

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION  
SENIOR LAWYERS SECTION  
MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

**November 21, 2017**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Brian Comstock. Also present were Executive Committee members Al Armstrong, Carole Grayson, Ron Thompson, Morrie Shore, Dudley Panchot, Don Haley, Steve DeForest, Kevin Plachy of the WSBA, Korrinna Hernandez also of the WSBA, and, by phone, BOG Liaison James Doane. Not able to be present were Ron Mattson, Scott Osborne, Eleanor Doermann, Steve Crossland, Jerry Jager, Tom Wampold, John Bergmann and Jerome Scowcroft.

Prior to convening, Al distributed the Minutes from the October 17, 2017 Executive Committee meeting and Brian passed around the Agenda for the morning's meeting. These documents were previously distributed via email to the Committee members.

Our New BOG Liaison James Doane briefly introduced himself to the Committee, indicating that he has been practicing law since 1980. He was a partner at Preston, Gates and Ellis (now K&L Gates) for 12 years. Much earlier in his career he practiced in Philadelphia and Tacoma. A graduate of Harvard and the University of Pennsylvania Law School, he is in the last year of his three-year term as a member of the Board of Governors (District 7).

The meeting attendees took turns introducing her/himself to Mr. Doane.

**CHAIR'S REPORT AND OTHER MATTERS**

Brian indicated that he, Kevin and Al had attended the Section Leaders' meeting at the WSBA on October 26. A key theme of that meeting was the Bar's consideration of major changes in the funding and cost-sharing practices of WSBA-sponsored CLE seminars. Kevin then explained the proposed changes and the rationale for these changes: he indicated that the WSBA has been aware of the steep drop-off in in-person attended Bar-sponsored CLE seminars. (In-person CLEs include remote attendance in these calculations). However, purchases of on-demand CLE's (tapes of past Bar-sponsored CLEs available from the Bar) has increased. The WSBA is studying a process of financing section-sponsored CLEs by considering the subsequent sales of these CLE as part of the revenue generated by that specific CLE. Also, shortfalls in revenue from any given CLE would not be charged against the sponsoring section. The system will still be self-financed, but surpluses from well-attendance seminars will in effect underwrite losses elsewhere. Kevin indicated that no decisions have been made relative to these proposals. The changes will be considered at a WSBA meeting (to which all executive committee members of all sections are invited) on January 26, 2018. If adopted at that meeting, the new scheme would not go into effect before fiscal year 2019. Several of our Executive Committee members expressed their intent to attend.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Ron T. indicated that he had received no information from the Bar relative to our financial situation, and therefore had no Report to give; our financial status remains unchanged from last month.

## **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Al's Minutes of our October 17, 2017 meeting were adopted by Motion, with a change suggested by Carole that Tom Hillier's employer should be specified as Perkins Coie.

Al also indicated that he had recently met Washington Deputy Attorney General Noah Purcell at a recent function and that Mr. Purcell expressed interest in speaking at our April CLE.

## **CLE DISCUSSION**

The list of confirmed speakers at our next CLE were set forth: **1. Justice Charles Johnson; 2. Jack Nevin; 3. Paul Luvera; 4. Tom Hillier; 5. [our own] Eleanor Doermann;** and, **6. [our own] Scott Osborne.** It was noted that we had room for one more presenter. In addition to the above-named Noah Purcell, Dudley indicated that he would be talking to U.W. Professor Karen Boxx in the next few days, and he would be attempting to get a commitment from her.

There was some discussion about what our CLE theme would be, but no conclusion was reached.

Brian noted that although we had included all 14,000 plus older Bar members in our pre-CLE advertising, we didn't seem to get much response in the way of additional attendees. However, we shouldn't give up on this idea, Brian said.

Discussion turned to get more members for our Section. Brian opined that we must be concerned about the future of Senior Lawyers, given our present situation. Steve noted that the ABA method of automatically enrolling all members in a dues-free senior section would not work in our case—the ABA has various methods of revenue-generation that are not available to us.

## **CHANGE OF SECTION NAME**

Carole mentioned that we should change the name of our Section. Many older lawyers do not identify as a senior, she noted. Steve said we are not tapping into the large group of new older lawyers. We would do better to leave the word "senior" out of our title, he said. Many at the meeting favored a name change: Experienced Lawyers, and Master Lawyers were suggested. Steve suggested that we include the subject of a name change in our January meeting agenda. James Doane mentioned that a name

change would entail an amendment to our bylaws, and changing the bylaws requires approval of the BOG, which meets on January 18-19 in Bellingham. The BOG will also meet in March in Olympia, he added.

Carole suggested that we have an Executive Committee-wide telephone conference on December 1, when our CLE subcommittee is set to meet, but Steve wondered whether we should all be on the phone during the subcommittee meeting.

It was suggested that we have two pre-CLE e-blasts to the entire Bar membership, not just the 14,000 members we are targeting. Eleanor suggested that we may want to make use of Bar functions such as Open Sections night in January to publicize our event.

### **LIFE BEGINS**

There was concern that some members of the Executive Committee didn't receive the last issue of our Life Begins newsletter from the Bar. Dudley and Steve indicated that they had not received their newsletter.

Kevin said he would bring a camera to our next CLE so as to include pictures of some of the speakers in the newsletter recap.

Brian suggested that we consider emailing Life Begins to our target 14,000 Bar members.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Brian adjourned the meeting.

The next Executive Committee meeting will take place at the Broadmoor Golf Club at 10:30 am on January 16, 2018.