



WASHINGTON NEW MEMBERS COMMITTEE

Washington New Members Committee

Washington New Members Committee Meeting | Virtual via Microsoft Teams

Monday, March 16, 2026, | 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

[Via Teams](#) | Meeting ID: 277 071 348 516 87 | Passcode: R2Z7FE9x

AGENDA:

1. **Welcome & Introductions; Approval of March Meeting Minutes** – Alex
2. **WSBA Updates** –Chelle, Jordan
3. **FY27 Budget Update**– Alex
4. **Team Updates and Regional Reports** – All
 - a. **Social Media** – Ariel
 - b. **Mentorship Project Team** – Janta
 - c. **CLE Team** – Chawisa, Hanna
 - d. **Charter Project Team** – Alex
 - i. **Notes from WSBA; Updated Draft Proposal**
5. **Priority Projects Discussion** – Alex; *Time Permitting*
6. **New ideas for Next Meeting** – All

Adjournment – Alex

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

Washington New Members Committee

Washington New Members Committee Meeting
Microsoft Teams
Monday, March 16, 2026, | 12:04 p.m. – 1:08 p.m.
Meeting Minutes

WNMC Members Present: Alexander Reaganson, Chawisa Laicharoenwat, Mackenzie Lloyd, Janta Steele, Ariel Cook (arrived 12:09), Steven Brown, Matthew Rommelmann, Michelle Hesse, Hanna Harrison

WNMC Members Absent: Bethany Nolan (unexcused), Thomas Garvey (unexcused), Makenzie Spinks (unexcused), Mason Ji (unexcused), Stephan Yhann (unexcused), Fatima Al-Rikabi (unexcused)

Board of Governors Liaison: Jordan Couch – arrived 12:20 p.m.

WSBA Staff: Julianne Unite – WSBA Member Services and Engagement Manager, Vanessa Sweeney – WSBA Member Services and Engagement Program Coordinator

Welcome & Introductions; Approval of February Meeting Minutes – Alex

WNMC Chair Alexander Reaganson, opened the meeting at 12:04 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance. On motion by WNMC Member Janta Steele, seconded by WNMC Member Ariel Cook, the WNMC approved the February WNMC Meeting minutes (8-0-0).

FY27 Budget Update - Alex

Alex noted that the leadership team had a meeting and a proposal is being put together. WSBA Member Services and Engagement Manager Julianne Unite added that the first draft of the proposal will be submitted to the finance team and will have meeting to go over all cost centers internally later this month. Budgets are not final until September when the Board of Governors (BOG) approves it. Alex commented that WNMC Past Chair Mason Ji will be drafting the memo, and the leadership team will ensure it is approved prior to the August ABA meeting.

Team Updates and Regional Reports – All

Alex asked if WNMC members have regional updates to share. WNMC Member Hanna Harrison noted there is a Washington Women's Lawyers Division fundraiser coming up in May with Erin Brockovich as the featured speaker. There is a CLE posted by another organization next month in Spokane on courtroom presence.

Social Media – Ariel

WNMC Member Ariel Cook noted there are 11 new LinkedIn followers in the past 30 days, which is a 450% increase in the last month despite no new posts. There has been no change for the Facebook group. Ariel mentioned that it appears that current membership is using LinkedIn to interact with the committee via social media. Starting this month posting will be more regular, especially once the advice

column gets approved. Ariel added that the Advice Column project team will be sent a request to meet soon. Ariel mentioned that obtaining content for the WNMC Member spotlight has been challenging. To address this, Ariel will distribute an email template to the entire committee, requesting responses. This will allow Ariel to maintain responses for future posts without needing to follow up with individuals separately. Ariel and Hanna will collaborate on next steps to collect responses for the non-member spotlights.

Mentorship Project Team – Janta

Janta mentioned that the mentorship project team has prepared a concept proposal, which needs WNMC approval today. Janta presented the plan, explaining its format: an introduction, a 20-minute presentation by a guest speaker, followed by 5 minutes of questions from the moderator. The moderator will then provide discussion topics for virtual attendees to break into groups and discuss. After an hour, participants will reconvene to share feedback and answer questions. The session aims to measure interest in mentorship and gather information on where people seek help, what types of mentorship they prefer, and includes live polling. The plan proposes three monthly lunch-and-learn sessions, each lasting an hour: April will focus on public speaking, May on client interactions, and June on office interactions.

On motion by Janta, seconded by WNMC Member Steven Brown, the WNMC approved the mentorship concept and project proposal for three Lunch and Learn sessions in April, May, and June.

Janta will start searching for a speaker for the April event.

CLE Team – Chawisa, Hanna

WNMC member Chawisa Laicharoenwat confirmed that a topic—tax and retirement—has been chosen and is currently seeking speakers. Chawisa asked the WNMC to email speaker suggestions for this topic. Hanna discussed plans to organize a Legal Lunchbox CLE focused on expert witness testimony, and is hoping to collaborate with the Criminal Law Section. Hanna mentioned that WSBA Education Program Lead Rachel Matz had asked about how we envision the role of the Criminal Law Section in this CLE and how best to partner with them. Julianne explained the process and benefits of partnering with sections; typically, it means the event will be promoted to section members, broadening its reach and relevance. Sections can also help identify appropriate faculty and speakers. Julianne noted that this is not a revenue-generating CLE, and any funds raised go to the new member education cost center—not to WNMC. Hanna will proceed with organizing the event.

Initiation of Charter Project Team – Alex

Alex revisited the previously tabled discussion about shifting from a county-based regional structure to one aligned with congressional districts, similar to the BOG. Alex noted that the committee had already approved increasing at-large seats from three to six, so the remaining question was how the proposed district change would alter overall membership. Ariel explained that moving to congressional districts would reduce the number of regional positions by two, resulting in a net increase of one seat when combined with the at-large expansion. Julianne advised that mirroring the Board's eleven seat model—created by splitting District 7—would technically reduce regional seats from twelve to eleven rather than ten, meaning the total committee size would become twenty. Julianne highlighted the presence of many "District 0" members whose home addresses fall outside Washington, cautioning that using only home

address (as the Board does) could leave these members unassigned unless the committee chose to factor in office address as it currently does. Alex confirmed that the project team had already discussed incorporating office locations, and Ariel noted that this would be reflected in Charter updates. Julianne raised timing concerns because applications for terms beginning October 2026 open May 1, before the Board's meeting and internal review cycle.

On motion by Ariel, seconded by Janta, and abstention by Alex, the WNMC majority approved the congressional district membership proposal (8-0-1).

Julianne raised several remaining charter-related outstanding items that needed clarification before the updates could be presented to the BOG. These included defining the new at-large seats—particularly the category currently labeled QLSP or public service—as well as the DEI seat and the solo and small practice seat, so applicants would understand the roles when applications open in May. Julianne also asked whether the committee had already approved the new vacancy policy, which Alex confirmed approved at the previous meeting and included in the proposals. Alex noted the importance of naming conventions and explained that “public service” reflected the Bar's existing Pro Bono and Public Service Committee, though the committee could choose to narrow the definition if preferred.

On motion by Ariel, seconded by WNMC Member Mackenzie Lloyd, the WNMC unanimously voted to keep the public service representative position title and ensure the definition is clarified during the presentation to the BOG (9-0-0).

Alex addressed the remaining portion of the Charter that had not yet been discussed: the success criteria and the reporting and evaluation section. Alex explained that the project team had identified five success criteria focused on improving new member satisfaction and integration, increasing engagement and feedback from new members at WNMC events, maintaining consistent communication reflected in positive social media analytics, ensuring the committee remains fully staffed and actively participating, and encouraging more proactive consultation between the WNMC and the BOG as well as other bar entities. Alex summarized the reporting and evaluation practices, noting that the chair prepares an annual report each fiscal year and that the BOG conducts a full Charter and entity review every five years.

On motion by Alex, seconded by Mackenzie, the WNMC unanimously voted to approve the charter (9-0-0).

On motion by Alex, seconded by Janta the WNMC unanimously voted to amend the motion to approve the charter to include cleanup language that switches from regional representation to Congressional District representation (9-0-0).

On motion by Alex, seconded by Mackenzie, the WNMC unanimously voted to approve the Charter with the aforementioned amendment (9-0-0).

Once changes are made, per the amendment, and approved by the committee, Alex will put this together and send to the WNMC the final draft to review the amendment and get it sent to the BOG.

Priority Projects Discussion – Alex

New Ideas for Next Meeting – All

Adjournment

Alex adjourned the meeting at 1:08 p.m.

Some material in this document was generated using Microsoft Copilot and was reviewed and modified by Vanessa Sweeney, WSBA Member Services and Engagement.