

WASHINGTON STATE B A R A S S O C I A T I O N

Governance Committee

Meeting Minutes

June 10, 2026

Present: Kevin Fay (chair), Francis Adewale, Nam Nguyen, Parvin Price, and staff liaison Cate Schur. **Excused:** Kari Petrasek, staff liaison Darlene Neumann **Absent:** Sunitha Anjilvel, Todd Bloom.

The chair called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

Minutes

The minutes of May 6, 2026 were approved.

Updates on Section Communications and Political Activity Bylaws

- Language for section communications regarding the draft viability review and email voting bylaw amendments has been finalized; it is not yet confirmed whether it has been distributed to the Sections.
- The Supreme Court has approved the political activity bylaw amendments, which are now incorporated into the bylaws.

Discussion: Approaches for BOG Candidates with Pending Disciplinary Matters or Litigation Against WSBA

The committee discussed how to address candidacies involving either pending disciplinary matters or litigation:

- Members noted the distinction between disciplinary grievances—which are easily filed and may not have merit—and active litigation, which may present a more substantial conflict.
- The committee considered the various stages of ethics complaints and the due process implications of applying restrictions prior to a final decision.
- It was noted that the existing conflicts of-interest policy already addresses many potential issues. Additionally, because the BOG is not involved in disciplinary matters, a conflict would not be present.
- The committee discussed how to handle candidates who are suspended and whether additional guidance is needed.
- It was noted the BOG already has authority to remove members when appropriate.

Additional considerations included whether conflict of- -interest disclosure forms should be part of the application process and whether those forms should be available to voters. The committee observed that discipline-based- restrictions may ultimately not be necessary and discussed applying the existing eligibility requirements for BOG positions across the entire BOG term, as opposed to only for candidacy for the BOG.

Bylaws for Bar Groups

The committee agreed to resume discussion of bylaws for bar groups after completing the bylaws clean-up work.

Next Steps:

- Review options for addressing situations in which a seated BOG member loses active membership.
- Begin work on bylaws clean-up, including taxonomy, terminology, and pronoun consistency. Kevin will prepare a draft for the next meeting.
- Continue awaiting feedback from Sections.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m. The next meeting will be held on July 8, 2026.