

## PARAGRAPH RE PUBLIC RECORDS FOR COMMITTEES & BOARD POLICY

Public Records: It is the policy of the WSBA to facilitate access to Bar records. There is a presumption of public access to Bar records; that is, Bar records are disclosed upon request unless they are exempt from disclosure. Through such openness, the WSBA intends to make information available to the people of Washington that will allow them to become informed about matters regarding the provision of legal service and other matters falling under the WSBA's authority. As of July 1, 2014, the public right of access to Bar records is governed by GR 12.4. Prior to that, it was governed by WSBA's Bylaws, and the Bylaws still apply to older records. (WSBA Bylaws, XIV.) Exemptions from disclosure are stated in GR 12.4, which also incorporates exemptions from disclosure and confidentiality rules set forth in other statutes, court rules, and regulations. Records related to boards generally are governed by court rules and regulations that in many cases require confidentiality of all or parts of the board records, in which case, those records are exempt from disclosure under GR 12.4.