



# Michael Savage

ATTORNEY/OPERATIONS MANAGER



**TO: WSBA Family Law Section Members**

**RE: Executive Committee Position Letter of Interest**

Dear Washington State Bar Association Members,

I am seeking to become a valuable member of the Washington State Bar Association Family Law Section Executive Committee. While I am somewhat new to being an attorney, I have worked in family law for fifteen (15) years. Through my experience I gained a vast amount of knowledge in the practice of law and in managing a law firm. In addition, I have a wide range of skills in information and technology that I believe I could use to benefit the legal community at large. In my work as an operations manager, I have accomplished feats such as taking our firm paperless, adopting electronic signatures, automating client intake, adopting cloud phone service, virtualizing our office, developing a responsive website, automating document generation (using HotDocs and other software) most long before other firms (or the pandemic) had required firms to do so. I have also standardized firm processes/procedures, streamlined accounting/payroll, improved the firm's online presence and marketing and much more.

In my practice of family law, I firmly believe that almost all family law matters can (and should) be resolved without litigation. An overwhelming majority of cases settle before trial. Cases should be approached with this in mind. When there are competent attorneys on both sides, chances are they have a good idea of what the likely outcome in court will (or should) be and there is no reason that they cannot work together through strategic debate to negotiate a fair and reasonable settlement that achieves their clients' goals within the confines of the law. There is little to be gained from stirring up unnecessary conflict that needlessly increases the financial and emotional cost, stress, and time for all parties involved. While it might result in more billable hours for that case (to that client's detriment), I think an attorney's time (and mental health) is better spent trying to develop a higher volume of low(er) conflict cases. There is no shortage of family law cases, and, with the right approach and attitude, it should not affect the attorney's profit and could significantly improve their well-being.

As such, in my role on the executive committee, I hope to influence legislation, initiatives, court rules, legal education content and whatever else that would encourage civility and cooperation between opposing counsel in an attempt to resolve their cases as amicably as possible without the need for litigation (even while not working within the confines of collaborative law). Further, I hope to use my background in information and technology in any way that might benefit the legal community.

I appreciate this opportunity and look forward to working with everyone in any way I can, whether or not I am selected. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael Savage