

Disciplinary Board Volunteer Position Description

The Disciplinary Board, which reports to the Supreme Court, carries out adjudicative functions and duties according to the Rules for Enforcement of Lawyer Conduct adopted by the Court. The Board has 14 members. The full Board reviews appeals from hearing officer decisions and also approves or rejects certain stipulations to discipline. The 3-member Review Committees review disciplinary investigation reports and appeals from dismissals of grievances. A third-year member serves as Chair and a second-year member serves as Vice-Chair. Most of the Board's work is highly confidential.

Position overview: The Disciplinary Board plays a crucial role in the lawyer discipline process. Members serve an important and challenging adjudicative role. All members serve on the full Board and on one Review Committee.

The full Board meets approximately bi-monthly at WSBA's Seattle offices; in-person attendance is encouraged but remote participation via conference call is also available. Review Committee meetings are held monthly, with in-person attendance encouraged but remote participation via conference call available.

Appointment is for a 3-year term. Members are limited to one term, by court rule.

Time commitment: Service on the Board requires a substantial time commitment. Full Board meetings last 2 to 5 hours and Review Committee meetings last approximately 2 hours. Board members must review extensive records; considerable reading and meeting preparation is required.

Requirements:

- Applicants must be lawyers or members of the public
- Lawyer applicants must have been active attorney or judicial members of WSBA for at least five years, and have no record of public discipline
- Board members must be able to review meeting materials electronically

Preferred qualifications and skills: Applicants must be willing to devote time to review and consider a significant amount of material and to make decisions in a fair and impartial manner. Prior adjudicative experience can be helpful but is not required.

Benefits: Board service provides an excellent opportunity to gain adjudicative experience and make a difference in the profession. In their second and third years, members have opportunities to lead the Board as Chair/Vice Chair and as Chairs of the Review Committees.

Reimbursement policy: This is an unpaid volunteer position. Reasonable travel expenses may be reimbursed per the WSBA Expense Reimbursement Policy.

Selection and appointment process: Candidates are vetted by the Disciplinary Selection Panel and recommendations are forwarded to the WSBA Board of Governors and the Supreme Court, which makes the appointments.

For further information: See www.wsba.org/Legal-Community/Committees-Boards-and-Other-Groups/disciplinary-board.

How to apply: See instructions at www.wsba.org/joincommittee. Questions about the application? Email barleaders@wsba.org.