

# Snohomish County Bar Member Newsletter



## Min Kang to Serve on the SCBA Board of Trustees

The Snohomish County Bar Association is pleased to welcome our newest Trustee to the Board of Trustees, Min Kang.

Min lives in Mukilteo, and she is committed to supporting the local legal community. Ms. Kang values the SCBA's mission to strengthen the Snohomish County legal community through member connection and information exchange, substantive CLE programming, opportunities to engage with the Snohomish County bench, and a continued focus on professionalism and service to the public. Min stated, "I will be an engaged Trustee – prepared for meetings, responsive and communicative, and committed to helping to complete at least one meaningful project each year that advances SCBA's work."

Min's practice spans risk management and counseling; contract and legal document analysis, disputes, and negotiations; business litigation; insurance/personal injury/product liability matters; appellate work; regulatory/compliance advice; and class actions. She is also CIPP/US certified. Min is a partner at Hinshaw & Culbertson, LLC based in Los Angeles.



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## Bar Calendar

SCBA Board Meetings, 5:00 PM

Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81547773463>

### SCBA Calendar of Events

MARCH	APRIL	MAY
11 <sup>th</sup> – Bar Mixer	16 <sup>th</sup> – Newsletter Deadline	5 <sup>th</sup> – Ethics CLE
18 <sup>th</sup> – Newsletter Deadline	16 <sup>th</sup> – Board of Trustees Meeting	15 <sup>th</sup> – Newsletter Deadline
19 <sup>th</sup> – Board of Trustees Meeting		21 <sup>st</sup> – Board of Trustees Meeting
31 <sup>st</sup> – TEDRA CLE		

### Board Meeting Dates:

<del>2/19</del>	7/16
3/19	9/17
4/16	10/15
5/21	11/19
6/18	12/17

# SCBA Team

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Gregory Altringer Office Manager

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Bar News is published monthly by Snohomish County Bar Association, P.O. Box 5429, Everett, WA 98206.

Ads, articles, announcements and changes of address all go to [service@snobar.org](mailto:service@snobar.org). Submissions are due by the 15th of the month.



## Join Me in Leaving a Legacy of Justice

“ As a fifty plus year member of WSBA, there was no question in my mind about joining the Justice Society and naming the Endowment for Equal Justice in my will. I want to make sure that people who need legal representation at critical times in their lives can access it, no matter how meager their resources. The Endowment is working to take some of the stress out of their lives with civil legal aid. The Endowment provides support in perpetuity for the Legal Foundation of Washington in making our communities more equitable places to live, work and raise a family. Please join me. ”



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McKinley Irvin proudly congratulates partners Mark Arend and Brent Bohan for their election to leadership positions within the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers.

Their service reflects McKinley Irvin's longstanding commitment to leadership, integrity, and excellence in family law.



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# ***Bar-Bench Mixer***

*There will be a Bar-Bench Mixer on Wednesday, March 11th, at the Law Offices of Nunn, Vhan, and Lang, 2707 Colby Ave., Everett, from 5 PM - 7 PM. An RSVP would be appreciated. Please contact Gregory at [service@snobar.org](mailto:service@snobar.org) to RSVP.*





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## Judge Michael T. Downes (Ret.)

is pleased to announce his availability for Arbitrations and Mediations.

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# CLE Announcements

## Upcoming TEDRA CLE

The TEDRA CLE will take place on March 31st.

Where: Robert J. Drewell Bldg. (Skykomish Room AKA Public Meeting Room 1)

When: 9 am -3:30 pm.

NOTE: This CLE is not subject to the CLE Pass system as it was arranged for 2025.

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### ***Upcoming Ethics CLE***

*On May 5, 2026 we are offering a CLE from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. on ethics. Our speakers at the present time are Snohomish County District Court Judge Anthony Howard, Snohomish County Superior Court Judge Richard Okrent, Jeanne Marie Clavere from WSBA ethics division, and attorney Aimee Lou Trua.*

*The CLE will address "Common Ethical Issues During Litigation" by Janne Matie Clavere, with a panel and discussion questions from 10:00 a.m. Until 11:00 a.m., followed by information and discussion on how to remain within ethical boundaries during presentations to the Court, and then our judges will discuss how failure to follow ethical guidelines regarding honesty to the tribunal and general treatment of the court has changed and effected the safety of members of the bench.*

*We intend to have other members of the bench be part of our speaker line-up, and will advise when the date gets closer.*

*We encourage attendance at this CLE not just for the ethics credits, which we are applying for, but for the information to assist in your practice to avoid ethical mis-steps and to assist in creating a more appropriate and respectful atmosphere in court to encourage respect which in turn will assist in the safety for our members of the bench.*

*When: May 5, 2026, from 10 AM - 1 PM*

*Where: The Health Dept. Bldg. at 3020 Rucker Ave., Suite 306 (NOTE: Please find street parking as non-county vehicles parked behind the building will be towed at the owners' expense).*

*A CLE Pass is required to attend this CLE.*

*Please contact Gregory at [service@snoabar.org](mailto:service@snoabar.org) to request an invoice for a CLE Pass.*

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The Snohomish County Chapter of  
Washington Women Lawyers presents:

Our next **General Membership Meeting**  
will be taking place on  
**March 11, 2026 from Noon to 1:00 p.m.**

All members and interested members are invited to join us virtually  
to hear about what SnoCo WWL has planned.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88654765884?pwd=xmalqA8y49aRNnbuSCAMsjehhe0OGp.1>  
Meeting ID: 886 5476 5884  
Passcode: 159020

### **LUNCH WITH A JUDGE**

Join us for lunch with  
Everett District Court Judge Jennifer Millett  
**Friday, March 20, 2026**  
**11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

Come join us for an informal lunch with the Everett District Court Judge Jennifer Millett.  
This event is limited to 12 WWL members so make sure to reserve your spot quickly.  
To RSVP, please send an email to [kari@petraseklaw.com](mailto:kari@petraseklaw.com). We will be meeting at a  
location in downtown Everett. The location will be provided once your RSVP is received.  
Due to the popularity of these lunches, spots will be reserved for current WWL members  
only. To become a Snohomish County WWL Chapter member, please visit  
[www.wwl.org/Membership](http://www.wwl.org/Membership). For those who cannot join us on that day, look for  
future emails about additional lunches with members of the judiciary.

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**Thursday, May 7, 2026 from 5:00 - 6:30 P.M.**

Starting at 5:00 p.m., meet fellow WWL members and  
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**Building a Resilient Blended Family**  
**A Strategic Framework for Family Law Professionals**  
**Monthly Resource for the Snohomish County Bar Association Newsletter**  
By Tio Jorge,



**Introduction:**  
**From Divorce to Blended Family**

For families navigating a divorce, the introduction of a new partner often marks the beginning of a second, profoundly complex transition. For family law attorneys, this development can signal a new wave of potential conflicts, from disputes over a stepparent's role to the emotional turmoil it can create for children. However, this new reality need not be negative. When handled with skill, proactiveness, and a collaborative spirit, the formation of a blended family can be an opportunity to build a wider, more supportive, and incredibly positive network for children. This article provides a framework for how you, as legal counsel, can guide your clients through this delicate process. We will explore how to anchor the new family structure on the common ground of the children's well-being, the critical role of collaborative parenting and training for all adults involved, and how this approach can transform a potentially volatile situation into a source of strength and resilience. By equipping your clients with the right perspective and tools, you can help them build a successful blended family, preventing future conflicts and fostering long-term stability that extends far beyond the courtroom.

**Finding the Common Ground:**  
**A Shared Mission for the Child's Well-being**

The pain and challenges of a divorce can leave children feeling insecure and destabilized. The introduction of a new partner can either amplify this anxiety or, when managed well, begin to heal it by providing an additional source of consistent, caring support. The difference lies in the adults' ability to find and commit to a single, non-negotiable common This must be the shared mission that unites the biological parents and their new partners. It requires a fundamental shift in mindset from possessive ("my time," "my kids") to inclusive and child-centric ("our children's stability"). When all adults in the system agree that their primary goal is to help the children overcome the challenges of the divorce and thrive, it creates a powerful foundati-



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ion. From this common ground, decisions about roles, boundaries, and communication can be made collaboratively, rather than from a place of fear, jealousy, or competition. Your role as counsel can be pivotal in helping your client establish this mission as the guiding principle for every decision that follows.

### **From Potential Pitfalls to a Positive Reality: The Collaborative Approach**

Without a collaborative framework, the formation of a blended family is fraught with common pitfalls that frequently lead back to your office:

- **Loyalty Binds:** Children feel torn, believing that liking a stepparent is a betrayal of their other biological parent.
- **Role Confusion & Conflict:** A new stepparent may overstep, attempting to discipline or replace a biological parent, leading to resentment and power struggles.
- **Inconsistent Rules:** Children are forced to navigate wildly different sets of rules and expectations between two households, creating confusion and anxiety.
- **Undermining Behavior:** One parent may subtly (or overtly) undermine the other parent's new partner, poisoning the relationship.

A collaborative approach, however, proactively addresses these issues by establishing a new, expanded family system built on clear communication and mutual respect.

### **Key Elements of a Collaborative Blended Family:**

1. **Clearly Defined Roles:** The adults have proactive conversations to define the stepparent's role. The most successful model is for the stepparent to be a warm, supportive adult figure—like a "coach" or "aunt/uncle"—while the biological parent remains the primary disciplinarian and decision-maker for that household.
2. **Respectful Boundaries:** All parties respect the sanctity of the child's relationship with both biological parents. The new partner supports and encourages that bond rather than competing with it.
3. **A United Front:** While rules may differ slightly between homes, the adults communicate about major issues (like discipline, screen time, curfews) to create a consistent and predictable environment for the children.
4. **Proactive Communication:** The biological co-parents maintain their direct line of communication as the primary channel for decision-making, while respectfully including new partners in relevant discussions and information sharing.

### **The Non-Negotiable: Why TRAINING is Essential for Everyone**

If co-parenting requires skills, then navigating a blended family requires an advanced skillset. "Trying harder" or "hoping for the best" is a recipe for failure. Proactively engaging in training is the most effective way to equip all adults for success and is a core part of their due diligence to the children.



# Family Law Mediation & Arbitration

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Mr. Pellegrini is an experienced family law attorney whose practice began in Seattle and has expanded to include continuous case actions in Snohomish, Whatcom, King County, Skagit and Island counties

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### **How to Frame This with Your Client:**

- "Now that you have a new partner, the family system has become more complex. To ensure this transition is a positive one for your children and to prevent future conflicts, I strongly recommend that you and your partner attend a workshop specifically on blended family dynamics."
- "Building a successful stepfamily is a skill. Investing in some coaching now can equip you with the tools to get it right from the start, saving you immense stress and legal fees down the road."

### **Conclusion:**

#### **Building a Bigger, Stronger Family**

The creation of a blended family is one of the most significant challenges a family can face post-divorce, but it also holds the promise of a bigger, more diverse, and more resilient support system for children. The outcome is not a matter of luck; it is a matter of skill, intention, and collaboration.

As family law attorneys, you have the unique opportunity to frame this new chapter not as a problem, but as a project that requires a new set of tools. By guiding your clients to find the common ground of their children's well-being and connecting them with resources that provide essential training, you empower them to build a positive future. You help them transform what could be a source of endless conflict into a legacy of adaptability and strength for the next generation.

#### **A Resource for Your Blended Family Clients**

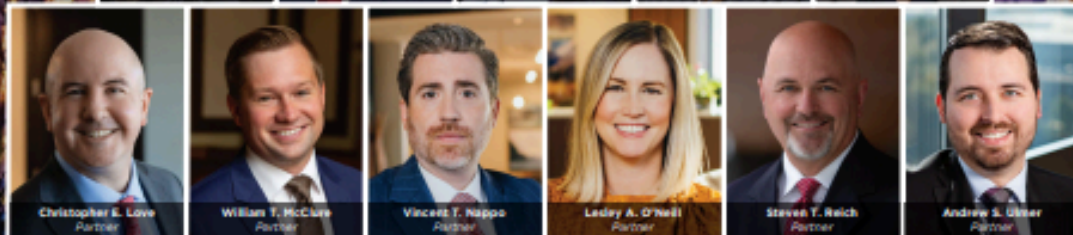
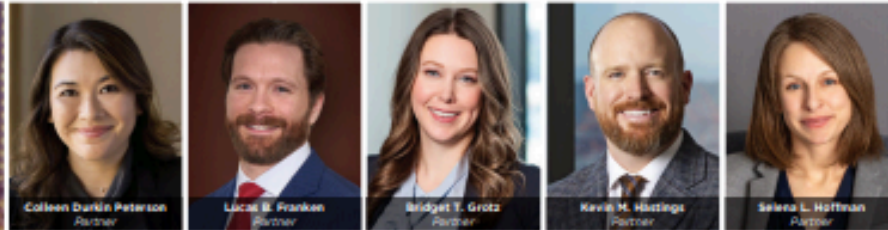
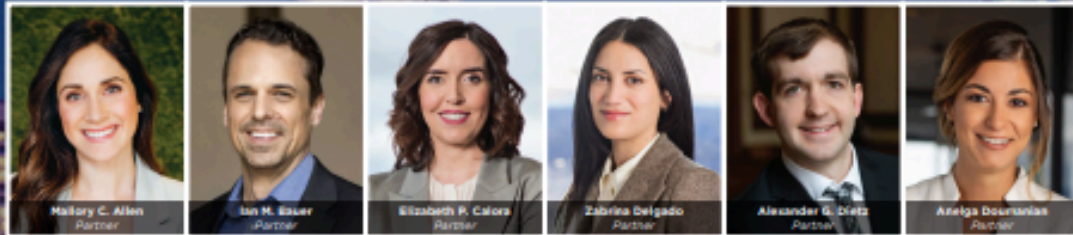
Navigating the complexities of a new family structure requires specialized support. Our Successful Co-Parenting Program includes modules and coaching specifically designed for the challenges and opportunities of blended families.

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