

# WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

## Board of Governors November 2022 Meeting Update

A summary prepared by the WSBA of the Board of Governors (Board) meeting held Nov. 5, 2022, in Bellingham. The agenda, materials, and video recording from this Board meeting are [online](#). The next regular meeting is Jan. 13-14 in Seattle. The Board of Governors is 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](mailto:barleaders@wsba.org).

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### *NEED TO KNOW*

1. **Volunteer Vaccination Policy Rescinded.** In alignment with the Washington Supreme Court's most recent [COVID-19 directives](#), the Board rescinded its COVID-19 volunteer vaccination policy, effective Nov. 18; the implementation delay will allow time for the Executive Director to enact new health and safety procedures corresponding to public-health guidance. ([See page 31.](#))
2. **Celebrating Rural Practitioners!** Gov. Inslee has proclaimed Nov. 15, 2022, as Rural and Small-Town Practice Day in the state of Washington, thanks to the advocacy of [WSBA's Small Town and Rural Practice \(STAR\) Committee](#). That same day, we are holding a Zoom event detailing the critical need and significant opportunities for lawyers in rural communities—[tune in!](#) And let's all give a big *hooray* for our legal colleagues working in far-flung areas of the state! Read some of their stories in the November issue of *Bar News* and on the [NWSidebar blog](#).

### *OTHER BUSINESS*

**Local Heroes.** Congratulations to our two newly minted Local Heroes [Ana Cecilia "Ceci" Lopez](#) (nominated by the Whatcom County Bar) and [Annalise Martucci](#) (nominated by the Skagit County Bar).

**Bar Licensure Task Force.** The Washington Supreme Court's [Bar Licensure Task Force](#) continues its work and expects to develop recommendations for possible bar-exam alternatives. At the January Board meeting, the task force co-chairs are slated to give an update, including about an outreach plan to talk with members about the recommendations in summer 2023. For more information, contact [Governor Brent Williams-Ruth](#), WSBA's representative to the task force.

**Inclusive Language in Court Rules.** The Board approved the WSBA Court Rules and Procedures Committee's recommendation to ask the Supreme Court to amend [CrRLJ 4.7](#) to remove gendered language. The amendments do not change the substance of the rule. Board members noted there is more work to be done throughout the Rules regarding inclusive language. ([See page 24.](#))

**Council on Public Defense (CPD) Matters.** Upon the CPD’s request, the Board approved an advisory statement on minimum experience for representation of persons accused of Class B and C felonies outlined in [Indigent Defense Standard 14.2\(E\)](#); the advisory statement will now be published on the WSBA’s website and distributed to public defenders. ([See page 39.](#)) The Board also, at CPD’s request, authorized submitting a letter to the Legislature in support of the Washington State Office of Public Defense’s annual budget request. ([See page 45.](#))

**2023 Legislative Priorities and WSBA-Sponsored Bill.** The Board approved the WSBA’s overall priorities for the upcoming session: Monitoring and taking appropriate action on legislative proposals related to the practice of law and administration of justice; supporting legislative proposals approved by the Board under GR 12 constraints; and supporting legislative proposals initiated by WSBA Sections and approved by the Board. ([See page 83.](#)) Apropos of the last priority, the Board approved the WSBA request legislation put forth by the Business Law Section to amend the Washington Business Corporation Act regarding holding-company reorganization transactions and stock splits. ([See page 58.](#))

**Washington State Bar Foundation Annual Report.** The [Foundation](#) provides financial support for the WSBA’s programs that promote diversity within the legal profession and enhance the public’s access to and understanding of the justice system. Here are a few highlights from the Foundation’s last fiscal year: \$305,000 designated to [Powerful Communities Project](#) grants, a film screening of “Crime on the Bayou” and a subsequent panel discussion, and continued support of the [Moderate Means Program](#). ([See page 124.](#))

The Board also:

- Heard an overview of the WSBA’s APR 6 Law Clerk Program, which is an alternative to law school for lawyer licensure in Washington. ([See page 103.](#))
- Held its annual anti-harassment training. ([See the page 14.](#))
- Approved WSBA Personnel Committee’s plan for the Executive Director evaluation process. ([See page 85.](#))
- Discussed its recruitment policy and practices to engage potential new Governors. ([See page 99.](#))