

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

Washington New Members Committee

Washington New Members Committee Meeting | Virtual via Zoom

Saturday, November 15, 2025, | **10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

[Via Zoom](#) | Meeting ID: 899 4611 1517 | Passcode 608920 | Call In 888-788-0099

AGENDA:

- 1) **Welcome & Introductions; Approval of October Meeting Minutes** – Alex
- 2) **WSBA Updates** –Chelle, Jordan
 - a) BOG Meeting Updates
- 3) **Washington New Member Committee Orientation** – Chelle
- 4) **FY26 Project Teams** – Alex/ Chelle
- 5) **Team Updates and Regional Reports** – All
 - a) **Financial Focus CLE** – Chawisa
 - b) **Social Media** – Ariel
 - c) **Legal Lunchbox CLE** - Hanna
 - d) **Mentorship Project Team** – Janta
- 6) **Law School Engagement Discussion** – Alex
- 7) **February Bar Exam Social Planning** – Chelle
- 8) **WNMC Charter Generative Discussion** – Paris Eriksen, Jordan Couch
- 9) **New ideas for Next Meeting** – All
- 10) **Adjournment** – Alex

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**Washington New Members Committee Meeting
Via Zoom
Monday, October 20, 2025, | 12:05 – 12:58 p.m.
Meeting Minutes**

WNMC Members Present: Alexander Reaganson, Mason Ji, Chawisa Laicharoenwat, Steven Brown, Mackenzie Lloyd, Hanna Harrison, Janta Steele, Michelle Hesse, Fatima Al-Rikabi

WNMC Members Absent: Adin Johnson (unexcused), Bethany Nolan (unexcused), Thomas Garvey (unexcused), Stephan Yhann (unexcused), Ariel Cook (excused) Matthew Rommelmann (unexcused), Makenzie Spinks (unexcused)

Board of Governors Liaison: Jordan Couch (absent)

WSBA Staff: Chelle Gegax – WSBA Member Services and Engagement Specialist, Vanessa Sweeney – WSBA Member Services and Engagement Program Coordinator

Welcome & Introductions; Approval of September Meeting Minutes – Alex

WNMC Chair, Alexander Reaganson, opened the meeting at 12:05 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance. Everyone in attendance introduced themselves. On motion by WNMC Immediate Past Chair Mason Ji, seconded by WNMC Member Steven Brown, the WNMC approved the September WYLC (WNMC) Meeting minutes (8-0-1).

WSBA Updates – Chelle, Jordan

BOG Meeting Updates

WSBA Member Engagement Specialist Chelle Gegax shared several updates beginning with the November Board of Governor's meeting which will include a dinner with the WNMC on Friday, November 4 at 6:00 PM, followed by the WNMC meeting on Saturday from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM to kick off the year. Chelle noted the upcoming launch of the Entity Regulation Pilot Project on Tuesday, October 21. Additional information is available on the WSBA website, or members may contact Jordan Couch directly as Jordan is involved in the effort. Chelle added that the Technology Taskforce presented its final report at the September BOG meeting, with the full report being accessible online. Licensing renewals are due by February 2, and payment plan options are available on the website. Members are encouraged to renew or join a section membership. Chelle highlighted the upcoming MentorLink Mixer scheduled for November 5, with six mentors and 29 mentees currently confirmed. The event is a collaborative effort between WNMC and the Pro Bono and Public Service Committee. Tyler Quillin, recipient of the Young Lawyer APEX Award, has been invited to participate as a mentor. Chelle encouraged committee members to share the opportunity within their networks, noting that Alex is currently the only WNMC mentor confirmed. WNMC Member Janta Steele will plan to register to attend as a mentor.

Project Team Updates and Regional Reports - All

Financial Focus CLE – Chawisa

WNMC Member Chawisa Laicharoenwat is leading the Financial Focus initiative, which offers a free CLE for new members on financial topics such as insurance and managing student debt. The team is currently brainstorming ideas for next year's program, typically held in August or September. Chelle noted that the FY26 Financial Focus will be the first conducted under the new bylaw definition, so this year's planning will pay special attention to the target demographic and may expand the range of topics to reach a larger audience. Planning includes developing a timeline and identifying speakers. Anyone interested in participating is welcome to join Chawisa, and WSBA Education Lead Rachel Matz will provide support as the CLE lead.

Social Media – Ariel

Chelle provided an update on WNMC Member Ariel Cook's behalf. There have been minimal social media updates since the September meeting. The team is currently collaborating with the Communications department to finalize the concept proposal for the Advice Column, which will require additional oversight from WSBA. Chelle is also coordinating with the WSBA Communications team to initiate committee member spotlights. For the benefit of new members, Alex clarified that instead of forming subcommittees, the group organizes work through project-based initiatives.

Legal Lunchbox CLE - Hanna

WNMC Member Hanna Harrison shared that WSBA provides a monthly free CLE, with the WNMC collaborating on one annually. Hanna encouraged WNMC members to get in touch to share any ideas for future topics. Chelle noted that the WNMC has the June Legal Lunchbox slot this year and mentioned that additional CLEs can be organized outside of the Legal Lunchbox and Financial Focus series. Chelle further highlighted that members can fulfill their entire MCLE requirements through the Legal Lunchbox series alone by attending all sessions throughout the year.

Mentorship Project Team – Janta

Janta introduced an initiative aimed at better aligning with the current needs of members by offering resources that reflect how people engage with mentors today, rather than relying on outdated models from 20 years ago. Although the committee has not been formally established, it currently includes Hanna, Alex, and Janta. Chelle noted that a concept proposal has been submitted to WSBA Member Services and Engagement Manager, Julianne Unite and WSBA Advancement Department Director, Kevin Plachy for review, with more updates expected at the next meeting. The group will work to refine the proposal, focusing on whether there is a demonstrated need for this type of program among the target population. Research will help determine whether the initiative should be geared toward law students or another group, and anecdotal evidence will be gathered to support the concept. Janta emphasized that the primary audience is new members in Washington.

Public Service and Leadership Award Project Team – Alex

Alex is managing the Public Service Leadership Award, which is similar to the APEX New Lawyer Award and what we see from the Pro Bono and Public Service Committee. Discussions will begin in April, and awardees will be selected by June or July. An article highlighting the awardees will be

drafted in the WSBA BarNews, with the most recent round appearing in the upcoming November issue. This past round saw the highest number of nominees since 2017, historically the number of nominees is around six.

Alex also invited the WNMC to share any reports or upcoming events.

Chelle mentioned the need to begin planning for the February After Bar Exam Social. Janta inquired about Mason's involvement with the American Bar Association (ABA), and Mason confirmed attending the August meeting in Toronto. Mason explained that WNMC is responsible for sending a new member representative to the ABA's New Lawyer Division and that although up to four delegates can be sent, a decline in scholarship applications led to a budget reallocation, resulting in only one committee member being sent this year. Mason also noted that the district representative role, which rotates between Washington and Oregon, is currently held by Oregon. Mason served a half-term following Aaron and encouraged others to consider the role when it becomes available. Janta shared that Jordan and WSBA encouraged the committee to think ambitiously for the budget and suggested adding a proposal to increase funding to support more committee members attending the ABA.

Alex mentioned the Chair-elect position, noting that while a mid-December deadline had been set at the last meeting, the recent bylaw changes require an amendment to that vote. He proposed moving forward with nominations now, with a preferred deadline of November 1. Chelle added that the next Nominations Committee meeting is on October 30 and that, while there is no hard deadline, applications would need to be submitted between today and Friday to be considered at that meeting. On motion by Alex, seconded by Mason, the WNMC voted to authorize the WNMC leadership team to consider nominations for Chair-elect and submit their choice to the BOG Nominations Committee by Friday, with the nomination to be reported at the November 2025 meeting (9-0-0). Chelle, Mason, Alex, and Vanessa agreed to schedule a meeting by Friday. Chelle also noted that this timeline applies to the FY27 Chair-elect position and encouraged interested members to apply now. When Janta asked if applications could be deferred to the following year, Chelle confirmed that it's possible but would require submitting materials for both years. She plans to discuss this further at the November WNMC meeting. Alex clarified that the Chair-elect role is a three-year commitment, including terms as Chair and Immediate Past Chair. Janta asked about the annual report, and Chelle confirmed it is being finalized by Paris and will be posted on the website once complete. Regarding the Southeast region, Chelle mentioned that Michelle Mensoza had shared a potential contact before resigning, but Chelle has not yet received a response after reaching out.

Adjournment

Alex adjourned the meeting at 12:58 p.m.

View results

Respondent

17

Anonymous

24:31

Time to complete

1. Member Name:

Chawisa Laicharoenwat

2. Do you have any updates since the last meeting?

☐ Yes

☒ No

3. If yes, please provide your update below:

4. If no, please provide a brief explanation as to why not:

We intend to start brainstorming potential topics and will contact the CLE team early next year. For the rest of this year, we will be assisting other project!