

TO: WSBA Board of Governors
CC: Terra Nevitt, Executive Director
FROM: Renata Garcia, Chief Regulatory Counsel
DATE: April 8, 2025
RE: Proposed Amendments to WSBA Bylaws Art. IX Sec. B.1.a

FIRST READ: Proposed amendments to the WSBA Bylaws relating to license status for eligibility for service on a WSBA committee are presented for discussion and first read.

Background

In 2024, a member status workgroup recommended amendments to the WSBA Bylaws permitting inactive, honorary, or pro bono members to serve on WSBA committees. At the Board of Governors meeting in October 2024, the Board of Governors approved the amendments and the Court thereafter approved the amendments effective December 31, 2024. See WSBA Bylaws Art. III Sec. B.2 and 4, which relate to the benefits of different license statuses.

Overlooked in that project was Art. IX Sec. B.1.a regarding eligibility for membership on a WSBA committee. Except for the language relating to chairs and vice chairs of committees, the proposed amendments here align the committee section of the WSBA Bylaws with the intent of the member status workgroup and the sections of the Bylaws already amended. With regard to chairs and vice chairs, there does not appear to be a reason to exclude inactive, honorary, or pro bono members from serving as chair or vice chair. Each committee nomination team will be in the best position to choose the appropriate people to lead its committee.

Attachments

1. Proposed Amendments to WSBA Bylaws Art. IX Sec. B.1.a – Markup Version

IX. COMMITTEES, COUNCILS, AND OTHER BAR ENTITIES

B. COMMITTEES AND OTHER BAR ENTITIES

1. Committees

Committees are created and authorized by the BOG to study matters relating to the general purposes and business of the Bar which are of a continuous and recurring character. The number, size, and functions of each committee will be determined from time to time by the BOG.

- a. All active members of the Bar may serve as committee members, Chairs, and Vice Chairs. Inactive, Honorary, and Pro Bono members of the Bar may be appointed to serve as Chairs, Vice Chairs, or voting or nonvoting members on any committee as deemed appropriate. Exception: faculty of Washington state law schools who are not members of the Bar are permitted to serve on the Committee on Professional Ethics (CPE).

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- a. All active members of the Bar may serve as Committee members, Chairs, and Vice Chairs must be Active members of the Bar. Inactive, Honorary, and Pro Bono members of the Bar may be appointed to serve as Chairs, Vice Chairs, or voting or nonvoting members on any committee as deemed appropriate. Exceptions: ~~(a) up to two Pro Bono members are permitted to serve on the Pro Bono and Public Service Committee (PBPS) and may be appointed to serve as the Chair, Co-Chair, or Vice Chair of that committee; and (b)~~ faculty of Washington state law schools who are not Active members of the Bar are permitted to serve on the Committee on Professional Ethics (CPE).