

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

Board of Governors May 2024 Meeting Update

A summary prepared by the WSBA of the Board of Governors meeting held May 2-3, 2024, in Richland. The agenda, materials, and video recording from this Board meeting are [online](#). The next regular meeting is July 17-18, 2024, at the Lucy F. Covington Government Center Nespelem. The Board is the WSBA's governing body charged with determining general policies of the WSBA and approving its annual budget. To subscribe to the Board Meeting Notification list, email barleaders@wsba.org.

TOP TAKEAWAYS

Congratulations to Newly Elected Officers and Board Members

The Board elected [WSBA Treasurer and District 5 Governor Francis Adewale](#) as incoming President-Elect, to assume the Presidency in fiscal year 2026, and [Parvin Price](#) as incoming District 1 Governor (because nobody applied for the District 1 opening during the member-election process in March, the Board appointed the position for a one-year term). [Read more about recently concluded and upcoming Board of Governor elections](#).

No More Resident Agent Requirement?

Based on member feedback and staff research on the history and purpose of the rule, the Board is asking the Washington Supreme Court to amend the Admission and Practice Rules (APR) to eliminate the requirement that members who do not have a physical street address in Washington state designate an in-state resident agent to accept service of process. ([See page 198](#).)

OTHER BUSINESS

Local Hero

The WSBA recognized [Bob Schultz as a Local Hero](#), an honor bestowed by the WSBA President in partnership with county bar associations to recognize colleagues who make noteworthy contributions to their communities. Bob was nominated by the Benton-Franklin Counties Bar for his decades' long effort to uphold equity and justice through his

work representing people who have suffered catastrophic injuries, his dedication to the area's legal aid program, and his widespread community service.

Positive Financial Outlook

The Board approved the 2024 budget reforecast, which is a mid-year financial update to account for actual expenditures and revenues. The reforecast shows a positive variance of about \$130,000 compared to the original budget forecast. ([See page 141.](#))

Out-of-State Representation on the Board of Governors

Currently, out-of-state members are eligible to vote in WSBA Board of Governor elections for at-large positions and for the district position in which their resident agent resides, or the district of their primary Washington practice. With the Board's recommendation to remove the resident agent requirement (see Top Takeaways, above), there was a discussion about how to adjust WSBA bylaws pertaining to voting and representation for out-of-state members. The Board asked for a slate of options, which could include a designated out-of-state position on the Board of Governors, to come back at a future meeting for consideration. The WSBA will seek input from out-of-state members on the options. ([See page 198.](#))

Public Engagement Plan

Recognizing the steep decline in trust in the legal system and many other institutions that are cornerstones of our democracy, the Board approved a two-part public engagement plan to increase awareness of and confidence in the rule of law. First, public ambassadorship will now be included in the Board's official roles and responsibilities. Second, the WSBA will create a volunteer ambassador program with tools and resources to help members speak in their own communities about the importance of the legal system. Stay tuned for more information as that ambassador program is developed; if you are interested in being an ambassador, contact <mailto:saran@wsba.org>. ([See page 194.](#))

The Board Also:

- Increased admission fees (*not* annual license fees) for the first time since 2009. The fee changes were necessary to ensure the WSBA admissions cost center is self-sustaining. ([See page 211.](#))
- Voted to recommend to the Court a change to APR 3 that would allow an out-of-state lawyer to apply for admission by motion after practicing for one year, as opposed to the currently required three years. This change was approved by the Court when they adopted recommendations from the [Bar Licensure Task Force](#); the Court tasked the WSBA with writing the corresponding APR change. ([See page 242.](#))
- Approved a revamped strategic planning process that creates ongoing development of a three-year strategic plan with meaningful participation from stakeholders. ([See page 455.](#))

- Approved a succession plan and process for when the Executive Director's contract ends. ([See page 462.](#))
- Held a second read of a policy to guide the WSBA's administration of Supreme Court Boards. The policy will come back for possible action in July. ([See page 298.](#))
- Heard a report from the Limited License Legal Technician Board. ([See page 279.](#))
- Voted to recommended to the Court changes to APR 3 to modify qualifications for applicants who have acquired a law degree from a non-ABA approved law school to sit for the bar exam. The changes would allow these applicants to obtain the required instruction on principles of domestic U.S. law outside of their law degree. ([See page 235.](#))