

# NewsFlash



Office of the Executive Director

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The Board of Governors met December 10–11 in La Conner. For information on this or past Board meetings, please contact Margaret Shane at [margarets@wsba.org](mailto:margarets@wsba.org).

## President's Report

President **Steven Toole** (Bellevue) reported that a Board committee is being created in order to review the work of WSBA committees to ensure they are helping to advance the WSBA's Guiding Principles and Strategic Goals. The plan is for committees to submit annual reports in late May, for review by a Board committee and subsequent reporting at a Board meeting. President Toole also updated the Board about WSBA's plans to help promote [iCivics](#),\* a web-based education project created primarily for middle-school students. The vision of Justice **Sandra Day O'Connor**, iCivics was born from the concern that students are not getting the information and tools they need for civic participation. A plan that includes lawyer volunteers in classrooms is being developed.

## Executive Director's Report

**Paula Littlewood** announced that the [Moderate Means Program](#)\* has just been launched to members, and members can sign up online through [mywsba](#).\* A partnership with Washington's three law schools, the Program will bring greater access to justice for people of moderate means (those between 200 and 400 percent of the federal poverty level). The Program will be rolled out to the public in early 2011.

## Public Access to WSBA Records

At its October meeting, the Board reviewed suggested amendments to GR 31 drafted by the Board for Judicial Administration Public Records Act Work Group. At issue was whether the Board of Governors supported the proposal in that draft rule to make it applicable to the WSBA. After discussion of the ways in which the WSBA is different from most judicial agencies to which the rule would apply, it was proposed that the WSBA submit to the Supreme Court a new rule, GR 12.4, specifically addressing access to WSBA records. At the December

meeting, the Board adopted in principle that their recommendation regarding the WSBA's public-disclosure policy will be a court rule specific to the WSBA. A work group is drafting a proposed rule to be brought to the Board at its January meeting.

## Washington State Bar Foundation

Washington State Bar Foundation President **Ron Ward** (Seattle) and Vice President **Sally Savage** (Pullman) presented the Foundation's annual report. President Ward introduced **Megan McNally**, the new director of development for the Foundation. The Board approved the Foundation's request to increase the number of Foundation Board trustees from 12 to 15.

## Resolution Urging Adequate Funding of the Judicial Branch

At the request of Chief Justice **Barbara Madsen** and Judge **Deborah Fleck**, co-chairs of the Justice in Jeopardy Implementation Committee, the Board adopted a [resolution](#) in support of funding for the judicial branch that urges the state and local governments to provide the funding necessary to maintain meaningful access to the justice system.

## Legislative Issues for the 2011 Session

WSBA Legislative Committee Chair **Richard Bartholomew** (Olympia), Legislative Liaison **Kathryn Leathers**, and WSBA section proponents presented details for proposed WSBA-sponsored legislation for the 2011 legislative session. The Committee received 10 requests to sponsor legislation and recommended that the WSBA sponsor eight of them and table consideration of the remaining two proposals pending their further development. The proposals brought before the Legislative Committee included returning legislation (bills that did not pass in 2010 — for example, the personal property exemption proposal) and new proposals related to guardianships, allocating taxes between the income and principal of a trust, the Business Corporation Act, and the Uniform Parentage Act. The Board voted to sponsor each

of the bills recommended by the Legislative Committee as well as the two proposals that were tabled.

### **WSBA Leadership Institute Community-Service Project**

WSBA Leadership Institute Co-Chairs Judge **Marcine Anderson** (Shoreline) and **Bill Garcia** (Seattle) introduced two fellows from the class of 2010, **Patricia Paul** (La Conner) and **Shahzad Qadri** (Bellevue), who presented the class's community-service project — a [survey](#)\* of female members of the WSBA. Based on an ABA study by the Commission of Women in the Profession, the survey's purposes were to: 1) gather information about the legal practice for female attorneys of color; 2) evaluate and identify areas of success and areas needing improvement within the legal profession in Washington; and 3) provide information to the WSBA, local bar associations, minority bar associations, legal employers, the general public, and the broader legal community outside of Washington.

### **Local Hero Award**

At a luncheon with members of the Skagit and Island counties bench and bar, President **Steven Toole** presented Mount Vernon attorney **Tom Moser** with the Local Hero Award.

### **Other Items of Interest**

- A video entitled “[Your Day in Court: How to Make Sure Your Voice Is Heard in King County](#),\*” along with a companion [handbook](#),\* is now available. In the video, King County Superior Court Judges **Steven González** and **Mary Yu** provide information for pro se litigants about how to get their case ready for trial and courtroom procedures. The handbook includes a list of legal resources and a glossary of terms, among other valuable information.
- The Washington State Supreme Court has adopted a new court rule, [GR 34](#),\* that provides standards and procedures for waiver of court filing fees and surcharges in civil cases on the basis of indigence.

### **Upcoming Events**

*Many more events are listed on the [Legal Community Events Calendar](#)\* on the WSBA website.*

#### *January*

**January 14:** King County Bar Association Annual Martin Luther King Jr. luncheon, Sheraton Seattle Hotel

**January 27–28:** WSBA Board of Governors meeting, The Heritage Room, Olympia

**January 28:** Latina/o Bar Association of Washington 19th Annual Awards Gala, Seattle Waterfront Marriott Hotel

#### *February*

**February 16:** WYLD Board of Trustees meeting, phone conference

**February 25:** 25th Annual Legal Foundation of Washington Goldmark Luncheon, Red Lion Hotel, Seattle

#### *March*

**March 18–19:** WSBA Board of Governors meeting, Davenport Hotel, Spokane

**March 19:** WYLD Board of Trustees meeting, Spokane

#### **\* Web Addresses**

iCivics: [www.icivics.org](http://www.icivics.org)

Moderate Means Program: [www.wsba.org/moderatemeansguidelines.htm](http://www.wsba.org/moderatemeansguidelines.htm)

mywsba: [www.mywsba.org](http://www.mywsba.org)

Resolution Urging Adequate Funding of the Judicial Branch: [www.wsba.org/info/bog/resolutioncourtfunding.pdf](http://www.wsba.org/info/bog/resolutioncourtfunding.pdf)

WSBA Leadership Institute survey results: [www.wsba.org/lawyers/2010fellows.htm](http://www.wsba.org/lawyers/2010fellows.htm)

Your Day in Court video: <http://your.kingcounty.gov/kcsc/yuflash/home1.htm>

Your Day in Court handbook: <http://your.kingcounty.gov/kcsc/docs/yuhandbook.pdf>

GR 34 information: [www.wsba.org/gr34.pdf](http://www.wsba.org/gr34.pdf)

Events calendar: [www.wsba.org/info/event-calendar.htm](http://www.wsba.org/info/event-calendar.htm)