



Office of the Executive Director

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The Board of Governors met March 9 in Walla Walla. For information on this or past Board meetings, please contact Margaret Shane at <u>margarets@wsba.org</u>.

Welcome to Walla Walla!

Fifth District Governor **Nancy Isserlis** (Spokane) welcomed the Board to Walla Walla. The day before the Board meeting, the officers and executive director had meetings with the local judges and bar leaders.

President's Report

President **Stephen Crossland** (Cashmere) reported that on the previous day, he and others from the Board and staff enjoyed meeting with Whitman College and Walla Walla University students to discuss careers in the law. Other recent activities include speaking at a meeting of the Solo and Small Practice Section and addressing the WSBA Leadership Institute fellows.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director **Paula Littlewood** reported that the public rollout of the <u>Moderate Means Program</u>* will take place this month, with press conferences in Seattle and Spokane. Information and signup for both lawyers and prospective clients is available <u>online</u>.*

The new online admissions system, whereby people can apply for the bar exam or admission by reciprocity, has been successfully launched; 70 people applied in the first hour it was available.

This year, district governors are elected from districts 1, 4, 5, and 7-West. There is a contested election in District 4 only. Congratulations to governors-elect **Ken Masters** (District 1), **Paul Bastine** (District 5), and **Barb Rhoads-Weaver** (District 7-West). The WYLD at-large position will also be elected this year, with finalists selected by the WYLD Board of Trustees and the new governor elected by the Board of Governors.

Executive Director Littlewood reported that voting is underway for the <u>referendum</u>.* Ballots are due by 5 p.m. PDT on April 6.

Washington Young Lawyers Division (WYLD)

WYLD President **Dainen Penta** (Seattle) updated the Board on the WYLD's programs and activities. The

WYLD held its 25th First Responder Will Clinic in late February in Shoreline. To date, more than 1,000 first responders and their families have been served by the Clinic, which prepares free estate-planning documents.

A recent "Open Section Night" in Seattle drew more than 120 new lawyers, introducing them to the benefits of WSBA sections. A similar event is planned for Spokane.

WYLD Governor At-Large

Carla Lee, at-large governor representing the WYLD, submitted her resignation from the Board after four years of service. She began her service to complete the remainder of the term of the WYLD governor who moved out of state. (Under WSBA Bylaws, if a governor begins his or her service filling the remainder of a term that is 18 months or less, the governor can run for another term. Otherwise, governors are limited to one three-year term.) The Board decided not to refill the position early; since the WYLD position is up for election this year, the position will not be vacant for long. Many thanks to Governor Lee for her dedicated service representing the WYLD on the Board.

Washington State Bar Foundation

The Board approved a proposal from the <u>Bar Foundation</u>* to add a charitable donation check-off option to the annual WSBA licensing renewal form, beginning with 2013 licensing. Funds raised by the Bar Foundation support WSBA efforts to promote diversity and justice.

Legislative Issues* for the 2012 Session

The WSBA's three new legislative proposals passed the Legislature. Those proposals relate to estate tax apportionment (HB 2224), creating a new type of forprofit corporation called a social purpose corporation (SHB 2239), and escrow licensing for attorneys (SB 6218). Of the WSBA's two returning proposals from the 2011 legislative session, only SSB 5627, which relates to the Service members' Civil Relief Act, passed the Legislature. The bill that did not pass, HB 1221, which provides protections for National Guard and reservist higher education students, had full bipartisan support all along the way in both the House and Senate; however, time ran out and HB 1221 died in Senate Rules. HB 1221 will likely be added to the list of WSBA legislative

proposals for the 2013 session.

Although the Legislature adjourned the regular session on March 8, a special session convened on March 12 after legislators were unable to reach majority agreement on budget issues. A special session can last no more than 30 days.

Special thanks to the many WSBA section executive committee members who volunteered countless hours to achieve passage of WSBA-proposed legislation and to review and comment on other legislation relevant to the practice of law.

10th Congressional District

As a result of the 2010 Census, Washington now has an additional congressional district. The Board is required to have a governor representing each congressional district; however, the Board is at its maximum membership. A Board committee has been examining ways to incorporate the new 10th District position. Committee Chair **Leland Kerr** (Kennewick) presented the first reading of the committee's recommendation, which is to split the 7th District into two sub-districts, instead of the current three. The Board is scheduled to take action on this item at its June 2012 meeting.

Upcoming Events

Many more events are listed on the Legal Community Events Calendar on the WSBA homepage, <u>www.wsba.org</u>.

April

April 19: <u>QLaw 7th Annual Banquet</u>, Hyatt at Olive 8, Seattle

April 27–28: WSBA Board of Governors meeting, Tulalip Resort, Tulalip

May

May 4: Northwest Immigrant Rights Project 28th
Anniversary Celebration, Experience Music Project,
Seattle

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

May 31: 7th Annual Statewide Diversity Conference Reception, Seattle

June

June 1: 7th Annual Statewide Diversity Conference, Seattle University School of Law, Seattle

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</u> Annual Awards Dinner, Sheraton Hotel, Seattle

* Web addresses

Moderate Means Program http://www.wsba.org/mmp

Moderate Means Program Signup http://www.moderatemeanswa.org

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

Washington State Bar Foundation http://www.wsba.org/foundation

Legislative Issues http://www.wsba.org/legislativeactivity