

**SENIOR LAWYERS SECTION
MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

December 21, 2022

This meeting was conducted via Zoom. The following Executive Committee members and WSBA personnel were present at this meeting: Interim Chair Carole Grayson, Al Armstrong, Jeanine Lutzenhiser, Joe Gordon, David Sprinkle, Jim Riehl, Steve DeForest, Bill Cameron, Jenny Rydberg, Brian Comstock, Young Lawyer Liaison Sabiha Ahmad, BOG Co-Liaison Jordan Crouch, Education Programs Manager Shanthi Raghu, Young Lawyer Liaison Sabiha Ahmad and Carolyn MacGregor, WSBA Sections Program Specialist. Not able to be present were Morrie Shore, Eleanor Doermann, Jenny Rydberg and BOG Co-Liaison Kevin Fay.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Carole welcomed the Committee attendees. This is Carole's final month as Interim Chair. Carole noted that David will assume this duty for the next three months (January, February and March) and that, while Jeanine will take over the Interim Chairship for July, August and September, we still do not have an Interim Chair volunteer for April, May and June.

CLE OPTIONS AND LOCATIONS

Shanthi suggested that we reserve a WSBA conference room for a definite date and then we can go forward with specific plans as we approach that date. Jim added that "we are now in a world of hybrid programs"-consisting of live speakers and taped presentations. He suggested we go that route with our main CLE, and David agreed. Jeanine noted that our section values in-person gatherings, so we should provide at least some in-person CLE presentations. Carole also said she favors a hybrid format. April 28 was selected as the date for our main CLE. Shanthi said she would save this date for us.

Brian, for his part, said he would like to present a one-half-day program at the Airport Marriott.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Al's Minutes from our November meeting were approved by Motion.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Joe reported that the WSBA has not forwarded much financial information relative to our status. However, Joe was able to obtain our fund balance as of September 30--- \$15,581. The Treasurer's report was approved by Motion.

BOG LIAISON JORDAN COUCH'S REPORT

Jordan discussed the Bar's plans relative to moving the WSBA's offices as its current downtown Seattle leasehold approaches expiration. Several options or parts thereof are under consideration: renegotiating the current leasehold, subleasing the current premises and moving to a new rental space, purchasing another building, or establishing several smaller offices around the state. Carole wondered whether other bar associations have multiple offices to serve their respective members. Jordan said he wasn't aware of any examples of this.

Jim indicated that he thought it would be a good idea if Jordan could write a brief column for our newsletter every so often, updating our readership on recent goings-on at the BOG. Carole asked if Jordan could familiarize himself with the content of Life Begins to get a feel for "what our newsletter is all about." Jordan said he would be glad to submit articles. Jim mentioned that March 1 is the submission deadline for the next issue.

Steve asked Jordan if he had any idea what the membership numbers are like relative to the various WSBA sections. Jordan said it looks like the membership numbers are flat, and, relative to the various section executive committees, the participation numbers do seem down. Jordan replied that people are not finding the sense of community that they once did; this is a downward trend that he has noticed over the past five or six years. Jordan did note that the engagement of our own Executive Committee members seems higher than most, pointing out how many of our E.C. members were present at our meeting. Jordan noted that, in order to take a meaningful survey of our potential section members, we might try to reach those who are now only minimally engaged with Bar and section activities. Otherwise, if we focus on those who are already "giving their all," these individuals would more likely be too satisfied with the status quo.

TASK FORCE

How to expand section membership? This has been the mission of our Task Force, instituted about two years ago. Brian, as chair of that Subcommittee, noted that the purpose of this group is now closely intertwined with our Survey Subcommittee. Perhaps, said Brian, these two subcommittee should "join forces." We could look into what other senior lawyer sections across the county, as well as the ABA, are doing along these lines. Many senior lawyer-like sections in other bar associations have folded but others have prospered. We have got to reach out to the approximately 14,000 non-Senior Lawyer Section members to see what more we can do to attract more Section members, said

Brian. Brian suggested that the two Subcommittees meet as soon as possible and then we can see how these two groups work together. Brian said he would like to get our survey out “right away.”

Carole suggested that the two Subcommittees be authorized to take any steps necessary to move along on our mission at their meeting in early January. It was agreed that the Subcommittees be so authorized.

LIFE BEGINS

Jim said that he has sent all materials for the next issue of *Life Begins* to Britt Sutherland; this issue should be out before the “end of the year or within a week or so.”

Jim encourages us to submit articles. Reprints from other publications—with attribution—are welcomed, as are book suggestions, travelogues and member spotlights. Jim was pleased that Steve had passed his name on to Melinda Mann of the Legal Foundation for Washington. Ms. Mann has contacted Jim and plans to do an article for our publication.

Carole suggested an article by or about attorney Mike Frost, the Executive Committee non-member of our nominating committee.

ADJOURNMENT

Carole adjourned the meeting.

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will take place on a remote-attendance basis on January 18, 2023 at 10:30 am.