



Washington Academy of Elder Law Attorneys

Officers

President:
Lisa Malpass

Vice President:
Val Ohlstrom

Treasurer:
Michael Bresson

Secretary:
Jerrica Seeger

Past President:
Nancy Lee

Executive Director:
Carissa Linnane

Board of Directors

Jim Brown
Jane Bitz
Rajiv Nagaich
Beth McDaniel
Karen Webber
Jan Zager
Lawrence P. Dolan
Mihaella Smith Bayla
Stephen R. King

5727 Baker Way NW
Suite 200, Gig Harbor,
WA 98332

Phone: 877.460.5880
Fax: 877.460.5880

2020 WAELA Board Nominee Bios

James M. Brown, Phillips, Krause & Brown

James M. Brown is an Elder Law attorney with offices in Aberdeen. He received his JD from Western State University College of Law in 1978. He is a member of the bar in both California (1979) and Washington (1981). He is the managing partner at Phillips, Krause & Brown. His practice emphasizes Elder Law which includes estate planning, Medicaid planning and qualification, preparation of Wills, Trusts (including Special Needs Trusts), Durable Powers of Attorney and other planning documents, probate, guardianship and litigation in those areas.

Mr. Brown is also a Certified Professional Guardian ("CPG"). Mr. Brown has been appointed as guardian, litigation guardian or attorney for a number of severely incapacitated persons with complex medical-legal issues.

Mr. Brown is also an adjunct professor of law at Seattle University School of Law. Since 2005 Professor Brown has continuously taught Elder Law and/or Advanced Elder Law to law students who are studying to obtain their Juris Doctor degrees. He is a member of the curriculum planning committee for the new LLM in Elder Law at the Law School.

Mr. Brown is a member of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA), is a past president, current board member, currently serves on committees for the Washington Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (WAELA), serves as the WAELA representative to the Washington State Senior Citizens' Lobby, is a long standing member and former board member of the Elder Law Section of the Washington State Bar, is a former bar examiner for the Washington State Bar Association and remains active in many professional organizations.

Bryana Cross Bean, Law Offices of Bryana Cross Bean

Attorney Bryana Cross Bean's primary practice areas are estate planning, long-term care planning, elder law, and probate. She also does adult guardianships, small business formation, and real estate contracts. She has been a practicing attorney in Washington since 2013 and has had her own practice since 2014. She holds memberships in the National Association of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA), the Washington State Bar Association (WSBA), and Tacoma-Pierce County Bar Association (TPCBA). She is also an active participant in events in the elder care community in Pierce County and is a VA accredited attorney.

Maureen A. Wickert, Law Offices of Maureen A. Wickert

I have been an elder law attorney and member of WAELA for 8.5 years located in Tukwila, Washington. My focus has been on estate planning, probate, trust administration, guardianship, and Medicaid Planning. I volunteer for KCBA's Neighborhood elder law legal clinic in Kent, Washington. Past volunteer organizations I have been a part of are the Washington Will Clinic for First Responders and KCBA's Kinship Care Solutions Project for third party child custody cases. WAELA has been an important part of my development as an elder law attorney and enjoyed the collegiate character of its members.



2020 WAEA Board Nominee Bios

Washington Academy of Elder Law Attorneys

Officers

President:
Lisa Malpass

Vice President:
Val Ohlstrom

Treasurer:
Michael Bresson

Secretary:
Jerrica Seeger

Past President:
Nancy Lee

Executive Director:
Carissa Linnane

Board of Directors

Jim Brown
Jane Bitz
Rajiv Nagaich
Beth McDaniel
Karen Webber
Jan Zager
Lawrence P. Dolan
Mihaella Smith Bayla
Stephen R. King

Jan Zager, The Advocates Law Group

After graduating from Bryn Mawr College and Stanford Law School, Jan practiced corporate litigation at a large New York City law firm. When she and her husband adopted their second child, and she was juggling the work/life balance of raising young children, Jan became Legal Director of a non-profit educational advocacy agency in Elmsford, New York. She also maintained a private practice, representing children and adults in custody, juvenile justice, child welfare, and domestic violence cases.

Jan and her family moved to the Seattle area in 2003 after the tragedy of 9/11. Soon after, she established a small private practice advising and representing families on special education issues and related challenges associated with raising children with special needs. After her mother's death from cancer in 2005 at her home in California, Jan exchanged distance caregiving for more in-person care management: she moved her father to the Seattle area so she could help manage his increasing dementia.

From 2006-2008, Jan trained as a chaplain, completing a residency in clinical pastoral education at Harborview/University of Washington Medical Center in Seattle. Her areas of focus were mental health and end of life issues. This hands-on experience of supporting families as well as professionals make complex decisions about health and finances inspired her shift to elder law and life planning issues upon her return to full-time legal practice. Drawing on her law school focus on taxation, she spent the next few years in intense study and gradually shifted her practice to elder law and then to estate planning. After a year of working for a small estate planning boutique firm, Jan re-opened her private law office dedicated to estate planning and elder law. Jan joined Advocates Law Group in 2017, delighted to have the institutional strength of a partnership of experienced practitioners.

Karen Webber, Phelen Webber Pettis P.S. Attorneys at Law

Karen L. Webber is admitted to practice law in the states of Washington and Oregon. She was admitted to practice in Oregon in 2003 and in Washington in 2004. She is a graduate of Illinois Wesleyan University and received her Juris Doctorate and Tax Certificate from Northwestern School of Law of Lewis and Clark College.

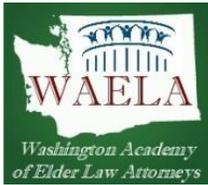
Karen has earned the designation of CELA, certified elder law attorney by the National Elder Law Foundation. She is a member of the Washington State Bar Association, Oregon State Bar Association, American Bar Association, National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, and Washington Academy of Elder Law Attorneys.

Karen enjoys helping people understand complex legal issues. She takes pride in guiding clients through the complex maze of laws that impact their lives and the loved ones they are caring for. Her down-to-earth explanations help clients understand complex legal issues.

Away from the office, Karen enjoys free time with her husband, is an active member in P.E.O., an International Women's Educational Organization, and Pink Lemonade Project, a nonprofit supporting those affected by breast cancer.

5727 Baker Way NW
Suite 200, Gig Harbor,
WA 98332

Phone: 877.460.5880
Fax: 877.460.5880



Washington Academy of Elder Law Attorneys

Officers

President:
Lisa Malpass

Vice President:
Val Ohlstrom

Treasurer:
Michael Bresson

Secretary:
Jerrica Seeger

Past President:
Nancy Lee

Executive Director:
Carissa Linnane

Board of Directors

Jim Brown
Jane Bitz
Rajiv Nagaich
Beth McDaniel
Karen Webber
Jan Zager
Lawrence P. Dolan
Mihaella Smith Bayla
Stephen R. King

5727 Baker Way NW
Suite 200, Gig Harbor,
WA 98332

Phone: 877.460.5880
Fax: 877.460.5880

2020 WAEA Board Nominee Bios

Jonas Hemenway, Gravis Law

Current Employment: Attorney with Gravis Law's Spokane office. Emphasis on Elder Law and Estate Planning, Probate and Trust Admin, Guardianships, Small Businesses.

Education: B.A.: Brigham Young University. J.D.: University of Oregon School of Law, emphasis on Elder Law, Tax and Estate Planning.

Active Bar Licenses: Washington and Oregon

Current Boards/Committees: Planned Giving Advisory Committee for the Spokane Neighborhood Action Partners organization (SNAP). Vice President of the Spokane County Bar Associations "Elder, Disability, and Estate Planning" section.

Misc: When not at the office, Jonas spends his time with his wife and six young children. He also enjoys hiking, camping, hunting, wood working, and generally puttering around the house.

Laurel Brown, Attorney and Counselor at Law

I am an attorney with unique expertise in Estate Planning and Elder Law matters. While in my early 30's and raising two pre-school aged children, my late husband became medically disabled with heart disease. I learned first-hand the complexities involved in estate planning and elder law issues.

In 2002, I enrolled in the paralegal program at Edmonds Community College, where I learned how to draft estate planning documents from instructors who were lawyers and judges. I then worked as a paralegal/case manager in a Seattle healthcare defense firm for several years.

After my children were grown and my late husband required facility level care, I went to law school

I have a special level of insight and compassion because of my life experiences and bring that experience, along with my knowledge and passion for helping others to work for each of my clients.

Philip George, Life Point Law

Phil is an Elder Law Attorney, LifePlanning Coach, and co-host of the Aging Options radio show on KGMI. He is also a passionate advocate for the aging and elderly. He was first introduced to the idea of LifePlanning when Rajiv Nagaich was his Elder Law Professor at the University of Washington School of Law. Phil had been fortunate enough to mentor under Rajiv until he came to work for him back in in September of 2014. Phil is currently the Managing Attorney of both our Edmonds and Bellingham offices.

Phil is also a member of the Board of Directors for the Whatcom County Hospice Foundation as well as the Advisory Committee for the Bellingham Senior Activity Center. As well, Phil does quite a bit of Pro Bono work every year on behalf of Law Advocates of Whatcom County, a not-for-profit organization that provides legal assistance for those in need. Phil's parents live in Ferndale and he and his wife, Elisa, recently returned to make their home in Bellingham with their two dogs, Blackjack and Augustus. In their spare time, you can find Phil and his family enjoying all the golfing, camping, boating, crabbing, fishing, hiking, and winter sports that our beautiful Whatcom county has to offer.