

# An Update on the Work of the WSBA Board of Governors

The Washington State Bar Association's mission is to serve the public and the members of the Bar, ensure the integrity of the profession, and to champion justice.

#### May 2012 • Volume XV • Number 4

The Board of Governors met April 27–28 in Tulalip. For information on this or past Board meetings, please contact Margaret Shane at <u>margarets@wsba.org</u>.

#### Welcome to Tulalip

The meeting began with a greeting and welcome from Tulalip Tribal Chairman **Melvin Sheldon**, who thanked the Board for their work. Second District Governor **Philip Buri** (Bellingham) also welcomed the Board. The day before the Board meeting, the officers and executive director had meetings with local judges and bar leaders.

#### **Special Board of Governors Meeting**

A special Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 22 at the WSBA offices to discuss aligning WSBA resources with current budgetary constraints and to consider suggested amendments from the Supreme Court to the proposed Limited License Legal Technician Rule.\* The public meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:00 a.m., and WSBA members are welcome to attend. RSVPs are appreciated, but not required; please contact Pamela Wuest at pamelaw@wsba.org.

#### **President's Report**

President **Stephen Crossland** (Cashmere) reported that he, President-elect **Michele Radosevich** (Seattle), and Executive Director **Paula Littlewood** met with the Supreme Court to discuss the effects of the <u>license-fee referendum</u>\* and the future direction of the WSBA.

President Crossland held a <u>live online chat</u>\* on April 25, and was pleased that more than 200 questions and comments were submitted. Another live chat will be held on May 21 at noon. See the website\* for details.

President Crossland also reported that he was part of the recent annual delegation who traveled to Washington, D.C., to meet with Washington state senators and representatives about funding for legal services.

#### **Executive Director's Report**

Executive Director **Paula Littlewood** reported on a press conference held April 3 in Seattle to publicly roll out the Moderate Means Program.\* A similar press conference is planned for Spokane in the near future. More than 380 lawyers have signed up to participate in the program, and the WSBA has held two free public-service training seminars for participating lawyers. The Moderate Means Program is a partnership between the WSBA and Washington's three law schools: Gonzaga University, Seattle University, and the University of Washington.

Executive Director Littlewood also announced that of the four district governor positions up for election this year, only District 4 had a contested election. The election resulted in a run-off between **Brian Anderson** (Kennewick) and **Jerry Moberg** (Ephrata). (Update: **Jerry Moberg** will be the new District 4 governor.)

#### **Membership Study**

The results of the Membership Study\* were presented to the Board. The study focused on:
1) gathering demographic and career data;
2) exploring characteristics and experiences of diverse members; 3) understanding professional transitions; and 4) establishing a reliable and useful database of information obtained from the study.

#### **Diversity Matters**

Diversity Program Manager **Joy Eckwood** spoke of the need to broaden our understanding of diversity — how it affects development and

implementation of the WSBA's various programs, members' needs, and the services the WSBA provides.

#### **Report on ABA Midyear Meeting**

Kari Petrasek (Everett), one of the WSBA's delegates to the American Bar Association House of Delegates, reported on the midyear meeting held in February in New Orleans. The two resolutions the WSBA co-sponsored were both passed unanimously: one establishing standards for language access in the courts for those with limited English proficiency, and a resolution from the ABA Commission on Disability Rights that urges entities that administer law school admission testing to provide accommodations that best ensure the skills of test-takers are measured.

## **Family Law Civil Rules**

The Board approved submission to the Supreme Court of proposed revised <u>Family Law Civil</u>
<u>Rules\*</u> developed by the <u>Local Rules Task Force.</u>\*

#### **Budget Matters**

The Board reviewed a series of <u>recommendations</u>\* from the Budget and Audit Committee in response to the budget gap resulting from the passage of the license-fee referendum.

The Board passed the following motions:

- To reaffirm the WSBA's <u>Mission</u>, Guiding Principles, and Strategic Goals.\*
- To use \$1 million from reserves to offset expenses in FY 2013.
- To reduce Board of Governors' expenses by at least \$100,000 in 2013, and to direct the Budget and Audit Committee to identify a menu of proposed Board expenses which will be presented at the May meeting.
- To eliminate the annual Access to Justice/Bar Leaders Conference as a WSBA event (effective 2013).
- To reduce \$200,000 in staff-related expenses without compromising the ability to retain necessary staff.
- To modify the policy on support of sections administration costs so that the section per-member charge covers 100% of the cost.
- To impose a hiring freeze except for mission-critical positions, as determined by the executive director.

### **Group Health Insurance Plan Renewal**

The Board approved renewal of the Group Health insurance plan\* offered to WSBA members through Kibble & Prentice.

#### **Local Hero Award**

At a luncheon attended by members of the Snohomish County bench and bar, President **Stephen Crossland** presented retiring Marysville, Mountlake Terrace, and Snohomish Chief of Police **John Turner**\* with the Local Hero Award. These awards are presented to those who have made significant contributions to their communities.

#### **Legislative Issues**

Sections are already gearing up for the 2013 legislative session by working with WSBA Legislative Liaison **Kathryn Leathers** to finalize and vet new legislative proposals. Those proposals will be presented to the Legislative Committee in the fall, and considered by the Board for final approval in November.

The November general elections will likely bring about many changes in the Legislature based on the current estimate that at least 22 current state legislators will either retire or seek election to other offices.

The Supreme Court's recent ruling in *State v*. *McCleary* will keep budget and revenue challenges on the front burner for the Legislature as it continues to strive to meet its Article IX constitutional duty "to make ample provision for the education of all children" in the state.

Look for a CLE this fall on the legislative process—an all-star cast is being lined up to talk about how the legislative process works and to provide practitioners with practical information and tools such as basic bill-drafting skills.

#### **Upcoming Events**

Many more events are listed on the Legal Community Events Calendar on the WSBA website <a href="https://homepage.">homepage</a>.

#### May

May 22: WSBA Board of Governors meeting, WSBA offices, Seattle

May 24: 2nd Annual Eastside Legal Assistance
Program Breakfast for Justice, Meydenbauer
Center, Bellevue

May 25: Loren Miller Bar Foundation Philip L. Burton Memorial Scholarship Dinner, Grand Hyatt, Seattle

#### June

June 6: <u>King County Washington Women</u> <u>Lawyers Judicial Appreciation Luncheon</u>, Fairmont Olympic Hotel, Seattle

June 7: Northwest Indian Bar Association Annual Awards Banquet, Campion Ballroom at Seattle University, Seattle

June 7–9: Washington Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers 25th Annual Conference, Campbell's Resort, Chelan

**June 8:** WSBA Board of Governors meeting, Yakima Convention Center, Yakima

**June 8:** WYLD Board of Trustees meeting, Yakima Convention Center, Yakima

June 8–10: Access to Justice/Bar Leaders
Conference, Yakima Convention Center, Yakima

June 19: <u>King County Bar Association Annual Awards Dinner</u>, Sheraton Hotel, Seattle

#### July

**July 13–14:** WSBA Board of Governors meeting, Alderbrook Resort, Union

#### \* Web addresses

Limited License Legal Technician Rule http://bit.ly/JyzIxS

License-Fee Referendum http://www.wsba.org/referendum

President Crossland's April 25 online chat <a href="http://bit.ly/LWW8YC">http://bit.ly/LWW8YC</a>

President Crossland's May 21 online chat <a href="http://wsba.org/crossland">http://wsba.org/crossland</a>

WSBA Moderate Means Program <a href="http://www.wsba.org/mmp">http://www.wsba.org/mmp</a>

# WSBA Membership Study http://wsba.org/study

Proposed revised Family Law Civil Rules http://bit.ly/KDH8Qb

Local Rules Task Force http://bit.ly/KwbgOC

Budget and Audit Committee recommendations http://bit.ly/L35tff

WSBA Mission, Guiding Principles, and Strategic Goals http://bit.ly/J0HVqx

**Health insurance** http://bit.ly/JNZj3W

**Local hero John Turner** <a href="http://bit.ly/JiKzgq">http://bit.ly/JiKzgq</a>

WSBA homepage http://www.wsba.org