



WSBA Board of Governors Special-Meeting Recap – Aug. 23, 2016

Suggested GR12 Amendments

Following are highlights of the suggested amendments:

- A new introductory section describing the Supreme Court’s authority to regulate the practice of law.
- An additional section adding to Washington’s court rules the American Bar Association’s Model Regulatory Objectives for the Provision of Legal Services.
- A name change to the Washington State Bar, dropping the word “association.” The name change reflects the Bar’s role as both a professional association that provides services to its members and as a regulatory agency.

The suggested amendments can be found in the [board materials](#) beginning on page 14.

Suggested Amendments to Admission and Practice Rules for Administrative Coordination

The impetus behind the suggested amendments is to ensure that WSBA has the most effective and efficient system for regulating three license types: lawyers, LLLTs and LPOs. There have been changes since the APRs were adopted, including the Uniform Bar Exam and expanded admission by motion. The amendments are suggested as the best way to achieve efficiency and avoid systems that are hugely disparate. The suggested amendments can be found in the [board materials](#) beginning on page 41.

Sections Policy Work Group Recommendations Regarding Suggested Amendments to Bylaws Article XI

The work group’s proposed amendments are intended to create minimum governance standards. The work group will be preparing a final report, including recommendations about areas for further discussion and whether the work group should continue its work beyond its final meeting on September 15, 2016. The suggested amendments can be found in the [board materials](#) beginning on page 92.

Additional Proposed WSBA Bylaw Amendments

The board discussed additional amendments to the WSBA Bylaws, other than noted above. The Governance Task Force made 12 general topics of recommendations for changes to the Bylaws in 2014. In 2015, the Board adopted its governance policies. The Bylaws Work Group was formed in 2015 after consultation with the Washington Supreme Court to determine how to implement the policies.

Proposed amendments to the bylaws include:

- Changing the name to “Washington State Bar.”
- Adding and changing the definition of member to include attorneys, LLLTs and LPOs.

- Modifying the governance of the board to add three new members, including one LLLT/LPO and two public members.

The proposed Bylaw amendments were presented for a first reading and can be found in the [board materials](#) beginning on page 106.

Q&A Session

On that same day in the afternoon, the BOG conducted a Q & A session, inviting more questions from the in-person audience as well as from those joining via webcast. A recording of the August 23 Board meeting and the Town Hall Q&A session is available to view [here](#).