

Snohomish County Bar Member Monthly Newsletter



SCBA Calendar of Events

June

18th - SCBA Board Meeting

22nd - Marital Waste Doctrine CLE



2026 SCBA Annual Golf Tournament

The SCBA is pleased to announce that our Annual Golf Tournament will be held on August 21st at the Nile Shrine Golf Club in Mountlake Terrace.

Our beneficiary for the tournament is the Edmonds School District Athletic Alliance.

Sponsorship opportunities are available. Please contact Cynthia at director@snoabar.org to receive details.

Our registration site is live! Click on the link below to sign up or sponsor the tournament.

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/scba-2026-annual-golf-tournament>



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Bar Calendar

SCBA Board Meetings, 5:00 PM

Link:

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

Board Meeting Dates:

2/19	7/16
3/26	9/17
4/16	10/15
5/21	11/19
6/18	12/17

SCBA Team

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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. Submissions are due by the 15th of the month.



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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.



— DICK MANNING,
EEJ Justice Society Member since 2003

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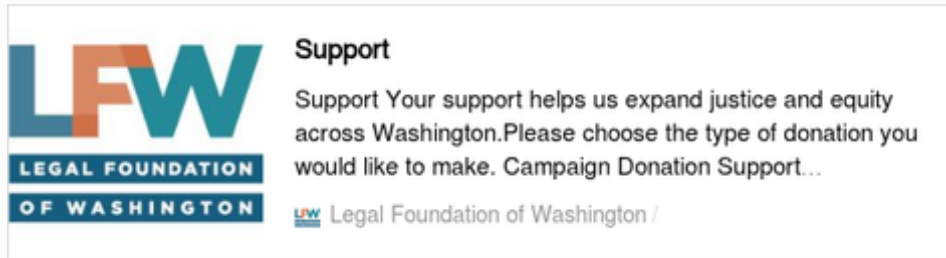
John L. Scott
REAL ESTATE



Ice Cream Social

The SCBA invites you to beat the heat on July 23rd at a family-friendly event held at The Ice Cream Bar at 2810 Colby Ave in Everett, from 5 PM - 7PM.





CHEERS & JUSTICE
Fundraising Event for the Campaign for Equal Justice
Thursday, July 23, 2026 5:00pm at Tapped Social

For those of you who have been around a while in Snohomish County, you may recall the Campaign for Equal Justice's local fund-raising event, Beer & Justice. Over the past 6+ year, we have events at Diamond Knot, Scuttlebutt and Blue Water Distillery, to name a few. The event is happening again this year, just under a new name: Cheers & Justice! But the purpose is the same: Supporting Civil Legal Aid, in Snohomish County and throughout the State of Washington. This year, we will be hosting our event at the new Tapped Social on Grand Ave on Thursday, July 23, 2026 starting at 5:00pm. Former Supreme Court Justice Mary Yu has agreed to speak at our event! In addition, Jane Pak, Executive Director Snohomish County Legal Services and Emily Hepburn-Lane, Campaign Board President will be speaking.

For those of you who may not be familiar with either the Campaign or Cheers & Justice, the Campaign for Equal Justice (CEJ), the fundraising program of the Legal Foundation of Washington, our state's largest private funder of civil legal aid. Each year, CEJ brings together attorneys, firms, and community members across Washington to raise critical funds that help people solve civil legal crises and protect their rights. Funds raised through the Campaign go to the Legal Foundation, who then provides grants to more than 75 legal aid programs across the state, including Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, TeamChild, Legal Counsel for Youth & Children, the Unemployment Law Project, and 16 pro bono programs connected to county bar associations. Collectively, these programs help more than 30,000 families gain access to legal support and justice.

The Campaign for Equal Justice needs your support now more than ever. Donations directly fund civil legal aid, impact litigation, policy reform, and systemic advocacy through the Legal Foundation's statewide grant programs. If you can't attend the July 23rd event, you can still support civil legal aid by donating online. [Donate here.](#)

Thank you for your support of this very worthy and necessary cause! Hope to see you all in July!

Ann M. Brice, Snohomish County Representative for the Campaign for Equal Justice

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We are delighted to welcome attorney David D. Goodwin to our practice.

David earned his undergraduate degree in Political Science from Brigham Young University, graduating in the top 10% of his class. He received his law degree, *cum laude*, from Seattle University School of Law.

Throughout his career, David has represented clients in a wide range of family law matters, including divorce, parenting plan and custody issues, child support, and related family law disputes. He is known for his thoughtful counsel, steady approach, and commitment to helping clients resolve difficult matters with clarity, dignity, and practical solutions.

David is accepting referrals in all aspects of his domestic practice.



David D. Goodwin can be reached at:
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Snohomish Cheers + Justice - July 23, 2026

SAVE THE DATE

Join us to learn how civil legal aid advances equity and justice in Snohomish County!

23
July

Venue to be
announced
soon!



www.legalfoundation.org/events



CLE Announcements

Marital Waste Doctrine

Presented by Patrick Songy of Deno Millikan, PLLC

June 22, 2026

Noon - 1:30 PM

ZOOM ONLY (Link Upcoming)





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Please contact Chloe Horner for
scheduling with Judge Downes:
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The WSBA Board of Governors (BOG) is holding their July Meeting in Marysville. It will be held on Friday, July 23 and Saturday, July 24 at the Tulalip Resort Casino. When the BOG holds meetings outside of the Seattle office, we collaborate with local bar associations to bestow the WSBA Local Hero Award to those who have made noteworthy contributions to their communities. The WSBA Board President Francis Adewale and Executive Director Terra Nevitt then present the award to the honoree during a Local Hero Lunch where all Snohomish County Bar Association members are invited. We're all looking forward to being in Marysville!

Below you will find more information on the nomination process and lunch RSVP instructions.

Local Hero Nominations:

We ask for your help in selecting a deserving Chelan-Douglas Bar Association member who is active in the local legal community. Please complete and submit materials to the Local Hero Nomination Form by Monday, June 22nd.

For an example, learn more about our most recent Local Hero, David J. Bentsen from Olympia.

Local Hero Lunch RSVP:

Please reach out to the SCBA members for their RSVPs to the Local Heroes lunch on Friday, July 24, at Noon at the Tulalip Resort Casino, Chinook 1 Meeting room. Here is the RSVP form link to share with them: [WSBA Local Hero Lunch RSVP](#), including the date, time, and location. The deadline to submit RSVPs is Friday, June 12th. (The form will collect the RSVPs, so there is nothing to do on your part except to share the link with the members.)



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Beyond the Decree

Why the Parenting Plan is a Roadmap, Not a Destination

By Tio Jorge Founder & Director of the "Successful Co-Parenting" Program

I. Introduction:

In the old days, when a car engine broke down, you would pull over, open the hood, and quickly realize you had absolutely no idea how the internal machinery worked. Post-divorce parenting operates in the exact same manner. Most individuals believe they possess an intuitive understanding of how to raise children—until the foundational "engine" of the marriage breaks down completely. Suddenly, the historical rules of the household no longer apply. Your clients are no longer just "Mom" or "Dad" operating under one roof; they have suddenly been thrust into the roles of comanagers of a small, fragile, separate joint venture called "Your Child's Future." And just like any complex, high-stakes operational role, they cannot execute it successfully without formal training.

II. The Systemic Hijack:

A pervasive trap in family law practice is the illusion that a meticulously drafted legal decree is sufficient to save a fractured family from long-term conflict. Most parenting plans are written defensively to prevent arguments, yet ironically, rigid compliance often becomes the very fuel that ignites them. If a plan strictly mandates that "residential handoff occurs at 5:00 PM," and a parent arrives ten minutes late due to traffic, a high-conflict system immediately weaponizes that delay as a material legal breach. Without a behavioral pattern interrupter, parents default to defensive intuition clouded by marital anger, repeating the toxic loops that caused the structural breakup in the first place. A poorly structured plan hyper-focuses on the parents' rights to the child, trapping the family in an endless cycle of territorial disputes over minutes and pick-up locations. The strategic shift requires moving the client from a defensive posture ("my time," "my rights") to an executive, child-centric mindset focused entirely on the child's right to an uncompromised development—their sports, their peer relationships, and their mental peace. The ultimate goal of a parenting plan is to act as an invisible safety net, sitting quietly in a drawer because the adults have been trained to communicate with professional, business-like neutrality.

III. Tactical Tools for Attorneys to Share

You can insulate your agreements from future modification practice and lower your firm's administrative burnout by incorporating these structural and educational boundaries into your final decrees:



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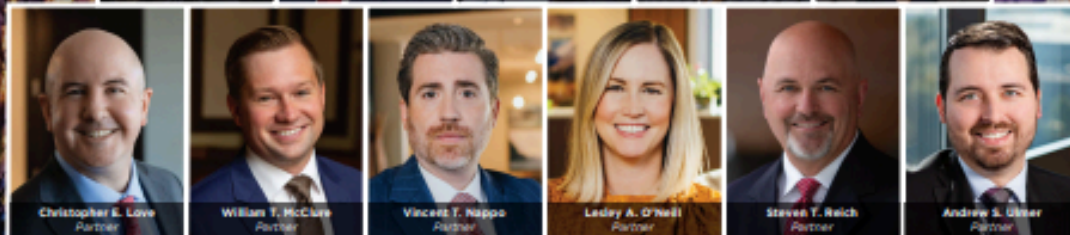
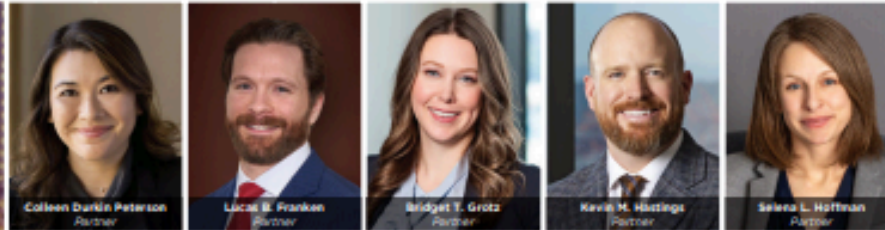
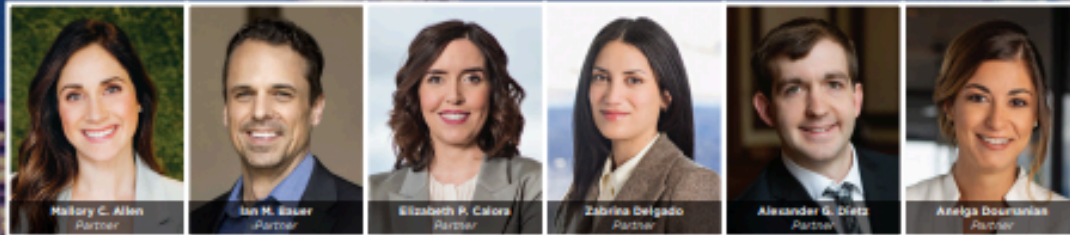
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1. Build "Elasticity Clauses" Into the Parenting Plan Instead of drafting rigid, unyielding parameters that penalize the standard friction of daily life, counsel your clients to build explicit Elasticity Clauses into their final parenting agreements. Structure clauses that prioritize the general spirit of the time-sharing arrangement rather than the literal minutes, allowing for reasonable windows of grace during handoffs, provided professional notice is delivered. This contractual buffer successfully strips high-conflict personalities of a mechanism to litigate minor daily disruptions.

2. Establish a Shared Vocabulary of Peace We do not expect an individual to pilot an aircraft simply because they read an informational pamphlet; yet, the family court system frequently expects parents to navigate the most stressful transition of their lives without a single hour of formal behavioral training. Require clients to undergo formal psychoeducational training to acquire a Shared Language. When both sides understand what a "loyalty bind" is, and both sides deploy the "BIFF" method, they possess a common operational toolkit to manage boundaries without running back to their attorneys.

3. Align on the "Big Three" Household Boundaries To prevent children from navigating wildly inconsistent rules that fuel anxiety and behavioral regression, use your settlement consultations to align the two separate households on the Big Three operational boundaries: Consistency in Discipline, Core Dietary guidelines, and Digital/Screen-time boundaries. This systemic alignment provides the child with an invaluable sense of predictability across both residential environments.

IV. Summary

Legal paperwork can efficiently divide marital assets, but only specialized education can unite a post-divorce parenting strategy. Training acts as the ultimate pattern interrupter, replacing emotional reactivity with proven behavioral methodology. It gives parents the explicit structural permission they need to stop acting as hostile "exes" and start operating as objective "business partners." By positioning your firm as a strategic connector and insisting on court-approved training before a final decree is executed, you give your clients the "missing manual" they desperately need. This is the highest form of legal advocacy: you aren't simply closing a legal file and processing a dissolution; you are actively opening the door to a healthier generation, ensuring the "Ghost in the Room" becomes a child who feels entirely safe, seen, and supported.

V. References & Sources

1. For the Developmental Needs of Two-Home Children: Kelly, J. B. (2000). Children's adjustment in conflicted marriage and divorce: A decade review of research. *Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry*, 39(8), 963-973. Relevance: Landmark research demonstrating that a child's successful long-term adjustment depends entirely on the parents' capacity to maintain flexible, low-conflict boundaries rather than rigid, adversarial compliance.

2. For High-Conflict Personality Management in Legal Arenas: Eddy, B. (2008). *High Conflict People in Legal Disputes*. High Conflict Institute Press. Relevance: Formulates the tactical baseline for implementing structured communication rules and business-like neutrality to suppress litigation loops driven by high-conflict behavior.

3. For Interdisciplinary Family Conciliation Standards: Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC). (2006). *Model Standards of Practice for Child Custody Evaluation*. *Family Court Review*, 44(1), 107-122.

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Relevance: Establishes the professional interdisciplinary standard validating why prioritizing the child's independent life, friendships, and peaceful environment outranks rigid parental time-possessiveness. 4.

For Psychoeducational Interventions and Child Coping: Neuman, M. G. (1998). Helping Your Kids Cope with Divorce the Sandcastles Way. Times Books. Relevance: Proves empirically that putting parents through a live, structured group curriculum replaces toxic intuition with practical conflict-resolution tools, dramatically lowering future relitigation rates.

VI. The Successful Co-Parenting Program

While you expertly manage the legal framework of a family's transition, we can help your clients build the practical skills needed to thrive in their new reality. We ask that you refer your clients to the Successful Co-Parenting Program. We have been the approved provider for Snohomish Superior Court's mandatory parenting seminar since 2017 and are accepted in most Washington counties. Our program is designed to complement your legal guidance by equipping parents with a deep, practical understanding of healthier interactions, constructive communication, and conflict resolution. All our classes are conducted in real-time via highly interactive Zoom sessions, featuring dedicated, culturally responsive dates for both English and Spanish formats led by Tio Jorge. www.SuccessfulCo-Parenting.com Court-Approved: Snohomish, Skagit, Island, Grant, Walla Walla, and Kitsap Superior Courts; explicitly approved for registration compliance in King, Yakima, and various other counties across Washington State.*





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