

Volunteer Opportunity: Small Town and Rural Council

Entity Type:

- ☐ Board
☐ Committee
☒ Council
☐ Other Bar Entity

Created By:

- ☒ WSBA
☐ Supreme Court
☐ Court Rule

Term:

- ☐ One Year
☐ Two Years
☒ Three Years
☐ Four Years

Meetings:

- ☐ In-Person Only
☒ Virtual Only
☐ Hybrid

Eligibility:

License Type:

- ☒ Lawyer
☒ LLLT
☒ LPO

License Status:

- ☒ Active
☐ Inactive
☐ Judicial
☐ Honorary
☐ Pro Bono

Public Members:

- ☒ Yes*
☐ No

The Small Town and Rural (STAR) Council (formerly STAR Committee until Sep. 2024) was established by the Board of Governors with approval of its charter in April 2021. The STAR Council is committed to strengthening and supporting the practice of law in the rural communities throughout Washington state. The STAR Council furthers the WSBA mission to serve the public and the members of the Bar by providing focused attention on the unique needs of residents and members in rural areas. See the [Council Charter](#) for more information.

The STAR Council will guide policy and program development, serve as ambassadors between the WSBA and these communities, explore and advocate for creative and innovative solutions that further the goals of strengthening and supporting the practice of law in rural communities. The three main focus areas of the Council are:

1. Community Education and Outreach
2. Pipeline and Placement Program(s)
3. Job Opportunities and Clearinghouse

Benefits:

- Develop and contribute to a deeper understanding of the unique needs, opportunities, and benefits of a rural practice
- Opportunity to explore creative solutions.
- Create connections, build relationships, and network with practitioners in Washington's rural communities as well as law students and members of the public.
- Enhance leadership development through program development, project management, and committee work.

Time commitment: Given that the STAR Council is focused on and will largely be composed of rural practitioners, attendance at meetings will be primarily and predominantly virtual. It is anticipated that Council meetings will be monthly for one hour, with the initial meeting of the year being two hours for an onboarding orientation. Additional time may be required outside meetings for implementation of Council events and initiatives. Subcommittees and/or project teams may also meet between Council meetings and there may be additional work completed by members outside of the meeting schedule.

In accordance with the Charter, the terms of Council members will be staggered, and appointments will be for a three-year term, unless appointment is to fill a current vacancy. Members may be eligible to be reappointed for a second term. Council Chair will serve a two-year term.

Requirements: Applicants must be active WSBA members, unless otherwise stated in the Charter, e.g., *law school representatives. There are no requirements for years of practice or practice area. Applicants should be committed to advancing WSBA's mission to serve the public and champion justice. A willingness to attend and participate in the meetings, subcommittees, and/or project teams is required.

Preferred Qualifications and Skills: Interest and/or experience practicing law in Washington's rural communities and/or developing a practitioner pipeline to support growth of

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legal practitioners in rural communities. Applicants should be solution-oriented, collaborative, and dedicated to Washington's rural communities.

Reimbursement policy: This is an unpaid volunteer position. Reasonable travel expenses may be reimbursed per the WSBA Expense Reimbursement Policy.

Selection and appointment process: Candidates will be reviewed by a team including the Council Chair, Staff Liaison, and BOG Liaison(s). Recommendations are made to the Board of Governor's Nominations Committee, which makes the final appointments.

For further information: See <https://www.wsba.org/connect-serve/committees-boards-other-groups/small-town-and-rural-council>

How to apply: See instructions at www.wsba.org/joincommittee. Questions about the application? Email barleaders@wsba.org.

We are committed to promoting diversity, equity and inclusion on the Board and strongly encourage folks from a diverse array of backgrounds to apply. We define diversity broadly to include age, disability, ethnicity, gender identity, geographical location, indigenous background, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, social class, and veteran status.