

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.

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 **Volunteer Vaccination Policy Rescinded.** In alignment with the Washington Supreme Court's most recent [COVID-19 directives](#), the Board rescinded its COVID-19 volunteer vaccination policy, effective Nov. 18; the implementation delay will allow time for the Executive Director to enact new health and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.](#))