

# WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

## Board of Governors July Meeting Update

A summary prepared by WSBA of the Board of Governors meeting held virtually on July 24, 2020.

The agenda, materials, and video recording from this Board of Governors meeting, as well as past meetings, are [online](#). The next regular meeting is Aug. 28-29 in Spokane (pending health directives regarding COVID-19). The Board of Governors is WSBA's governing body charged with determining general policies of the bar and approving its annual budget.

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### TOP MEETING TAKEAWAYS

1. **FY2021 budget.** The bottom line for member license fees: It will cost slightly less to practice law next year because of a proposed one-time reduction to the Client Protection Fund (lowering the assessment by \$15 to a total contribution of \$10 per member for 2021; this proposal will now go to the Supreme Court for review). Based on an initial draft of next year's budget, we are in solid overall financial shape—even as we try to account for several unknown repercussions due to COVID-19—because of the cost-saving and efficiency-making measures made this year. ([See page 55 in Late Materials.](#))
2. **WSBA mission statement.** At its June meeting, [the Board of Governors asked for feedback about a proposal to change the bar's mission statement](#). Based on the resulting member and staff input, the Board of Governors voted to table the conversation indefinitely with the recommendation that any future process to evaluate the mission statement should involve a wide outreach plan. ([See page 72](#) and [Late Materials pages 115](#) and [122.](#))
3. **WSBA leadership.** The Board of Governors unanimously selected current District 4 Governor Dan Clark to continue as WSBA Treasurer for a second year. The board also wished District 8 Governor Kim Hunter well in light of her announcement that she has resigned her seat immediately due to health reasons.
4. **Diversity, equity, and inclusion.** WSBA President Rajeev Majumdar began the meeting by honoring the legacy of civil-rights leader Rep. John Lewis as part of an affirmation of WSBA's values and goals in full support of diversity, equity, and inclusion in the legal community. He also outlined the response underway to complaints about comments about minority bar associations made at the board table in June, including his intent for the board to meet, learn from, and work with minority bar associations and others. Also, a Washington Supreme Court-appointed ombudsperson is specifically investigating comments about minority bar associations made by Gov. Higginson, and the Board of Governors has begun some facilitated training about oppression and trauma and is planning a comprehensive training schedule for this fall and throughout the coming year.
5. **Discounts, discounts, discounts!** WSBA's [annual Member Appreciation Summer Sale](#) runs through July 31, and this year we are offering even deeper discounts on more than 500 CLE products (50% rather than the usual 40%).

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## **MEETING RECAP**

**Doing good in the community.** Kudos to Court Commissioner Jeff Baker, our newest Local Hero nominated by the Klickitat-Skamania Counties Bar Association (the locale where this board meeting was scheduled to occur, pre-COVID-19 regulations). Mr. Baker supports his local community in Trout Lake in innumerable ways including as a mentor to Columbia High School youth as they prepare for the statewide YMCA Mock Trial competition, varsity soccer coach, co-chair of the Trout Lake School M&O Levy Committee, Trout Lake Councilmember, and Trout Lake Community Foundation. Jeff's nominator states that Jeff is "one of the genuinely nicest human beings that I have had the pleasure of encountering..." ([Read more.](#))

**Removing barriers to Emeritus Pro Bono status.** The Board of Governors voted to recommend changes to certain qualifications under Admission and Practice Rules (APR) and WSBA Bylaws for members seeking or in Emeritus Pro Bono status. These APR amendments and Bylaw changes — such as removing an experience qualification and waiving the license fee for those who volunteer 30 hours in the previous year with a Qualified Legal Service Provider — were recommended by the Pro Bono and Public Service Committee to encourage more members who resign active licenses or go to Inactive Status to continue to perform pro bono services via Emeritus Pro Bono status. These recommended APR amendments and corresponding WSBA bylaw change will now go before the Washington Supreme Court for review. ([See page 34.](#))

**Salary transparency.** The WSBA Board of Governors voted to post WSBA compensation information on its website including the WSBA Compensation Philosophy, employee pay classification bands (with beginning, midpoint, and top salaries) and generic job titles within those bands, a copy of the WSBA Employee Handbook, and a summary of employee benefits. ([See page 114.](#))

**Reports from WSBA entities.** The Board of Governors heard updates from the Law Clerk Board ([see page 37 in Late Materials](#)), Civil Litigation Rules Revision Work Group, and the Court Rules and Procedures Committee, which recommended several practices for WSBA to help broadcast proposed rule amendments to ensure broad consideration and comments from members ([see page 29](#)).

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