



# PRACTICE *of* LAW BOARD

Established by Washington Supreme Court  
Administered by the WSBA

Lesli Ashley, Chair

**Meeting Minutes  
November 19, 2025  
Remote Meeting  
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

**Practice of Law Board Members in Attendance:**

- Lesli Ashley, Chair
- John Dirgo Deweese
- Rory Hardy
- Cindy Kim
- Melissa Kover
- Ellen Reed

- Ronald Satterthwaite
- Craig Shank
- Leah Snyder
- Murugeshwari Subramanian
- Michael Terasaki
- Aaron Vanderpol
- Shainna Xi

**Liaisons in Attendance:**

- Bobby Henry, WSBA Staff Liaison
- Kevin Fay, BOG Liaison

**Other WSBA Staff in Attendance:**

- Renata de Carvalho Garcia, Chief Regulatory Counsel
- Anne Trent, RSD Paralegal
- Cathy Biestek, Managing Regulatory Counsel
- Terra Nevitt, Executive Director

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## PUBLIC SESSION

### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:04 p.m. by Chair Lesli Ashley.

### Meeting Minutes for Approval

October 15, 2025, meeting minutes were approved. Craig abstained from voting.

### Education Committee

The Education Committee met on November 10, 2025. Focus continued to be placed on three projects, including the development of a centralized legal aid directory.

Efforts were discussed regarding how the WSBA lawyer directory could be made more user-friendly so that potential clients are better able to locate lawyers who can assist them. It was suggested that an AI option could be considered, and that a basic webpage design might be implemented to make filters more intuitive and understandable for consumers.

It was noted that improving the visibility of attorney practice areas to the public may be beneficial. A tool was proposed that would consolidate as much information about attorneys in the state as possible. Features such as drop-down menus or map-based graphics were mentioned as possibilities.

Concerns were expressed regarding directory scraping, as the directory was not originally designed for that purpose. It was noted that scraping could expose attorneys to potential harassment. It was suggested that

attorneys be provided with an option to opt out of inclusion in any AI-driven tool that might subject them to misuse.

The issue of attorneys being listed by office address rather than by the areas in which they are willing to practice was discussed. It was suggested that the directory could be updated to reflect where attorneys are willing to accept matters. It was noted that this may not fall under POLB but could nevertheless be a useful directory improvement.

It was reported that WSBA is transitioning to a new vendor, and the directory may appear different in the future. It was suggested that some decisions could be deferred until the database transition is complete.

It was clarified that the objective is the creation of a new tool, rather than the redesign of the existing legal directory.

An example from Utah was referenced, where a separate “Find a Lawyer” tool was created that allows users to select the type of help needed and view fee information. Membership in that system is opt-in. The “Licensed Lawyer Home” model was noted as a potential reference.

#### **Entity Regulation Application Committee**

The first meeting of the Entity Regulation Application Committee took place on November 12, 2025. The primary focus is currently on developing a rubric for assessing applications. The rubric is still in progress and not yet ready to be shared. Consideration is being given to the overall review process that will be used by the Board. The anticipated workflow involves an initial committee meeting with the compliance officer, followed by an in-depth review. After that review is completed, the committee will meet with the board to present the application and provide a recommendation.

At present, one application has been received. It is undergoing a background investigation and will then be forwarded to the committee. The application is from Legata, Inc. and is a public submission.

It was suggested that a list be maintained identifying applicants and the categories they are applying into in order to reduce the time and cost associated with public records requests. Posting redacted applications was discussed as a possible option. The creation of a webpage displaying applicant names and links to their applications was proposed.

#### **Unauthorized Practice of Law Complaints Summary**

A summary of UPL complaints received and referred was presented to and reviewed by the Board.

#### **Annual Report**

The Board discussed the FY2025 Annual Report. The report is intended for the Justices of the Supreme Court. It should identify the chair and the members and include bullet-point information to assist in addressing any questions the Justices may have about the Board.

#### **POLB Press, Update, & Information Sheet**

Board members reviewed recent articles and upcoming events.

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:52 p.m.

Notice: Some material in this publication was generated using Microsoft Copilot and was reviewed for accuracy by Anne Trent and Bobby Henry, members of the WSBA Regulatory Services Department, before publication.