

Beyond the Adversarial: Collaborative Family Law and the Uniform Collaborative Law Act (RCW 7.77)



ORIGINAL PROGRAM DATE

June 11, 2026

AVAILABLE MEDIA TYPES

Video & Audio MP3

REPORTING YOUR CREDIT

This on-demand program was a live seminar presented on June 11, 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

The traditional adversarial divorce model—often characterized by high conflict, public court filings, and judicial discretion—is no longer the only “serious” path for family law practitioners in Washington. Since the enactment of the Uniform Collaborative Law Act (UCLA) under RCW 7.77, collaborative law has been formalized as a unique and powerful legal process. This session provides key insight into the statutory framework that distinguishes collaborative practice from mediation and informal negotiation, elevating it to a structured, high-stakes discipline.

Led by a panel of veteran family law practitioners, this course will move past the “kitchen table” misconceptions of collaborative law. We will examine how the process requires full disclosure and open communication creating a level of transparency that often exceeds formal discovery. Attendees will learn to navigate the core tenants of the statute with practical practice tips against the backdrop of family law.

AGENDA

1 Foundations Practice Requirements: The “Collaborative Container”

In this session, the presenter will share what makes a case collaborative, compare and contrast collaborative law v mediation and cooperative law and how to apply the Uniform Collaborative Law Act, RCW 7.77.

Mary Sakaguchi – Sakaguchi, Felbeck, Story & Reese, PLLC, Kirkland, WA

2 The Multi-Disciplinary Team: Interprofessional Collaboration

In this session, the presenter will share the roles and obligations of attorneys and clients within the Collaborative Law process and how to embrace the paradigm shift, moving from “Opposing Counsel” to “Collaborative Team Member.”

Ali Keller – Holman, Cahill, Garrett, Ives, Oliver & Anderson, PLLC, Seattle, WA

Beyond the Adversarial: Collaborative Family Law and the Uniform Collaborative Law Act (RCW 7.77) *(agenda continued from previous page)*

3 The Collaborative Roadmap: Mastering the Process

In this session, the presenter will share practical workflow and process advice including the essential elements of a participation agreement, gathering information, goal setting, exploring options, agenda setting and finalizing a case.

Kristyna Larch – Law Office of Kristyna Larch, PLLC, Seattle, WA

4 Termination of the Process Requirement

In this session, the presenter will review and apply statutory requirements concerning terminating a case and appropriate timing and process.

Janel Ostrem – Seattle Divorce Services, Seattle, WA

5 Washington RPCs, RCW 7.77 and IACP Standards

In this session, the presenter will explore the process to screen for coercive or violent relationships among parties, waiver and preclusion of privilege and applicable RPCs.

Courtney Story – Sakaguchi, Felbeck, Story & Reese, PLLC, Kirkland, WA

6 Panel Discussion: Questions, Scenarios and Closing

In this session, presenters will share troubleshooting common pitfalls, managing cases and maintaining the “Collaborative Container.”

Courtney Story – Sakaguchi, Felbeck, Story & Reese, PLLC, Kirkland, WA

Mary Sakaguchi – Sakaguchi, Felbeck, Story & Reese, PLLC, Kirkland, WA

Ali Keller – Holman, Cahill, Garrett, Ives, Oliver & Anderson, PLLC, Seattle, WA