

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

Board of Governors July 2022 Meeting Update

A summary prepared by the WSBA of the Board of Governors (Board) meeting held July 21-22 in Tacoma. The agenda, materials, and video recording from this Board meeting are [online](#). The next regular meeting is Sept. 22-23 in Bellevue. The Board of Governors is WSBA's governing body charged with determining general policies of the WSBA and approving its annual budget. To subscribe to the Board Meeting Notification list, email barleaders@wsba.org.

NEED TO KNOW

1. **Bar Structure.** The Washington Supreme Court has asked the Board to make a recommendation about whether the WSBA *must* change structure (considering federal litigation about the integrated-bar structure) or *should* change structure (to best achieve its mission). In response, the Board has launched a study process to evaluate caselaw, consider what an ideal bar structure looks like, and, perhaps most importantly, to hear from members. The Board will finalize its recommendation by the end of August. [Materials, resources, and meeting access and recordings are all online.](#)
2. **Bar Leadership.** Congratulations to Governor Francis Adewale, whom the Board elected as WSBA's treasurer for the 2022-23 fiscal year.
3. **Next Year's Budget.** The Board reviewed the first draft of the WSBA's Fiscal Year 2023 budget. License fees for 2023 have already been set and will remain steady (no increase). Members are invited to [upcoming Budget and Audit meetings](#) to learn more and ask questions. The final budget is scheduled for approval in September. ([See page 180.](#))

OTHER BUSINESS

Local Hero. [Prosecutor Diane Clarkson was honored as a Local Hero](#) (nominated by the Tacoma-Pierce County Bar Association) for tenacity, compassion, and exceptional leadership in service to others. The Local Hero Award is bestowed by the WSBA President to recognize colleagues who make noteworthy contributions to their communities.

Amendment to Board Policy Based on MBA Request for Action. In April, the Board received a proposal signed by eleven minority bar associations (MBAs) that proposed several actions for the Board to take “to continue our dialogue and encourage the governors in its progress and efforts on diversity, equity, and inclusion in the legal community.” In response, the Board in May formed a task force to continue to work with the MBAs to come up with recommended action items from the proposal. After robust analysis and discussion, the task force returned with a recommendation for the Board to require an equity analysis—in addition to fiscal and legal analyses—as part of every request for action. The Board approved the equity analysis. Additional recommendations are anticipated for consideration at the September meeting of the Board of Governors. ([See page 445.](#))

Support for Hybrid In-Person/Virtual Court System. The Board in June of 2020 created the [Equity and Disparity Work Group](#) “to reckon with the harsh reality that laws, policies, and procedures in place in the legal system have historically led to disparate and inequitable results that disproportionately harm people of color.” A subgroup of that work group returned with a report about one of its priority areas: advocacy for continued remote court procedures, post-pandemic, to decrease disparity and expand access to civil and criminal legal services. The subgroup brought its proposal to the Board of Judicial Administration (BJA), and the BJA agreed to take up the issue (continued hybrid court access) as a strategic initiative. ([See page 91.](#))

WSBA Volunteer Vaccination Policy. The Board discussed whether it was time to change its [policy mandating COVID vaccination for all in-person WSBA volunteer work](#). The governors ultimately retained the policy and decided to invite, in the near future, a state health expert to come answer questions about best COVID19 safety practices for organizations.

MCLE Credit for Law Clerk Tutors. The Board approved the recommendation from the MCLE Board to amend Admissions and Practice Rules to establish MCLE credit for tutors in the [APR 6 Law Clerk Program](#). Tutors may now claim teaching credit under AP11(e)(6). The Board hopes the MCLE credit will encourage lawyers to serve as tutors and expand the Law Clerk program. ([See page 381.](#))

The Board also:

- Approved moving forward with an election for a District 8 Governor, given the current governor has been elected to an at-large position and will resign the District 8 seat in September. The Board will elect the District 8 replacement—to fill the remaining 12 months of the current governor’s term—after conducting interviews with interested candidates. Notification of the vacancy will soon be sent to all eligible members. ([See page 348.](#))
- Hosted a CLE titled “ADA myth-conceptions” presented by Conrad Reynoldson and Dustine Bowker from Washington Civil & Disability Advocate. ([Watch the presentation.](#))
- Approved the Council on Public Defense recommendation to revise the Public Defense Workloads statement, which is intended to help public defenders express to funding authorities their concerns (and potential solutions) about workloads exceeding capacity due to the pandemic. ([See page 194.](#))
- Held a first read of recommended fiscal policy revisions, including increasing the operations and facilities reserve funds and adjusting per diem food and lodging reimbursement limits for volunteers. ([See page 3.](#))
- Approved the Construction Law Section’s request to post amended and new model residential construction contracts on its webpage for public use. ([See page 208.](#))
- Approved a policy amendment to extend the number of terms Law Clerk Board members may serve to three consecutive 3-year terms. ([see page 375.](#))
- Approved a proposal to transition the WSBA Diversity Committee to the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Council. Among other things, the new DEI Council Charter broadens the scope of membership eligibility to include not only active members and BOG members, but also judicial status members, pro bono status members, law school students, faculty, and staff. as well as members of the public. ([See page 122.](#))
- Approved a WSBA Bylaw amendment to allow the Board Legislative Committee to approve WSBA entity’s comments to the Supreme Court regarding proposed rule changes, if the full Board of Governors does not have a regularly scheduled meeting before the comments are due. ([See page 109.](#))