

Note: In the interest of keeping the Supreme Court up-to-date on the activities of the WSBA, all justices, unless they request otherwise, will now be included on the distribution list for *News Flash*.

Randy Gordon Elected 8th-District Governor

The BOG elected Randy Gordon to fulfill the unexpired years of Ron Ward's term, October 2003 to September 2005.

WSBA Awards

The BOG is pleased to announce that the *Excellence in Diversity Award* will be presented to the **Glass Ceiling Task Force** at the Annual Awards Dinner and Business Meeting, to be held September 11.

As announced previously, other award recipients are:

Award of Merit: **David Burman, Nicholas Gellert, Katie O'Sullivan, and Maureen Hart**—the IOLTA Defense Team

Note: In the June issue of *News Flash*, the recipients of the Award of Merit were incorrectly identified. We regret the error.

Professionalism Award: King County Superior Court Judge **Harry McCarthy**

Angelo Petrus Award for Lawyers in Public Service: **Rochelle Kleinberg-Goffe**

Outstanding Judge Award: Snohomish County District Court Judge **Stephen Dwyer**

Pro Bono Award: **Spokane County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Program** and the **Tacoma-Pierce County Bar Association Volunteer Legal Services Program**

To make a reservation for the Awards Dinner, call the WSBA Service Center at 800-945-WSBA or 206-443-WSBA, go to the WSBA website at www.wsba.org/awardsad2003.pdf, or see page 41 of the July issue of *Bar News*.

E-mail Addresses

The BOG adopted a policy stating that beginning in 2005, e-mail addresses for those who have them will be mandatory contact information.

Proposed Court Rule Changes

The BOG approved the following court rule changes to be proposed to the Supreme Court: revisions of Rules of Evidence 405, 407, 608, and 701 to comport Washington's rules with federal rules; and technical and non-substantive revisions to RAP 15.4, RALJ 9.3, RALJ 10.2, and CRLJ 63.

In light of testimony and comments from child- and victim-rights groups that children and abuse victims should be excepted from the proposed revisions to suggested changes to CrR 4.6/CrRLJ 4.6 and [new] CrR 4.11/CrRLJ 4.11 concerning the basis for parties to obtain and record statements from witnesses and victims, the BOG requested reconsideration by the Rules Committee. The BOG also asked the committee to review CrR 4.7(h)(3), which the Supreme Court returned to the WSBA with the large volume of comments they had received.

WSBA Facilities Committee

To determine where the WSBA should "live" beginning January 2007, when the current lease at the 4th and Blanchard Building expires, Facilities Committee Chair

Brooke Taylor reported that the committee was considering the possibility of extending the current lease (at the guaranteed rate of 95 percent of market), as well as two properties in the downtown Seattle core that better the parking situation and offer other building amenities. Taylor acknowledged that the ownership option was not foreclosed; however, it did not seem feasible at this point. The BOG appropriated funds to allow space-use designers to work with the committee in developing "test fit" scenarios for current and possible future properties.

Professional Development Committee

The BOG adopted the last two recommendations of the Professional Development Committee, concerning pre-admission education and a 15-credit CLE requirement in the first year of practice, after WYLD President Lance Hester, speaking for the WYLD, endorsed them with the caveats that such education:

- be low cost;
- be conducted based on a specific curriculum;
- be geographically accessible; and
- involve the WYLD in the planning.

Resolution for the Annual Business Meeting

A resolution condemning the detention of U.S. citizens without access to counsel and without the right of meaningful judicial review was timely filed for consideration at the Annual Business Meeting. The BOG ruled that the resolution falls within GR 12 and should be submitted to the Resolutions Committee for a public hearing. The public hearing will be held on September 4 at 1 p.m. at the WSBA office.

Adoption of a Resolution in Support of the Medical Use of Marijuana in Washington

Governor Ken Davidson, BOG liaison to the King County Bar Drug Policy Project, proposed a resolution calling on Washington's congressional delegation to support federal legislation to create an exception to the Controlled Substance Act for the medical use of marijuana which would remove the current conflict with the Washington State Medical Marijuana Act (RCW 69.51A). The BOG took the position that since current state law conflicts with federal law, the issue fits the GR 12 test as affecting the administration of justice. There is no suggestion of decriminalizing drug use in this resolution.

Interim Formal Ethics Opinion re Sarbanes-Oxley Regulations

The BOG adopted an interim formal ethics opinion concerning the effect of the SEC's Sarbanes-Oxley regulations on Washington attorneys' obligations under the RPCs. The opinion was presented by the Ethics 2003 Committee and is also endorsed by the RPC Committee. The interim formal ethics opinion clarifies that acting under the Sarbanes-Oxley regulations does not absolve Washington attorneys from the confidentiality provisions of the RPCs. The opinion is on the WSBA website at www.wsba.org/formalopinion.doc.

2003-2004 Budget Adopted

The adopted budget restores the eight-percent reserve suggested by the auditors, initiates a contingency reserve for possible office relocation, and restrains staff growth and salaries consistent with the current economy.

Washington State Bar Association
2101 Fourth Avenue, Suite 400
Seattle, WA 98121-2330

Jan Mischke



Upcoming Events

For a more complete listing, see the WSBA website at www.wsba.org/info/event-calendar.htm.

August 7-12

ABA Annual Meeting
San Francisco

August 23

WYLD Board of Trustees Meeting
Skamania Lodge, Stevenson

September 11

WSBA Annual Awards Dinner and Business Meeting
Bell Harbor International Conference Center, Seattle

September 11-12

WSBA Board of Governors Meeting
WSBA Office, Seattle

September 25

WSBA 50-Year Member Tribute Luncheon
Westin Hotel, Seattle

October 9

Asian Bar Association of Washington Annual Banquet
Seattle

October 17-18

WSBA Board of Governors Meeting
Fifth Avenue Suites, Portland, OR

October 23

Washington Defense Trial Lawyers Judges Reception and Awards Ceremony
Seattle Sheraton

You are welcome to use the information in *News Flash* in your own newsletters or correspondence.
News Flash is available on the WSBA website at www.wsba.org/lawyers/links/flash.htm.

*The mission of the Washington State Bar Association
is to promote justice and serve its members and the public.*