



**Mission:** to serve the public and the members of the Bar, to ensure the integrity of the legal profession, and to champion justice.

#### ABOUT WSBA

The WSBA is part of the judicial branch and is authorized by the state Supreme Court to license the state's legal professionals. The WSBA also administers the bar admission and license fee process, operates the lawyer discipline system, provides continuing legal education, and other services to our members and the public.

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## 2017 Legislative Priorities

### CREATE AN EASIER WAY TO UPDATE TRUST DOCUMENTS

**SB 5012** provides a simple, low-cost way for modernizing trust documents while protecting the interests of beneficiaries. Based on the 2015 Uniform Trust Decanting Act, the bill also creates provisions for specialty trusts in situations where the beneficiary has become disabled. Twenty-three states have enacted similar statutory changes to help families update important trust documents without involving the court system.

### MAKE WASHINGTON STATE MORE BUSINESS FRIENDLY

**SB 5011** modernizes Washington's Business Corporation Act to better reflect current corporate business practices, create process efficiencies, and ultimately attract new corporations to Washington state. Similar changes have been adopted in the American Bar Association's Model Business Corporation Act as well as 33 other states including Delaware, California, and New York.

*Proposed changes include:*

- A process to correct problematic corporate actions
- Authorization for corporations to select a venue for internally based corporate claims
- Transfer of assets allowed without the approval of the parent corporation shareholders (also known as asset drop-down transactions)
- Elimination of the outdated 10-year term limit on voting trusts and shareholder agreements
- Merger of parent corporation with its 90-percent owned subsidiary allowed (also known as short-form downstream merger)

### PROVIDE STATE FUNDING FOR WASHINGTON'S COURT SYSTEM

To ensure all Washington residents have equal protection, access, and representation under the law, Washington's court system needs adequate state funding.

### PROVIDE STATE FUNDING FOR CIVIL LEGAL AID SERVICES

The 2015 Civil Legal Needs Study highlighted the growing access to justice gap in Washington state, especially for low-income Washington residents dealing with legal issues. As a core governmental function, Washington's civil legal aid system needs adequate state funding.