



2026 FAMILY LAW

# MIDYEAR MEETING & CONFERENCE

FRIDAY, JULY 17 - SUNDAY, JULY 19, 2026

At the Hotel Murano in Tacoma

IN-PERSON &  
WEBCAST

WSBA|CLE *Invested in your success.™*

2026 FAMILY LAW

# MIDYEAR MEETING & CONFERENCE

FRIDAY, JULY 17 - SUNDAY, JULY 19, 2026

Join us for the 2026 Family Law Midyear, offered both online and in person at the beautiful Hotel Murano in Tacoma. Spend the weekend connecting with colleagues and expanding your expertise through dynamic, informative sessions full of timely updates, helpful insights, and strategies to support and strengthen your family law practice.

**WSBA CLE - #26529TAC / #26529WEB**

*Presented in partnership with the  
WSBA Family Law Section*

**13.75 CLE credits**

	L&LP	Ethics	Ethics-Equity	Other
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26529TAC	9.75	1.0	1.0	2.0
26529WEB	9.75	1.0	1.0	2.0

**TUITION:**

Family Law Section Members	\$390
Standard/Non-Section Members	\$425
Join the Section	\$425
New Members*	\$350

**IN-PERSON & WEBCAST**

**REGISTER ONLINE:**

- **#26529TAC:** In-Person
- **#26529WEB:** Webcast

**CO-CHAIRS:**

- **Laura Yelish** - *Yelish Law PLLC, Port Orchard*
- **Cecilia Welch** - *Attorney, Oak Harbor*

**SCHOLARSHIPS**

The section will be offering scholarships. Please watch this space and we will update it with scholarship information once it becomes available.



**HOTEL MURANO  
IN TACOMA**

## Lodging Information

There is a limited block of discounted rooms at The [Hotel Murano](#) held for attendees until June 25, 2026, based entirely on space availability. Once they are filled, room prices may increase. Room reservations made under the WSBA room block are intended for attendees of the Midyear Conference only. If a non-attendee would like to stay in the area, please find accommodations outside of the WSBA room block.

The WSBA room block includes Friday and Saturday nights, July 17 and 18, at the rate of \$194 per night plus taxes and fees. You may stay for whichever nights you need within that date range.

### Hotel Murano

1320 Broadway, Tacoma, WA 98402

Phone: 253-238-8000



Scan to book a room

### TO RESERVE YOUR ROOM

Use this link to book your room directly:

[WSBA Family Law  
Midyear Meeting &  
Conference Booking](#)



Photos © Hotel Murano

# DAY 1 > FRIDAY, JULY 17, 2026

## 12:00 p.m. > Check-in • Walk-in Registration • Afternoon Refreshments

## 12:35 p.m. > Webcast Log-In Opens

## 12:50 p.m. > Welcome and Introductions by Program Committee

- **Shelley Brandt** - Cordes Brandt PLLC, Olympia
- **Haley Helms** - McKinley Irvin, Everett
- **Michael Savage** - Luminosity Law PLLC, Mountlake Terrace
- **Cecilia Welch** - Attorney, Oak Harbor
- **Laura Yelish** - Yelish Law PLLC, Port Orchard

## 1:00 p.m. > The Ethics of Withdrawing and Terminating Representation Under RPC 1.16

60 minutes, 1.0 credits Ethics

Many lawyers struggle with saying “no” or “goodbye” to a client. Improper termination can lead to ethical grievances, malpractice claims, and lost fees. In analyzing the ethical mechanics of stepping away and RPC 1.16 the rule allows for permissive exits, accounts for tribunal permission, requires protection of client confidentiality and emphasizes mitigating harm. This presentation will give lawyers clarity and confidence so they can make ethical decisions that protect both the client and their own well-being.

- **Jeanne Marie Clavere** - Washington State Bar Association, Seattle

## 2:00 p.m. > Guardianship Updates

60 minutes, 1.0 credits L&LP

Hear updates on guardianships that could affect your clients and your practice.

- **Todd Yelish** - Yelish, Barker & Cuningham, Port Orchard

## 3:00 p.m. > BREAK

(DAY 1 CONTINUED NEXT PAGE)

# DAY 1 > FRIDAY, JULY 17, 2026

## 3:20 p.m. > Loan Assumptions in Divorce: What Every Family Law Attorney Needs to Know

60 minutes, 1.0 credits L&LP

A practical guide to understanding loan assumptions as a settlement strategy — covering the two types of assumptions, how to structure buyouts, support income implications, real-world examples, and the settlement language needed to protect both spouses.

- **Mihaella Bayla** - *True Lending LLC, Edmonds*

## 4:20 p.m. > BREAK



Marshal

## 4:30 p.m. > The Dog in the Room: Courthouse Facility Dogs in Family Law

**\*\*NOTE\*\* There will be a working dog, Marshal, present during this session\*\***

60 minutes, 1.0 credits Other

Family law proceedings carry an emotional weight that rivals anything in the criminal system, and yet facility dogs are rarely part of that picture. From dependency hearings and family treatment courts to mediation, guardian ad litem interviews, and domestic violence witness preparation, attorneys consistently report the same thing: when the dog comes in, the temperature in the room goes down. Reshape how you think about client participation,

courtroom climate, and the untapped potential of facility dogs in family law settings. Understand the science of why facility dogs work, and the best practice framework practitioners need before pursuing a program in their jurisdiction, and offer a practical path forward — regardless of the size of your courthouse or community.

- **Felicia Ako** - *Courthouse Dogs Foundation, Bellevue*
- **Kim Carroll** - *Thurston County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, Olympia*
- **Celeste Walsen, DVM** - *Courthouse Dogs Foundation, Bellevue*
- **Megan Winder** - *Pierce County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, Tacoma*

## 5:30 p.m. > Adjourn • Complete Online Evaluations

# RECEPTION

# DAY 2 > SATURDAY, JULY 18, 2026

**7:30 a.m. > Check-in • Walk-in Registration • Morning Refreshments**

**7:40 a.m. > Webcast Log-In Opens**

**7:55 a.m. > When Immigration Law Meets Family Law**

*75 minutes, 1.25 credits L&LP*

This panel discussion reviews immigration categories which involve family law and common immigration issues that arise with family law cases.

- **Janet Gwilym** - *International Rescue Committee, SeaTac*
- **Katrina Zafiro** - *ZafiroLaw, Seattle*

**9:10 a.m. > BREAK**

**9:30 a.m. > From Impasse to Agreement: Mediation Issues and Pitfalls**

*90 minutes, 1.5 credits L&LP*

A presentation and open conversation on mediation issues with family law mediators Jacqueline Jeske and James Shipman. Take this opportunity to explore questions that have come up in your practice on a variety of mediation topics in this open forum. Jacqueline and James will address some common issues they see, and then open things up for a lengthy and hopefully educational discussion on issues all of us face in family law mediation today. By the end of this presentation, you will develop a problem-solving knowledge base, learn that the right way is the way that works for each client and meet participants where they're at so you can identify acceptable settlements. Mediators can assist attorneys in managing client emotions, setting expectations and how to defuse intense conflicts to break through impasse barriers in settlement negotiations.

- **Commissioner Jacqueline Jeske (Ret.)** - *Jeske Dispute Resolution LLC, Woodinville*
- **James Shipman** - *Port Gardner Law Group, Inc. P.S., Everett*

**11:00 a.m. > BREAK**

(DAY 2 CONTINUED NEXT PAGE)

## DAY 2 > SATURDAY, JULY 18, 2026

### 11:20 a.m. > Vicarious Trauma in Family Law: Hazards and Help

60 minutes, 1.0 credits Other

This presentation examines the disproportionate vicarious trauma faced by family law practitioners and judges caused by repeated exposure to traumatic experiences of clients, parties and witnesses. And it explores **what to do about it**. The American Psychiatric Association recognizes this as a form of PTSD. In this presentation you will learn about the signs, symptoms and triggers of the hazard, and healthy ways to address it.

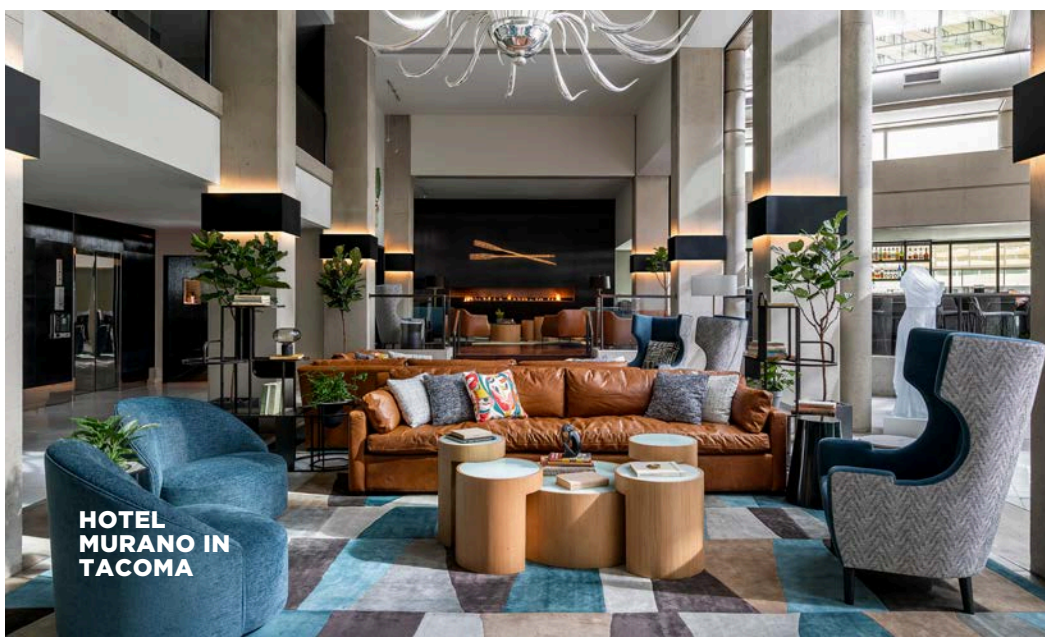
- **Leslie J. Hagin** - *Washington Lawyers Assisting Lawyers, Seattle*

### 12:20 p.m. > BREAK and transition to lunch

### 12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. >

## AWARDS LUNCHEON

(DAY 2 CONTINUED NEXT PAGE)



# DAY 2 > SATURDAY, JULY 18, 2026

## 2:00 p.m. > The LGBTQIA+ Litigant and the Court

60 minutes, 1.0 credits Ethics-DEI

In December of 2012, Washington State granted recognition of same sex marriages. This was followed in 2015 by the US Supreme Court decision in Obergefell v. Hodges. Since these events, members of the LGBTQIA+ community have been increasingly noted in various court proceedings. Regardless of your personal stance regarding LGBTQIA+ rights, the ability to properly address members of that community in court and to handle sensitive issues is not only encouraged but expected by the Bar and by the courts. This course is intended to explore those issues and give some insight into how you may be able to properly navigate these areas when dealing with parties, counsel, witnesses, and judicial officers.

- **Judge Jeffrey P. Bassett** - *Kitsap County Superior Court, Port Orchard*

## 3:00 p.m. > Intimate Partner Violence in Family Law Cases: From Screening to Litigation

75 minutes, 1.25 credits L&LP

This presentation will briefly trace the social and legal history of domestic violence, define what is encompassed under the term “domestic violence”, provide information on various communication methods and instruction to screen for domestic violence, and train participants how to develop litigation strategies for those impacted by domestic violence in divorce and following divorce.

- **Diane F. Russell** - *The Law Office of Diane F. Russell PS, Silverdale*

## 4:15 p.m. > Adjourn • Complete Online Evaluations

# DAY 3 > SUNDAY, JULY 19, 2026

**7:30 a.m. > Check-in • Walk-in Registration • Morning Refreshments**

**7:40 a.m. > Webcast Log-In Opens**

**7:55 a.m. > There's No Place Like Home: Understanding Harms of Removal and Family Separation**

*90 minutes, 1.5 credits L&LP*

In 2023, Washington became one of the first states to require dependency courts to weigh the potential harm of removal alongside the risk of a child remaining in the home. This session introduces the concept of the “harm of removal,” explains its foundational research, and provides tools that attorneys can use to identify and mitigate the impacts of family separation.

- **Jacob D’Annunzio** – *Washington State Office of Public Defense, Olympia*
- **Ambrosia Eberhardt** – *Akin, Spokane*
- **Laura Vogel** – *Washington State Administrative Office of the Court, Olympia*

**9:25 a.m. > BREAK**

**9:45 a.m. > Legislative Update**

*60 minutes, 1.0 credits L&LP*

What happened in the Washington State Legislature in 2026? There were numerous bills affecting Family Law practitioners. What passed? What didn't?

- **Commissioner Jacqueline Jeske (Ret.)** – *Jeske Dispute Resolution LLC, Woodinville*
- **Christopher Fox** – *Family Law Attorney, Kirkland*

**10:45 a.m. > Case Law Update**

*75 minutes, 1.25 credits L&LP*

The always-popular case law update is presented by Chris Meserve and Chuck Szurszewski. They will discuss cases affecting family law that were decided this year by the appellate courts.

- **Christina Meserve** – *Connolly Tacon & Meserve, Tacoma*
- **Charles Szurszewski** – *Connolly Tacon & Meserve, Tacoma*

**12:00 p.m. > Closing Remarks • Adjourn • Complete Online Evaluations**

## REGISTRATION

To register online, please go to the [registration page](#). Click to add to cart and complete your purchase. You may pay by credit card, or via ACH. Alternatively, you may print and mail an invoice seven business days prior to the program along with your check payable to WSBA. Credit card payments by mail or fax are no longer accepted. Note, our service provider will charge you a separate, non-refundable transaction fee of 2.5% on all bank card transactions.

Effective Oct. 1, 2025, applicable sales tax will be applied to all live seminar registrations (in-person or virtual). For more information, refer to changes to [Washington sales tax law](#).

If special accommodations are needed, please email [cle@wsba.org](mailto:cle@wsba.org) or call toll-free at 1-800-945-9722.

Please omit my name from the networking list made available to exhibitors and/or attendees.

*Registrations received less than 48 hours before a seminar are not guaranteed a coursebook or other presentation materials on-site. If special accommodations are needed, please email [cle@wsba.org](mailto:cle@wsba.org) or call toll-free at **800-945-9722**.*

### PRICING AND PAYMENT

- #26529TAC, attend in Tacoma**  
7/17/26 through 7/19/26
- #26529WEB, attend via webcast**  
7/17/26 through 7/19/26
- \$390 Family Law Section Members**
- \$425 Standard/Non-Section Members**
- \$425 Join the Section (\$35) and register at the Section member rate**
- \$350 New Members\***

*\*New Members who have been admitted to practice in Washington for fewer than five years are eligible to receive the new member tuition. Note: The store will automatically discount your registration during checkout.*

### Seminar Registration Transfers, Refunds and Cancellations

In most circumstances, if you cannot attend the live event, we can transfer your registration to the on-demand product, once available (8-10 weeks from the program delivery date). Generally, for webcast/webinar registrations, tuition fees may be refunded, less \$25 for processing, for written cancellations postmarked, emailed, or faxed up to the start of the event. For in-person registrations, tuition fees may be refunded, less \$25 for processing, for written cancellations postmarked, emailed, or faxed by 5 p.m. up to three business days before the event. No refunds will be provided after the dates specified. You may also send a substitute in lieu of canceling. *When applicable, specific exceptions to these policies will be noted on individual event registration pages.* Please email [cle@wsba.org](mailto:cle@wsba.org) with any requests or questions.

**ONLINE >** Go to [www.wsba.org](http://www.wsba.org) and enter **26529** in the search box. Payment by credit card.

**PHONE >** Call **800-945-9722** or **206-443-9722** with credit card and registration/order form in hand. Our service provider will charge you a separate, non-refundable transaction fee of 2.5% on all bank card transactions.