

# WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

## Licensure Pathways Implementation Steering Committee

### You're Invited!

**WSBA is accepting applications from Bar members and members of the public through August 9, 2024 for an opportunity to serve on the Steering Committee that will supervise the creation of additional pathways to license Washington attorneys.**

Participation on the Steering Committee will be a singular opportunity to shape Washington's legal profession. Washington is among one of several states leading the way to create new methods for evaluating and licensing our lawyers. The Steering Committee will work to create licensing pathways that both increase access to the legal profession and ensure our attorneys have the knowledge and skills necessary to be competent, successful lawyers immediately upon admission to the Bar.

**The Steering Committee's work will have significant impact on the Washington legal community and the potential to shape the direction of lawyer admissions around the country. Some of the possible impacts may include:**

- Allowing more highly capable, but previously excluded, people to join the legal profession.
- Increasing the diversity of Washington's legal community.
- Shaping curriculum and evaluations to ensure new attorneys are practice-ready.
- Exploring options to make lawyer admission more affordable.
- Increasing access to legal services by growing the number of available attorneys.

**WSBA is seeking Bar members and members of the public to participate in this important process by serving on the Licensure Pathways Implementation Steering Committee in the following positions:**

- Two at-large WSBA member positions, one of whom will be selected to chair the committee,
- Two positions for individuals that can bring a legal consumer perspective,
- One position for an individual with access to justice experience,
- Two law student positions,
- and one position for a current APR 6 law clerk.

If interested in serving on the Licensure Pathways Implementation Steering Committee, please review the information below, and submit your application no later than **5:00pm on August 9 for positions *other than* Chair of the Committee; applications for Committee Chair are due by 5:00 pm on August 2**. Applications for the above positions will be reviewed and nominated by the WSBA Executive Director. Final appointment for the above positions is by the Washington Supreme Court.

Your application must include:

[Completed Application Form](#)

**Letter of Interest**

**Resume**

Submit all above materials to [barleaders@wsba.org](mailto:barleaders@wsba.org).

**More Information**

It is anticipated that the Steering Committee’s work will continue for at least 18 months with monthly meetings, although there will be periods of time when meetings may be less frequent. We expect committee members to spend approximately 6-10 hours per month working on this project. The Steering Committee will primarily conduct business by remote means.

Seeking to Fill the Following Positions...	Requirements (if any)
Two At Large Members	<p>Must be an Active WSBA member.</p> <p>One at-large member will be selected as Chair of the Committee. Chair applications are due <b>August 2</b>. Applicants for the Chair position may be invited to participate in an interview.</p>
Two Individuals that can bring a legal consumer or consumer protection perspective.	<p>Open to WSBA members and members of the public.</p> <p>Ideal individuals should bring the perspective of legal consumers that may be impacted by these changes. That perspective could be gained through lived experience as consumer of legal services, by working closely with and/or advocating on behalf of legal consumers (e.g. community organizer or advocate, and/or legal practice in consumer protection).</p>
Two Law Students	<p>Must be currently enrolled in an accredited Washington law school.</p> <p>Current or rising 2Ls are particularly encouraged to apply.</p>
One Member from the Law Clerk Program	<p>Must be currently enrolled in the Law Clerk program (Admission to Practice Rule (APR) 6).</p>
One Individual with experience focusing on access to justice.	<p>Open to both members of the public and WSBA members. Applicants should have experience working to increase access to justice for underserved communities.</p> <p>WSBA is collecting applications for this position. This individual will be nominated by the Access to Justice Board.</p>

*Additional positions on the Steering Committee will be filled outside the recruiting process include: Washington Supreme Court Justice; Deans from all three Washington law schools; two members from the WSBA Board of Governors; WSBA Executive Director; and representatives from the Board of Bar Examiners, Character and Fitness Board, and Law Clerk Board. I*

The Steering Committee will reflect the diverse backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives of Washington’s legal community and the impacted public. The WSBA welcomes applicants from underrepresented and marginalized communities and seeks to include committee members who will contribute unique viewpoints based on, for example, geographic location, legal practice area, size and type, or path to admission as a Washington lawyer. Ideally, the Steering Committee collectively should possess experience and aptitude with policy development, data analysis, legal education, and project management, and should be highly involved with the entity or community they represent.

### Role of the Steering Committee

The role of the Steering Committee will be to ensure fidelity to the Licensure Task Force recommendations and to provide policy-level direction and decision-making for the implementation process. To conduct the on the ground research and policy drafting, the Steering Committee will create subcommittees, select subcommittee members, and monitor subcommittee activities as liaisons. The Steering Committee will have the final authority to approve or reject subcommittee proposals prior to proposals being sent to the final decisionmaker for approval and implementation. Activities the Steering Committee will undertake include:

- Learning about the recommendations and the avenues to bar licensure underway in other states.
- Participating in an initial orientation to become familiar with existing court rules, policy-drafting best practices, and frameworks for implementing the recommendation.
- Hearing from experts on alternative pathways to bar licensure, attorney competence, and psychometrics.
- Resolving policy questions from subcommittees and providing policy direction.