



The Board of Governors met April 23-24 in Port Angeles. For information on this or past BOG meetings, please contact Margaret Shane at margarets@wsba.org.

Bylaw Review Committee Recommendations

The Bylaw Review Committee is close to finalizing its two-year comprehensive review of the WSBA Bylaws and presented proposed changes to the BOG. Changes were proposed to the following sections: Functions, Definitions and General Provisions, Membership, Governance, Appropriations and Expenses, Elections, Meetings, Member Referenda and BOG Referrals to Membership, Committees, Task Forces, and Councils, Regulatory Boards, Sections, Washington Young Lawyers Division (WYLD), *Bar News* Editor, Records Disclosure and Preservation, Indemnification, Keller Deduction, and Amendments. You can find details on the approved changes in April's BOG minutes after the June 4th BOG meeting at <http://www.wsba.org/info/bog/2009-2010+minutes.htm>. For information prior to then, please contact Margaret Shane at margarets@wsba.org. Most changes to the Bylaws become effective on October 1, 2010.

Renewal of Casemaker Contract for Free Online Research

Over the last five years, WSBA has provided access to the online legal research tool Casemaker at no cost to members. The Casemaker contract is set to expire later this year, and staff has evaluated other vendors to determine if Casemaker should continue as the free online research member benefit or if other systems would better meet members' needs. The BOG approved staff's recommendation to continue with Casemaker for an additional year.

Proposed Model Residential Construction Contract

Rob Crick, chair of the Construction Law Section (Spokane), and **Andy Maron**, past Section chair (Seattle), made a presentation to the BOG on behalf of the Construction Law Section. Chair Crick advised that many residential construction projects, like home remodels, are done without the benefit of a formalized

contract, which can cause problems when disputes arise. The Section has created a model contract for use by both consumers and contractors, to be provided free, perhaps on the WSBA website. The Section is working on a second model contract and has proposed building a library of forms that could be made available to the public. The BOG will be asked to make a decision on the proposal at an upcoming board meeting.

Legislative Committee Wrap-up

Contract Lobbyist **Jeanne Cushman** and Deputy Director of External Relations **Steve Larsen** provided the BOG with highlights from the last legislative session. One of the major issues over the session related to the state budget and revenue challenges facing the legislature. There were a number of proposals to increase taxes, including sales taxes on legal services. Another proposal was to raise the B&O tax for legal services. The BOG Legislative Committee weighed in heavily on these issues and worked closely with legislators to keep any increases to a minimum. The BOG Legislative Committee's efforts focused on keeping any increases short term; ensuring that any increases were shared among many professions and not just legal services; and keeping any increase to a minimum. In the end, the legislature did adopt a B&O increase, agreed to sunset the increase after three years, and kept the increase to just .3 percent for a total of 1.8 percent. An increase on sales taxes on legal services was not adopted.

Online Grievance Filing

Chief Disciplinary Counsel **Doug Ende** and Senior Developer **Ben Brown** demonstrated WSBA's new online grievance filing system, which went live in April. To view the new online grievance form, visit <https://pro.wsba.org/onlinegrievance/onlinegrievance.aspx>.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Littlewood provided an update on BOG elections, noting that four new governors will take their seats at the BOG table in September. The following districts will have new governors: 2nd, 7th-Central, and 9th. Elections are currently underway in the 2nd and 7th - Central where multiple candidates filed for the position. The fourth governor, an at-large position, will be chosen by the BOG at the June meeting. Littlewood also shared that staff continue to refine a proposal establishing a statewide moderate means program. The program would provide legal services at a reduced rate to individuals and families with moderate income levels. Staff anticipates launching the program in the fall. WSBA will recruit lawyers throughout the state to provide reduced-rate legal services and will partner with the three Washington law schools, who will handle client intake and lawyer referrals. Littlewood also relayed that the redesign of the WSBA website is moving forward, with an expected launch date in January 2011.

Access to Justice/Bar Leaders Conference

The ATJ/Bar Leaders Conference is set for June 4-6 in Wenatchee. The conference brochure is available online at <http://www.wsba.org/atj/default1.htm>. The joint theme for the conference is *Transformation: Crisis and Opportunity*, with the Access to Justice Conference focusing on *Opportunities for Justice*, and the Bar Leaders Conference turning their attention to *Leading Our Profession into a New Era*. The popular Supreme Court/Board of Governors Roundtable will take place on Saturday morning, discussing issues that can arise when the interests of the bench and the bar differ.

Upcoming Events

Many more events are listed on the Legal Community Events Calendar on the WSBA website at www.wsba.org/info/event-calendar.htm.

June

June 4: WSBA Board of Governors meeting, Coast Wenatchee Center Hotel, Wenatchee.

June 4: WYLD Board of Trustees meeting, Coast Wenatchee Center Hotel, Wenatchee.

June 4-6: Annual Access to Justice/Bar Leaders Conference, Coast Wenatchee Center Hotel, Wenatchee.

June 15: Cardozo Society of Washington State's annual L'Dor V'Dor reception.

June 23: King County Washington Women Lawyers Judicial Appreciation and Honors Luncheon, Hyatt at Olive 8, Seattle.

June 24: King County Bar Association Annual Awards Dinner, Sheraton Hotel, Seattle.

June 25: Washington Minority Bar Associations Collaboration Project Fifth Annual Statewide Diversity Conference, Seattle University School of Law, Seattle.

July

July 22-25: Washington Defense Trial Lawyers Annual Convention, Suncadia Resort, Cle Elum.

July 23-24: WSBA Board of Governors meeting, Sleeping Lady Resort, Leavenworth.

August

August 14: WYLD Board of Trustees meeting, Three Rivers Winery, Walla Walla.