

# WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

## Board of Governors July Meeting Update

A summary prepared by WSBA of the Board of Governors (Board) meeting held July 16-17 in Stevenson, Washington. The agenda, materials, and video recording from this Board of Governors meeting are [online](#). The next regular meeting is August 20-21 in Boise, Idaho. The Board of Governors is WSBA's governing body charged with determining general policies of the Bar and approving its annual budget. To subscribe to the Board Meeting Notification list, email [barleaders@wsba.org](mailto:barleaders@wsba.org). To send feedback to the entire Board of Governors, email [BoardFeedback@wsba.org](mailto:BoardFeedback@wsba.org).

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### NEED TO KNOW

1. **Proposed Rules for Discipline and Incapacity.** Reminder: July 29, 2021, is the deadline to comment on [proposed amendments](#) to the rules governing the discipline and incapacity systems for all license types. Upon the recommendation of the WSBA Board of Governors, the Court extended the comment deadline for this proposal to allow for greater notification to members and the public.
  2. **Proposed Amendment to General Rule 40 (Informal Domestic Relations Trials).** The Board discussed a significant proposed amendment, now published for public comment, that seeks a statewide general system for domestic relations cases. The board decided: To ask the Court for an extension of the comment deadline (currently July 30) to notify members widely; to discuss at its September meeting whether to submit an official comment from the WSBA; and to allow a comment to the Court from the Family Law Section expressing concerns. ([See page 47.](#))
  3. **And the envelope, please ...** [The full slate of 2021 APEX \(Acknowledging Professional Excellence\) Award winners has been announced!](#) We will also soon post more details about this year's virtual ceremony in the fall. ([View last year's ceremony here.](#))
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### MEETING RECAP

**Licensed Legal Interns.** The Board approved recommended changes to Rule 9 of the Admission and Practice Rules (APR) for submission to the Supreme Court for consideration. Most significantly, the recommended changes allow law school students who have completed one-third of their studies to be eligible for the Rule 9 legal intern license if they are enrolled in a law school clinic. (Currently, only law students in their third year are eligible.) The changes are supported by Washington's law schools and WSBA's Regulatory Services Department. ([See page 112.](#))

**Can you help serve moderate means Washingtonians?** The Washington State Bar Foundation presented a report about one of the significant access-to-justice programs that it helps fund: The Moderate Means Program (MMP). Launched in 2011, the MMP serves moderate-means clients throughout Washington in the areas of family, housing, and consumer law; the program expanded in 2020 to include unemployment benefits cases, which became increasingly prevalent during the COVID-19 pandemic. Some MMP stats:

26,354 requests for services, 18,152 intake sessions, and 5,657 referrals to attorneys. [Learn more ... and consider participating by accepting referrals in this important program.](#) (See page 18.)

**Other business.** The Board:

- Heard an annual update from the WSBA Diversity Committee, including about its outreach activities and goals to address issues such as representation on the WSBA Board of Governors and an MCLE rule change. (See page 64.)
- Heard an annual update from the Washington Young Lawyers Committee, including about its outreach activities and goals to address issues such as law school debt. (See page 243.)
- Approved proposed changes to rules and regulations governing the APR 6 Law Clerk Program to be submitted to the Supreme Court for consideration. The changes clarify and expand the program requirements, provide for increased accessibility to the program, and to make the program more efficient to administer. (See page 145.)
- Approved several action steps associated with recommendations from the board's Personnel Committee in response to findings from a recent WSBA employee climate survey. Those recommendations include four board commitments: to clarify its governance model; to engage in team development with staff; to engage in facilitated dialogue with staff about strategic and policy matters; and to engage in strategic planning. (See page 87.)
- Changed WSBA Bylaws to provide for a timeline for an election for at-large positions. (See page 279.)
- Discussed ongoing activities to advance equity, diversity, and inclusion, including recent training with facilitator ChrisTiana ObeySumner and plans to meet with leaders of minority bar associations.
- Approved proposed technical amendments to RPC 1.6 for submission to the Supreme Court for consideration, to fix incorrect numbering. (See page 188.)
- Heard an overview of open-meeting provisions of the WSBA Bylaws. (See page 68.)