

Dated: February 11, 2022

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

New WSBA Volunteer Opportunity

Serve as a WSBA delegate on the Litigant Rights & Access stakeholder group of the Gender and Justice Commission's Domestic and Sexual Violence Committee.

- Application Deadline:** Friday, March 4 2022 by 5:00 PST
- Application Information:** Submit cover letter and résumé to barleaders@wsba.org. Letters of support are permitted but not required.
- Selection Process:** Presidential Appointment
- Term Begins:** Immediately Upon Appointment. Delegate(s) should plan to attend the next meeting on Wednesday, March 9 at 12:00pm.
- Term Ends:** June 30, 2022

More Information:

During the 2021 legislative session, the Washington State Legislature passed E2SHB 1320 - *Modernizing, Harmonizing, and Improving the Efficacy and Accessibility of Laws Concerning Civil Protection Orders*. Sections 12, 16, and 36 assign the Administrative Office of the Courts, through the Washington State Supreme Court Gender and Justice Commission, with convening stakeholders to make recommendations to the Legislature (these were submitted December 1st) and the courts (due by June 30, 2022) on a variety of protection order-related issues. Please see the attached for relevant sections of the bill.

Specifically, Section 36(1)(b) asks that the stakeholder group develop recommendations to improve access to unrepresented parties in protection order proceedings "in consultation with the Washington State Bar Association."

The Washington State Supreme Court Gender and Justice Commission (GJC) was established by the Washington Supreme Court in 1994. The Court has renewed the GJC every five years since, with the most recent renewal by order of the Court in 2020. The purpose of the GJC is to identify concerns and make recommendations regarding the equal treatment of all parties, attorneys, and court employees in the State courts, and to promote gender equality through researching, recommending, and supporting the implementation of best practices; providing educational programs that enhance equal treatment of all parties; and serving as a liaison between the courts and other organizations in working toward communities free of bias.

As co-chairs of the GJC's Domestic and Sexual Violence Committee, Erin Moody and Judge Jacqueline Shea-Brown are leading this project on behalf of the Commission.

The issues and participating stakeholders are divided among three groups with distinct topical leads:

1. Litigant Rights & Access (Judge Averil Rothrock, Riddhi Mukhopadhyay)
2. Technology (Elizabeth Hendren, Tim Fitzgerald)
3. Research & Information Sharing (Judge Tanya Thorp, Judge Cindy Smith)

WSBA's delegate(s) would participate on the Litigant Rights & Access Group, which meets via Zoom two times per month: the 2nd Wednesday at noon and the 4th Friday at noon.

The application and appointment process are being administered by the Office of the Executive Director. For any questions, please contact Paris Eriksen, Volunteer Engagement Advisor at parise@wsba.org.