

ESTHER AROKUN

Statement of Interest

Application for Chair, Privacy & Data Security Law Committee, Washington State Bar Association

I am writing to express my interest in serving as Chair of the Washington State Bar Association Privacy & Data Security Law Committee. I am a Washington-licensed attorney (WSBA #63719), an active member of the WSBA Privacy Law Committee within the Business Law Section, and a Certified Information Privacy Professional (CIPP/US) and Certified Information Privacy Manager (CIPM). My legal training reflects a strong commitment to advancing privacy and data security law through education, leadership, and collaboration within Washington State.

I currently practice as an Associate Attorney at Schlemlein, Fick & Franklin, PLLC in Seattle, where my work includes reviewing and advising on business agreements and laws with embedded privacy obligations. This includes evaluating contractual risk and compliance considerations that arise in litigation, Community associations, real estate matters, and business operations. Through this work, I gain regular exposure to the real-world compliance challenges faced by Washington businesses, nonprofits, and associations, particularly as privacy obligations continue to expand and intersect with operational risk.

My academic background is firmly grounded in U.S. privacy, technology, and innovation law. I earned an LL.M. in Innovation and Technology Law from Seattle University School of Law, graduating with a 4.0 GPA and receiving the Dean's Award for Excellence and Promise. During my LL.M. program, I served as the LL.M. Representative and as a volunteer with the Privacy Law Students Association, where I helped foster engagement on contemporary privacy and technology issues. I am also currently completing a U.S.-based Master's degree in Artificial Intelligence, which enhances my understanding of AI governance, automated decision-making, and emerging data security risks that increasingly affect privacy law practice.

In addition to my legal education, I maintain active involvement in U.S. professional organizations dedicated to privacy law. I am a member of the International Association of Privacy Professionals (IAPP) and hold both the CIPP/US and CIPM certifications, reflecting my commitment to staying current with U.S. privacy frameworks, enforcement trends, and best practices. I am also actively engaged with the Washington State Bar Association and the King County Bar Association, and I value the role bar committees play in supporting attorney development, CLE programming, and public-facing education.

As Chair of the Privacy & Data Security Law Committee, I would focus on strengthening the Committee's role as a practical and inclusive resource for Washington practitioners. My priorities would include expanding high-quality CLE programming on topics such as U.S. consumer privacy laws, cybersecurity incident response, AI and automated decision-making, and data governance; encouraging collaboration among in-house, public-sector, and private practitioners; and supporting mentorship opportunities for newer attorneys and law students interested in privacy and technology law.

Having already served as a committee member, I am eager to take on a leadership role and contribute to the Committee's strategic growth and impact. I bring strong organizational skills, a collaborative leadership style, and a genuine passion for privacy and data security law as it develops within Washington State and the broader U.S. legal landscape. I would be honored to serve the WSBA and its members as Chair of the Privacy & Data Security Law Committee.

Esther Arokun