

The Supreme Court
State of Washington

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CHIEF JUSTICE
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September 21, 2018

Washington State Bar Association
1325 Fourth Ave., Ste. 600
Seattle, WA 98101-2539

William D. Pickett, President
Rajeev Majumdar, President-Elect
William D. Hyslop, Immediate Past President
Paula Littlewood, Executive Director and Secretary
G. Kim Risenmay, Governor
Carla J. Higginson, Governor
Kyle Sciuchetti, Governor
Daniel D. Clark, Governor
Angela M. Hayes, Governor
Brian Tollefson, Governor
Paul Swegle, Governor
James K. Doane, Governor
Kim Hunter, Governor
Dan W. Bridges, Governor
Christina A. Meserve, Governor
Athan P. Papailiou, Governor, At-Large
Jean Y. Kang, Governor, At-Large
Alec Stephens, Governor, At-Large

VIA E-MAIL ONLY

Dear President Pickett, President-Elect Majumdar, Past-President Hyslop, Executive Director/Secretary Paula Littlewood, and Governors of the Washington State Bar Board of Governors:

I am writing to advise you that the Court has made several important decisions that affect the Bar. In light of pending lawsuits regarding the legal status of bar associations around the country as well as recent case law, the Court has decided unanimously to undertake a comprehensive review of the structure of the Bar. Because our review will include governance, the Court by a majority vote has decided that all Board action on proposed bylaw amendments should be deferred until further notice from the Court. Thus, the Court is directing that no action be taken on any proposed by-law amendments at this time.

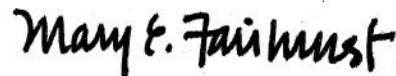
In addition, we have received extensive communications regarding the role of the Executive Director. It is critical that the integrity of all Bar Discipline matters be protected at all times and that the Executive Director be allowed to oversee these functions without interference. In light of these communications and concerns, we felt that it was important to communicate to

you that the Court by a majority vote supports the Executive Director as the principal administrative officer of the Bar.

Finally, and most important, it is imperative that everyone, each Governor, each volunteer, each employee, including the Executive Director, be treated with respect. The ongoing interactions among the Governors and the Governors' interaction with staff are of concern to us. The WSBA must be a safe and healthy environment in which to work and govern. To the extent that there are not policies dealing with harassment and retaliation to cover all possible interactions by persons involved in Bar activities and Bar governance, the Court by a majority vote directs that such policies be adopted as soon as possible.

I plan to attend your September 27-28 Board meeting and, in accordance with prior practice, I will swear in the new officers and governors at the 2018 APEX Awards Dinner.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary E. Faihurst". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

MARY E. FAIHURST
Chief Justice

cc: Justices