



# Dispute Resolution Section

## Washington State Bar Association

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

### 2021-2022 Executive Committee

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(open), Vice Chair  
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### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

December 16, 2022

12:00pm – 1:30pm PST

Zoom Meeting Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82282323088?pwd=Nnp1Z3oraTgwS2FDVIA2Vk1yZG01UT09>

Passcode: 12345

**Courtland Shafer, Dee Knapp, Chris Casillas(left at 12:40), Paula Emery, Carol Betts, Lish Whitson (left at 12:48), Alan Alhadeff, Bob Oberstein, Mel Simburg, Carolyn MacGregor (Lauren Novak, Kyle Berti and Melissa Fuller not present) Quorum present**

- I. **Approval of minutes:** The minutes were not available due to a technical glitch so they will be on next month's agenda to approve.
- II. **NWDR Report**--Chris Casillas met with Christine Cimini and Alan Kirtley about the Northwest Dispute Resolution Conference, and they had positive reactions to the idea. Christine still needs to meet with the new Dean of the Law School. They are hiring a new director (similar to Kathy Kline's old position) and that will happen in January. Chris said he'd check back in January. He told them the conference was planned for March 2024. Paula said that Melissa, Lauren and her met with Christine as well and had the same report. Just in case, Melissa is meeting with a private event planner to find out what it would cost if UW can't do it. Melissa will also check with Sasha and Craig who will check with Gonzaga for a hybrid version. The preference is to hold it at the UW and to use law students as volunteers. There is some concern about taking on too much to do a hybrid version coupled with the concern that offering an online version might dissuade people from registering in-person. Other venues might be SU or WSBA although the latter might come with restrictions.
- III. **Open Sections Night**—See the email attached with the agenda. The Open Sections Night has been an in-person event in the past. Carolyn said there was one held in Tacoma that didn't get much attendance so they are looking at how to revive it in a way that works. They are trying to put together a steering committee and are looking for at least one more to investigate whether there is enough interest to hold the event. Mel agreed to post the opportunity on the list-serve.
- IV. **Treasurer's Report**—No report--Because 9/30 is the end of the FY—there is a bottleneck to get financials and we normally don't get them until January at the earliest. If anyone has a project for FY 2024 that needs funding, they should send it to Courtland as soon as possible.
- V. **Outreach**
  - a. **Listserve**--Once a month everyone should post to listserv or social media – we need to do better, please remember to post

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- b. **Lexology** --Mel said that it is a worldwide, free, opt-in service. He thinks we should post the opportunity to the listserve quarterly with the next one to be sent in January
- c. **Happy Hour.** Courtland said there were 6 people at the December event. There is a guest speaker for January—a notice will go out next week. Mel said notices have been going to an old list and not on the list-serve. They will go to the list-serve from now on. Carolyn suggested we also put it on the website if someone will provide a blurb.
- d. **Section Book & Media Club** Carol reported that they are skipping December. The next meeting is Jan 19 at 5:30 and the book is “For the Forces of Good; the Superpower of Everyday Negotiation”. It is not available at the library. It is available through Amazon for \$15 soft cover and \$10 Kindle. There is a core group of 4-5 people and it is unknown why it is not attracting more people.

#### VI. **Committee Reports:**

- a. **Events:** Alan reported nothing new
- b. **Media & Communications**--Carol has been communicating with Adrienne about shutting down the Ning website which should go offline next payment cycle. There does not appear to be a way to back it up. Carol is copying the content and pasting into word documents. Mel hopes it can be put back up on the new website especially if still relevant.
- c. **Northwest Collaborative Futures Conference:** There is nothing on their website, so nothing to report
- d. **Legislation & Public Policy**—Carol reported that there is new recently passed legislation that waives confidentiality regarding domestic violence in a court administered mediation. The statute looks to be fraught with problems but currently no one is setting up a court administered mediation program under the statute. Courtland suggested a question on the listserve to see if anyone knows what is going on with this. The citation is: RCW 26.09.015 and 016. Most DRC’s already do family mediations under contract with courts and its unclear if this is the same thing.
- e. **Professional Development & Membership** – no report
- f. **CLE development**—Carol reported that there are still plans for a CLE on Early Mediation that will be a panel discussion. They may also discuss the statute mentioned in (d) above.
- g. **Academic Partnerships** – Dee reported that Melissa is coaching the Client Counseling Competition students at SU for the Regional Competition. Bob and Courtland confirmed they are interested in coaching the Mediation Competition which will be held entirely online in the spring.

#### VII. **Other**

Paula reported that she and Lauren were accepted to present at the ABA Spring Conference in Las Vegas on the Washington State Eviction Resolution Program. (ERP)

**1:19: Adjourn**