

News About the Collaborative Community

NW Collaborative Law (Seattle/Bellevue/Edmonds)... in its new form...
Washington Collaborative Law will be hosting a kick off event on **Wednesday January 26, 2005**.

There will be a mingle and greet with refreshments starting at 4:30 pm; **Justice Bobby Bridge** will be presenting at 5 pm. The event will be held at:

Union Square Boardroom
One Union Square
600 University Street
Seattle, WA

WCL will be presenting their upcoming events for 2005 and introducing their 2005 Board of Directors.

Insurance Defense in the Seattle/Olympia areas:

Insurance defense is still in the budding stages. Here are the names of people who have expressed an interest. Rachele Volk: she's an insurance defense paralegal, who wants to move into the family arena, but is also interested in collaborative law. She's at [206/282-2154](tel:2062822154)/rachelevolk@yahoo.com. John McCormack, at 206/623-8861 and Ted Millan at 206/624-2200. Both Ted and John have years of experience in insurance defense. Karen Foster of Olympia at 360/508-8055 is eager to begin the conversation about taking CL to insurance defense/personal injury.

If people are interested, I would be willing to host insurance defense and personal injury attorneys/paralegals and others discuss bringing collaborative law to this area of practice. Let me know if you are interested in furthering the conversation and what dates/times work best for you.

Another person you might want to contact is Sally Bagshaw at sally.bagshaw@metrokc.gov. She is the Chief Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney at the King County Prosecutor's Office and is exploring bringing CL to civil prosecution.

Another person you may want to contact is Marilyn Endriss. As an employment attorney, she's been grappling with the issue of how the plaintiff's attorney gets paid in CL cases where historically the pay structure has been contingency based.

Sound Collaboration (Olympia):

Sound Collaborative hosted their first all-member meeting on January 4, 2005 at the Marston Center in Lacey, Washington. They will continue to host monthly events on the first Tuesday of the month at 12:15 p.m. at the Marston Center at 677 Woodland Square Loop SE, Lacey, WA. You can call Kathleen Moore at 360/413-0611 for directions or reach her at kmooreesq@comcast.net.

Their group has finished their by-laws and elected officers. Their officers are as follows:

President is Kristen Bishopp: 700 Sleater-Kinney Road SE, Suite B, Lacey, WA 98503, cell no. 360/259-5817.

Vice President: Kathy Moore at 677 Woodland Square Loop SE, Suite A14, Lacey, WA 90503.

Vice President/Marketing: Gina Bissell.

Sec/Treasurer: Jessica Jensen. Jessica is over-seeing the list serve and marketing choices. She's at jmj@lexlux.com, and (360) 352-7965.

Kristen Bishopp and Kathy Moore will be tending to the education issues.

Sound Collaboration decided to be an attorney-only collaborative law group. The non-attorney group in Olympia is being spearheaded by Carol Goodwin, a therapist and divorce coach. She's located at 360/701-0954. The non-lawyer group is a fledgling group and not off the ground yet.

At their group meeting, Sound Collaboration debriefed the fall 2004 training with Marian Korn. What they would like for future training is a one-day mediation training and other shorter trainings that provide practical skills. They have discussed that Don Desonier would be great for the mediation training, and that they are not ready for a full blown DRC training.

Sound Collaboration is tentatively looking towards developing their own marketing materials and not going with the national advertising materials. Their website is almost operational. Their website is www.soundcollaboration.org. I've attached the membership list for the group.

Spokane Group:

In October, a group in Spokane invited Rachel Felbeck and Don Desonier of NW Collaborative Law/ Washington Collaborative Law to speak with them about developing a practice group. A group now has been formed with three committees. The next collaborative family law meeting will be held in the Community Center conference room on the Mezzanine level of the Community Building at 35 W. Main in Spokane on January 14, 2005, at 12 noon. I'm attaching a newsletter that Dale Raugust of Spokane sent to interested attorneys and non-attorneys in the Spokane area. This will give you an update on that group's activities.

Bellingham:

Are there any practicing collaborative attorneys in Bellingham? I've received calls for referrals to that area, but didn't know of any lawyers to whom to refer. Please let me know if you know of anyone. Thank you.

Conferences and Trainings

13th Annual NW Dispute Resolution Conference: Two collaborative law segments will be presented at the 13th Annual NW Dispute Resolution Conference to be held on Friday and Saturday April 29 and 30th, 2005. Marilyn Endriss (Seattle employment attorney) and Ken Dehn (Seattle business attorney and chair of the solo section of the King County Bar) will be presenting "Practicing Collaborative Law" at 3:00 Friday and I will be following at 4:30 on Friday with "Litigator to Collaborative: Changing from the Inside Out." The conference is packed with great-sounding sessions. Since collaborative law rests so much on the principles developed and practiced by mediators, this would be an excellent conference to attend for any attorney who desires to move into collaborative law.

Trainings in Phoenix, AZ: I received e-mail from George Richardson about two trainings later this month in Phoenix. The Level 1 training runs January 20-22, 2005 and the Advanced training runs on January 23, 2005. The flyers are attached.

Five-Week Collaborative Law Jam Session: Stu Webb, the founder of Collaborative Law, and Marian Korn, the international trainer whom Washington has hosted twice, agree that informal gatherings where CL practitioners share ideas and practice CL scenarios is one of the fastest ways to increase and hone your CL practice. If you are interested in joining me for this five-week session, give me a call (206/932-9699).

2/16/05 WSBA CLE: "The Financial Aspects of Divorce." This CLE will include a segment on ethics of collaborative law, in addition to discovery of assets, reading financial statements, characterization of property, valuation, financial security evaluation, tax, retirement, estate planning topics. See brochure at: <http://www.wsba.org/cle/seminars/05546final.pdf>.

Collaborative Law in the Media

Honorable Mention: Susan Goplen was named outstanding young attorney in the recent Washington Law and Politics Magazine. In her profile, she noted she practices collaborative law. Congratulations Susan!!

I was interviewed for an article on Collaborative Law to be published in a Seattle women's magazine. So far, the mainstream media still hasn't picked up an

article about the movement. We will benefit from anybody who can make a successful connection to the media to get some much needed exposure.

Miscellaneous Collaborative Law Developments at the State Level

State Bar Committee addressing Collaborative Law: Paul Lehto reports that the WSBA formed a committee (in October) to address emerging alternative forms of dispute resolution, including collaborative law. The group, chaired by Paul Lehto, met this past Friday, January 7th. The group's genesis was that the Board of Governors requested an exploratory task force to look into new and emerging non-adversarial dispute resolution. Collaborative law is one area. The Committee, which includes Stanley Bastian, Dan Ballback, Sevilla Claydon, Stella Rabaut, Judge Paula Casey, and Jeralita "Jeri" Costa, are just now defining their goals and getting started. Some of the activities they are considering to further knowledge about collaborative law (and other emerging ADR ideas) is to review existing literature, develop their own articles and materials about collaborative law, present workshops on collaborative law and other dispute resolution, and to create a brochure. Their focus at this point appears to be on ways to increase the visibility of collaborative law. Good luck to the WSBA CLC!

J. Mark Weiss, president of the Washington Bar's Section on Family Law (and member of Washington Collaborative Law) indicates that with the passage of GR 31, the court clerks are now basically free to place the contents of court files on the Internet. He believes that this is yet an additional incentive for parties to use alternative processes to court involvement, such as collaborative law, to resolve their cases. Another good reason to join the collaborative law movement!

Legislation/Court Rules: Rachel Felbeck, Marilyn Endriss and others at Washington Collaborative Law (formerly NW Collaborative Law) and Sevilla Claydon have expressed an interest in moving forward with legislation. At the Sound Collaboration meeting, that group expressed concerns about having state-wide legislation and did not think that collaborative legislation was needed. It appears that there is a need for further dialog about state-wide legislation on collaborative law. The Texas Statute is attached (compliments of Dale Raugust of the Spokane group) to give you an idea of how another state handled this matter.

Access to Justice: The big promoters of bringing collaborative law to those less able to pay legal fees are: Sevilla Claydon (Seattle), Rachel Felbeck (Bellevue) and Pat Morgan (of Olympia). Contact them in you want to get involved with collaborative law at this level. They have plans to work with various other non-profits and educational institutions to promote access to justice. Sevilla has indicated she is going to explore grant writing to fund a project. Olympia has

purposely incorporated itself to be able to obtain grant funds for access to justice. One idea to come out of Olympia is for Olympia to focus more of its efforts on fundraising through grant writing while the Seattle/Bellevue group can focus their efforts more on the state-wide or State Bar level.

Further Newsletters: If you would like me to mention something about you or your group in my next collaborative news letter, let me know. If you know of someone who would like to be added to my email list serve for this news letter, let me know that. This email is not the official newsletter of any particular group, but my attempt to build community within the collaborative community. If you are hosting a meeting and are open to invitees, please let me know. I'm interested in getting to know other collaborative professionals better.

Best wishes for a fruitful and collaborative year. I'm reminded of something I heard Pauline Tesler say, "What makes me a better person, makes me a better collaborative attorney." I hope the transition into collaborative practice is a rewarding one for you.

Take care,

Stefani Quane
LAWLADY INC. for collaborative divorce.
Now at 68th & Roosevelt in the Roosevelt Neighborhood
853 NE 68th Street
Seattle, WA 98115-5549

www.lawlady.com

206/932-9699
Cell: 206/841-9699

Mailing address:
PMB 209, 6523 California Ave SW
Seattle, WA 98136