

Elder Law – Fall 2026

ORIGINAL PROGRAM DATE
September 25, 2026

Presented in partnership with the WSBA Elder Law Section and the Washington Academy of Elder Law Attorneys

REPORTING YOUR CREDIT

This on-demand program was a live seminar presented on September 25, 2026. If you attended or viewed the original presentation, please note that WSBA members may not claim credit for the same CLE sessions if repeated within their three-year reporting period.

DESCRIPTION

WSBA and the Washington Academy of Elder Law Attorneys are partnering for an exciting joint fall program. Join us on-demand to be a part of it! Practitioners, jurists and professionals from across the state are coming together to present on the most vital topics for your practice. Learn the latest on at-home care voluntary stopping of eating, invisible disabilities, advance directives, high net worth estate planning and opinions on the new "Probates for Profit" statute.

AGENDA

1 Care Management - A Prosthetic Approach

This presentation will identify ways that Geriatric Care Management and Care Management for those with chronic physical and behavioral health challenges can serve as a prosthetic, supporting the individual's strengths and resilience, intervening when necessary, and encouraging independence and self-sufficiency. The emphasis is on respect for the client's preferences and legal rights while managing and mitigating risks. We will also review the care management process and how care management can assist attorneys and fiduciaries in supporting their clients.

Dan Smerken – Smerken Consulting, Olympia, WA
Moderator: June Shin Weppler - Weppler Law Office PLLC, Tumwater, WA

2 'Probates for Profit' Statute Changes: Update for Advocates

This session will provide an overview of the changes enacted by the Washington State legislature due to EHB 2445 altering Title 11 relating to probates. The statute revisions will change how probate (primarily intestate estates) is administered, from the Petition through the Closing.

Brent Williams-Ruth – Law Offices of Brent Williams-Ruth PLLC, Federal Way, WA

3 Enough: Voluntarily Stopping Eating and Drinking, Minimal Comfort Feeding, and Advance Directives

This session will address Voluntarily Stopping Eating and Drinking (VSED) and will introduce Minimal Comfort Feeding (MCF), a new approach to the provision of oral nutrition and hydration to individuals with advanced dementia who have previously indicated a preference not to live indefinitely with advanced dementia. Attendees will be provided with an update on the role of advance directives in both VSED and MCF and will learn about the typical clinical courses of each.

Hope Wechkin, MD – Evergreen Health Geriatric Care, Totem Lake, WA

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4 High Net-Worth Estate Planning

Hear about planning strategies and best practices for individuals and couples with taxable estates.
Jerrica Pierson Seeger – Des Moines Elder Law, PLLC, Des Moines, WA
Jonas Hemenway – Gravis Law PLLC, Spokane, WA

5 The Underappreciated Role and Responsibility for Attorneys in Recommending & Selecting Trustees

Participating in the recommendation and selection of a trustee is something that many attorneys do without much thought. However, finding the right trustee for a client, or more importantly not picking the wrong trustee, requires more vetting and research than many practitioners appreciate. We'll explore what you need to know when assisting in the selection of a trustee and what can go wrong when an improper trustee is selected.
Joshua Brothers – Brothers Henderson Durkin, P.S., Seattle, WA

6 Support of Staff with Invisible Disabilities & Team Building

This CLE uses the speaker's personal journey navigating life with mental health challenges, to teach: the importance of creating a supportive environment for staff with these or any other invisible disabilities; examples of ways to create that environment; and more advanced activities to increase personal growth and improve team effectiveness. Most of the presentation comes from a combination of statistics acquired while the speaker served on the WSBA Attorney Wellness Task Force and his book.
Aaron Paker – Life Point Law, Federal Way, WA

7 'Probates for Profit' Statute Changes: View from the Bench

This session provides both an overview of the recent amendments to RCW 11.28 and RCW 11.36 and bench tips to assist with complying with those new amendments as well as general bench tips for practicing in the Ex Parte Department.
Sarah Moen – King County Superior Court, Kent, WA