

Sarah E. Spierling Mack

Candidate Statement

WSBA Labor & Employment Law Section, Executive Committee Position – Public Sector Defense

Dear Colleagues:

I am asking for your support once again for the public sector defense position on the WSBA Labor & Employment Law Section Executive Committee. I have had the pleasure of serving for the past four years on the Labor & Employment Law Section Executive Committee, three years as Secretary and currently as Chair, and have enjoyed collaborating with, and learning from, my colleagues in this Section. I hope to continue serving in this capacity and fulfilling another three-year term so that I may continue the great work I have begun.

My entire professional career has involved public sector work. As a longtime law clerk to the Honorable Ricardo S. Martinez, in the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington, I was able to serve the public interest from the perspective of the bench, assisting with complex labor and employment cases, analyzing and researching numerous legal issues, and learning from both plaintiffs and defendants. This experience allows me to apply a neutral lens when navigating legal questions for employers and to apply deeper analytics to the issues employers face.

Currently, as a school districts defense litigator at Pacifica Law Group, I represent numerous school districts and other municipal entities in both a general counsel capacity and in litigation. I not only counsel on the legal issues at hand but am required to consider and advise on the business and political consequences related to those issues. This provides me with the insight and opportunity to aid with the practical realities of employment and labor matters, as well as address the policy interests for all sides.

In my prior position as in-house counsel for a large school district, I had the opportunity to participate in the development of legislative policy and strategy, particularly over the last two years of the Covid pandemic. I managed outside counsel in litigation matters, reviewed contracts, advised on a wide range of legal matters, including employee leave issues, discipline, the implementation of state and federal rules and regulations, and risk management. In addition, I regularly attended labor management meetings and advised on labor matters.

In addition to my professional employment, I volunteer in the community in various ways, serving pro bono clients, sitting on legal committees for local organizations, and donating my time to assist community members access housing, food and legal resources.

I believe all of these experiences provide me with the skills to be a valued member of the Executive Committee and will allow me to continue my volunteer service to this profession.

Thank you for your consideration!