

Darren Carnell

April 18, 2024

Dear Members of the Nominating Committee,

Please accept my application for the ELUL Section Chair position for 2024-25. My deep experience with the section puts me in a good position to pick up the job with little interruption to the work of the Section.

I recognize that Section membership is voluntary, and I am very committed to the Section bringing value to members (in part to encourage continued membership). In addition to providing programming and resources, two values are particularly important to me. First, the Section plays a very important role in promoting collegiality among land use and environmental attorneys. Second, and related, I place a high priority on the Section's role in helping law students and new attorneys get access to the environmental and land use bar and to develop their careers.

I have been an engaged member of the section for many years. From 2011-14, I was a member of the Executive Committee, and then for the following three years served as Chair-Elect, Chair, and Past Chair. I was Section Chair during the year WSBA leadership and management conducted the section review process. I fully engaged in this process and actively advocated for the interests of the ELUL Section, as well as other member-led sections.

I have returned to the Executive Committee twice. In 2021 I was asked to complete the term of a member who had unexpectedly resigned. During this time, I worked with others on the Executive Committee to maintain section programming during the pandemic. In late 2023, I was again asked to rejoin the Executive Committee to fill an open position. This time, I have assumed the position of Treasurer. Understanding Section finances, as well as WSBA policies, is one particular skill I would bring to the Chair position.

In addition to formal leadership roles, I also have a long record of other section involvement. I first attended the Section's Midyear Conference in 1997 and have attended every subsequent Midyear. I am a regular presenter at WSBA and other CLEs and have helped organized many CLE programs. I have consistently participated in law-student networking and

mentoring programs, and at various times have worked on the Section Newsletter. Beyond ELUL, I am also active in other sections and professional organizations. I think there are untapped opportunities for us to collaborate with these groups on programming and organizational best practices.

Please also allow me also to tell you a little bit about my biography beyond my Section work. I am a life-long resident of Washington. My mom worked on the capitol campus in Olympia. As a child, I regularly visited and wandered around the Legislative Building. I developed an interest in government early. I graduated from Yale University with a degree in Economics and Political Science and the University of Washington Law School. Since graduating from law school, my job responsibilities have evolved, but I have had only one employer: King County. I am a Senior Deputy in the King County Prosecutor's Office and am Chair of the County's Land Use Section. In my law practice, I represent King County in litigation and advise the County Executive, County Council, and various other agencies on a wide variety of land use and environmental matters. My practice includes substantial experience with Growth Management Act compliance and in defending First Amendment, Due Process, and other constitutional challenges to planning and permit decisions. Over the course of my career, I have represented clients at all levels of state and federal court and before various administrative agencies. I am admitted to practice in the Washington Supreme Court, the Ninth and District of Columbia Circuits and the United States Supreme Court. My community involvement has included volunteering with the YMCA Mock Trial Program and the King County Bar Association's neighborhood legal clinics. I have also held various leadership positions in organizations that support schools that my kids attended.

I appreciate your consideration of my application for the ELUL Section Chair position. My broad land use and environmental experience provide a good basis for me for me to assume this position with little disruption to Section work. I look forward to continuing to work with others on the Board to maintain and develop excellent section programs. If I can answer any questions or provide additional information, please call or email.

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