

Small Town and Rural Committee

Volunteer Position Description

The Small Town and Rural (STAR) Committee was established by the Board of Governors with approval of its charter in April 2021. The STAR Committee is committed to strengthening and supporting the practice of law in the rural communities throughout Washington state. The STAR Committee 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.

Position overview: The STAR Committee 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 Committee are:

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

See the [Committee Charter](#) for more information.

Time commitment: Given that the STAR Committee is focused on and will largely be composed of rural practitioners, attendance at meetings will be primarily and predominantly virtual. It is anticipated that Committee 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 Committee events and initiatives. Subcommittees and/or project teams may also meet between Committee meetings and there may be additional work completed by members outside of the meeting schedule.

In accordance with the Charter, the terms of Committee 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. Committee Chair will serve a two-year term.

Requirements: Applicants must be active WSBA members, unless otherwise stated in the Charter. 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 legal practitioners in rural communities. Applicants should be solution-oriented, collaborative, and dedicated to Washington's rural communities.

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.

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

Selection and appointment process: Candidates will be reviewed by a team including the Committee 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: <https://www.wsba.org/connect-serve/committees-boards-other-groups/small-town-and-rural-committee>

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