

**INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO TAKE THE OATH OF ATTORNEY:**

**APR 5(f): Oath of Attorney.** The Oath of Attorney must be taken before an elected or appointed judge, excluding judges pro tempore, sitting in open court in the state of Washington. In the event a successful applicant is outside the state of Washington and the Washington Supreme Court is satisfied that it is impossible or impractical for the applicant to take the Oath before an elected or appointed judge in this state, the Court may, upon proper application setting forth all the circumstances, designate a person authorized by law to administer Oaths, before whom the applicant may appear and take said Oath.

**Taking the Oath of Attorney in Washington State:**

Formal County Ceremony:

Some local county bar associations are conducting formal swearing in ceremonies. If you would like to attend a formal ceremony, or if you seek information regarding a formal ceremony, please contact your [local county bar association](#). If your local county bar association is not listed, but you want to participate in a formal ceremony, you may want to consider contacting another county bar association to see if you can attend their swearing in ceremony. The Oath of Attorney form will be provided for you and must be signed by both you and the judge administering the Oath; your signed form will then be sent directly to the WSBA Admissions Department by the organization sponsoring the ceremony. For information regarding details (time, locations, etc.) on formal ceremonies, please contact the specific county hosting the event.

Independent Ceremony:

Print the Oath of Attorney and take it with you to the swearing in. It is the applicant's responsibility to arrange for a qualifying judge to administer the Oath. The judge must be:

- elected or appointed;
- sitting in open court; and,
- in Washington state.

Pro tempore judges, retired judges and administrative law judges are not qualified to administer the Oath of Attorney. The Oath must be administered in open court. If you do not know a judge, contact your local County Superior Court Clerk's Office to schedule an swearing in by a judge.

Mail the original Oath of Attorney, signed by you and the judge, to the WSBA Admissions Department.

**Taking the Oath of Attorney outside the State of Washington:**

An order from the Washington Supreme Court conferring jurisdiction on an out-of-state judge to perform the ceremony is required for an out-of-state administration of the Oath. You must provide an explanation about why it would be impossible or impractical for you to travel to Washington.

Make your request online with the required out of state information. We will forward your request to the Washington Supreme Court. The Court will decide whether to issue an order conferring jurisdiction on the judge you have chosen. Upon receipt of the order, the WSBA Admissions Department will send your copy of the order to be used at the swearing in ceremony.

Mail the original Oath of Attorney, signed by you and the judge, to the WSBA Admissions Department.



# OATH OF ATTORNEY

State: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_

Court: \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_ do solemnly declare:

Please Print Full Name

1. I am fully subject to the laws of the State of Washington and the laws of the United States and will abide by the same.
2. I will support the constitution of the State of Washington and the constitution of the United States.
3. I will abide by the Rules of Professional Conduct approved by the Supreme Court of the State of Washington.
4. I will maintain the respect due to the courts of justice and judicial officers.
5. I will not counsel, or maintain any suit, or proceeding, which shall appear to me to be unjust or any defense except as I believe to be honestly debatable under the law, unless it is in defense of a person charged with a public offense. I will employ for the purpose of maintaining the causes confided to me only those means consistent with truth and honor. I will never seek to mislead the judge or jury by any artifice or false statement.
6. I will maintain the confidence and preserve inviolate the secrets of my client, and will accept no compensation in connection with the business of my client unless this compensation is from or with the knowledge and approval of the client or with the approval of the court.
7. I will abstain from all offensive personalities, and advance no fact prejudicial to the honor or reputation of a party or witness unless required by the justice of the cause with which I am charged.
8. I will never reject, from any consideration personal to myself, the cause of the defenseless or oppressed, or delay unjustly the cause of any person.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Applicant)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Applicant ID #)

*Subscribed and sworn to before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Judge)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Print Name of Judge)

