

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING MINUTES

Seattle, WA

January 16, 2026

Call to Order and Welcome

The meeting of the Board of Governors of the Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) was called to order by President Francis Adewale on Friday, January 16, at 9:05 a.m. Governors in attendance were:

Matthew Dresden
Tom Ahearne
Kevin Fay
Kristina Larry
Todd Bloom
Nam Nguyen
Allison Widney
Kari Petrasek
Parvin Price
Christopher Bhang
Mary Rathbone
Emily Arneson

Officers and Executive Staff in attendance were President Francis Adewale, Immediate-Past President Sunitha Anjilvel, Executive Director Terra Nevitt, Chief Communications and Outreach Officer Sara Niegowski, Chief Disciplinary Counsel Doug Ende, Chief Regulatory Counsel Renata Garcia, Advancement Department Director Kevin Plachy, Chief Equity & Justice Officer Diana Singleton, General Counsel Laurie Powers, and HR Director & Chief Culture Officer Glynnis Klinefelter Sio.

Also in attendance were Nancy Hawkins, Betsylew Miale-Gix, Jennifer Olegario, Sanjay Walvaker, Sara Rankin, Scott Ketterling, Thomas Mengert, Julianne Unite, Crissy Anderson, Citlalli Briseño, Michael Chin, Lesly Díaz-Pérez, Sergio Flores, Nicholas Larson, Maya Manus, Yvette Perrantes, Mercedes Riggs, Carla Sullivan and Paris Eriksen.

Member & Public Comments

President Adewale opened the session for member and public comments. Professor Sarah Rankin presented an initiative on access to justice for the homeless, focusing on property loss from encampment sweeps. Nancy Hawkins raised concerns about rescinding a travel policy. Thomas Mengert urged the Bar

to adopt a resolution addressing rapid legal and political changes. The Board acknowledged these comments, emphasizing its commitment to access to justice and ethical innovation.

Consent Calendar

President Adewale introduced the consent calendar and asked governors if anyone would like to request a removal of an item from it. There being no objection, the items on the consent calendar were adopted by unanimous consent.

President's Report

President Adewale expressed gratitude for the Board and staff's support during his recent absence.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Terra Nevitt referred to her written report.

Discussion with Access to Justice Board

The Board engaged in an interactive session with the ATJ Board, chaired by Mike Chin. Discussion focused on the ATJ Board's revamped mission, vision, and values, emphasizing the integration of lived experiences into their work. The session concluded with a call for deeper engagement and reflection on justice and equity.

Justice Gap Scoping Work Group Charter

Executive Director Nevitt and President Adewale outlined the purpose of the scoping workgroup, emphasizing its role in reviewing existing data and recommending actionable solutions without implementing them. The workgroup will focus on both civil and criminal justice areas and justice gaps for low- and moderate-income people. Key points included the importance of diverse representation and the ambitious four-month timeline for delivering recommendations. Gov. Allison Widney moved to approve the charter. The motion passed unanimously.

2027 LPO and LLLT Fees

Treas. Nam Nguyen presented the Budget and Audit Committee's proposal emphasized maintaining the 2027 license fees for Limited Practice Officers (LPO) and Limited Licensed Legal Technicians (LLLT) at their current levels. Discussion included a suggestion to consider future fees based on the cost-of-living adjustment. Gov. Nguyen moved to approve the proposal as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Criteria and Process for Sections Viability Review Processed by the Member Engagement Council

Member Engagement Council co-chair Mary Rathbone presented proposed criteria for evaluating the viability of sections within the organization under Article XI.L.2 of the WSBA Bylaws. Under the Bylaws, review is triggered when a section's membership falls below 75, but the evaluation process will consider other factors, including the quality of the section's contributions towards fulfilling the Bar's mission. Gov. Emily Arneson moved to adopt the proposal for review of the two identified sections, with a request that the final report include recommendations for any changes to the process informed by feedback from the participating sections. The motion passed unanimously.

Payments to Volunteers of the Limited Practice Board and Suggested Amendments to APR 12(b)(3) Proposed by the Budget & Audit Committee

Treas. Nguyen and Assistant General Counsel Catherine Schur presented the proposed amendments to APR 12(b)(3), which proposes compensation for volunteers of the Limited Practice Board for exam grading, aligning it with the compensation structure of the Board of Bar Examiners. The proposed payment structure includes a budget impact of \$2,640 annually for exam grading and \$1,430 to \$2,750 for question review and drafting. Gov. Kevin Fay moved to approve the amendments as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Revisions to Appendix B of the Indigent Defense Standards

Jason Schwarz presented proposed revisions to Appendix B of the WSBA Indigent Defense Standards, as recommended by the Council on Public Defense. The revisions include correcting typographical errors, updating hyperlinks, and expanding the list of criminal offenses. They also aim to assist non-lawyer public defense administrators and accommodate complex case management systems. Gov. Kari Petrusek moved to approve the revisions. The motion passed with one no vote.

Executive Session

The Board entered executive session at 2:45 p.m. to discuss confidential matters associated with the Proposed Conflict of Interest and Political Activities Policies. The session concluded at 3:05 p.m., at 3:10 pm. the Board returned to the public session.

Conflict of Interest and Political Activities Policies Proposed by Governance Committee

Chair Kevin Fay presented two proposals: an amendment to the WSBA Bylaws concerning political activities by governors and officers, and a revised conflict of interest policy. The proposed bylaw amendment aimed to refine language regarding individual officers and governors speaking and participating in political activities such as elections, including political issues "in the public domain." A straw poll indicated a preference to remove the "otherwise in the public domain" language, leading to a decision to refer the proposal back to the Governance Committee for further refinement.

Chair Fay turned to the proposed amendments to the conflict-of-interest policy, which were designed to address both financial and non-financial conflicts, including an annual disclosure requirement for known conflicts and provisions for ongoing disclosure as new conflicts arise. Gov. Todd Bloom moved to approve amendments to the conflict-of-interest policy. The motion passed unanimously.

Governor Roundtable

Chief Communication and Outreach Officer Niegowski emphasized the importance of submitting nominations for the APEX awards before the February deadline, encouraging governors to promote nominations within their communities. She also mentioned the launch of the WSBA Oath Review and Drafting Task Force survey, which will gather member feedback on the idea of revising Washington's oaths of admission.

Meeting Feedback

Governors expressed appreciation for the meeting's conduct and leadership, highlighting the productive discussion with the ATJ Board. The feedback session underscored the importance of meeting efficiency and the ongoing commitment to justice for all.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, President Adewale adjourned the meeting at 3:37 p.m. on Friday, January 16, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Terra Nevitt

Terra Nevitt
WSBA Executive Director & Secretary



**Board of Governors Meeting – Motions List
Seattle, WA
January 16, 2026.**

1. **Approve the Consent Calendar:** Adopted by unanimous consent.
2. **Approve the Justice Gap Scoping Work Group Charter:** Passed unanimously.
3. **Approve the 2027 LPO and LLLT Fees Proposal:** Passed unanimously.
4. **Approve Member Engagement Council Proposed Criteria:** Passed unanimously.
5. **Approve Payments to Volunteers of the Limited Practice Board:** Passed unanimously.
6. **Approve Revisions to Appendix B of the Indigent Defense Standards:** Passed with one no vote.
7. **Adopt the Conflict-of-Interest Policy:** Passed unanimously.