresolution.com.

Jazs has resigned from the executive committee due to personal circumstances. Jazs will be invited to become reinvolved if her circumstances change.

A discussion was had as to whether Lish Whitson is continuing. His term expires September 2025, and he has not indicated that he is running again or wants to stay on. The loss of institutional knowledge was discussed. Donna suggested that perhaps Lish and other former members such as Craig might write a history of the section for our website.

III. Budget discussion and vote (Courtland)

Our two biggest revenue producers are membership and the DR conference. Major sources of expense are the annual retreat and scholarships. Dee moved to increase the line item 36 from \$4000 to \$5000 which is what Bernie Mayer requested. The motion was seconded and passed to make the change.

Courtland said that it will be a deficit budget which is OK since we have reserves. Offsetting revenue for Bernie's presentation has not been built in yet. Chris and Donna were wondering when we would have final numbers. Carolyn will take the budget and fill in the numbers.

Donna asked about line 35 and if we had a zoom license for the section. Paula said we don't have one. The budget does consider the fact that we need a new platform. If we continue to use On24, it will cost \$660. If one of us upgrades our personal zoom for one year, it would cost \$600. Donna also asked about where our section dues were against others. Carolyn confirmed that most sections charge \$25-30. Ours is \$35. Only one other section is higher at \$40, and a few others are at \$35. As the budget stands, we are proposing to draw down our reserves by \$15,000. That isn't realistic because it doesn't include the revenue from Bernie Mayer's presentation. Courtland isn't concerned even if revenue is low, because we have plenty of money in reserves. Motion to approve the budget as presented was seconded and passed.

IV. Scholarship follow-up with recipients (Oliver, with Julia & Ted)

Two written write ups were received, both of which were thoughtful and well-received. Julia will check with the recipients to see if they have consented or will consent for it to be posted on the listserve.

V. BOG dinner and Bylaws update (Paula)

Paula attended the meeting in Port Angeles as well as the Law Day luncheon. She sat at a table with Dick Manning who introduced the WA Supreme Court Justice keynote speaker. Tom Ahearn, our BOG liaison wondered aloud to Paula why we were a separate section from the litigation section. Carolyn suggested we write up something for the Bar News that highlights our section so we can do more education as to the value DR has separate from litigation.

VI. Summer gathering

There is a tie for dates—June 21 and July 26. Seven can attend at each one but not the same seven. Only nine people responded. Mel will flip a coin and let us know which date wins.

VII. Preliminary 2026 NWDR Conference discussion (dates, location, planning committee)

The committee plans to send out surveys. Paula will follow up. Mel suggested surveys be part of the planning process next year, so they go out earlier. The dates for 2026 are March 26-27. We are still confirming the location. Dee will follow up with Bernie Mayer.

VIII. Committee Reports—tabled until next meeting

- a. **Legislation & Public Policy (Jody)**
- b. **Membership & Outreach (Mel)**
- c. **Academic Relationships (Julia)**
- d. **Education**

IX. Other:

Motion to amend the bylaws was seconded and passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30