

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

WSBA Board of Governors Nominations Committee

June 11, 2025 | 1:30 – 2:00pm

[ZOOM MEETING LINK](#)

846 5733 6439 | Passcode: 511331

Zoom Conference Call Lines: LOCAL OPTION: (253) 215-8782 | TOLL-FREE OPTION: (888) 788-0099

Matthew Dresden, Chair

Meeting Agenda

Quorum	Quorum means the presence of a majority of the voting membership (i.e., more than half the voting members). A quorum must be present when votes are taken. Quorum: 4 members
Web Page	Link
Governing Documents	Board Memo dated January 19, 2016 WSBA Boards and Committees Policy
Membership	Governor Matthew Dresden, Chair Governor Emily Arneson Governor Todd Bloom Governor Kristina Larry Governor Parvin Price Governor Allison Widney Governor Alain Villeneuve

- 1. Committee Business**
 - a. May 14, 2025 Meeting Minutes 2
- 2. WSBA Appointments**
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- 3. WSBA Nominations**
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WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

Board of Governors Nominations Committee

May 14, 2025 | Zoom

Minutes

Draft

Participants: Matthew Dresden (Chair), Emily Arneson, Todd Bloom, Kristina Larry, Parvin Price, and Alain Villeneuve

Also in attendance: Paris Eriksen, staff liaison and Governor Kari Petrasek

The following actions were taken by the Board of Governors' Nominations Committee. All votes were unanimous unless otherwise noted.

1. Meeting commenced at 1:35pm.
2. Approved the March 14, 2025 meeting minutes.
3. Approved the following appointments:

Council on Public Defense

Jocelyn Cook
Brandy Gevers
Michael Schueler
Judge Susan Fisch

ABA House of Delegates

Member: Lisa Dickinson
Member: Patrick Palace
Member (Young Lawyer): Gabriel Buehler
Member (Alternate): Amit Ranade

Civic Learning Council

Christopher DiRie

4. Meeting adjourned at 2:03pm.

CLIENT PROTECTION BOARD

ENTITY SUMMARY

CHAIR	STAFF LIAISON	BOG LIAISON
Efrem Krisher	Nicole Gustine, Asst. General Counsel (OGC)	Todd Bloom
ENTITY SIZE	OPEN POSITIONS	TOTAL APPLICATIONS TO DATE:
13	Total Vacancies for FY26: 7 Total Vacancies filled to date: 0	15

ENTITY DESCRIPTION

The [Client Protection Board](#) was established in order to promote public confidence in the administration of justice and the integrity of the legal profession by relieving or mitigating a pecuniary loss sustained by any client. Gifts from the Client Protection Board are funded by an annual assessment of members of the WSBA by order of the Washington Supreme Court. APR 15. [View the Volunteer Position Description](#). Membership requirements: 11 Lawyers Members and 2 Public Members.

REQUESTED ACTION: APPOINT 5 MEMBERS LISTED BELOW

NAME	BAR NO.	POSITION	NEW MEMBER?	TERM
Luís Beltrán	53935	Member (lawyer)	N	10.1.2025 – 9.30.2028
Carla Higginson	10653	Member (lawyer)	N	10.1.2025 – 9.30.2028
Efrem Krisher	7063	Member (lawyer)	N	10.1.2025 – 9.30.2028
Sarah Moen	30900	Member (lawyer)	N	10.1.2025 – 9.30.2028
Ruthanna Walker	59901	Member (lawyer)	N	10.1.2025 – 9.30.2028

PREVIOUS ACTIONS

MEETING DATE	NAME	BAR NO.	POSITION	TERM

FY26 DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION (IF THE ABOVE ARE APPOINTED)

SELF-IDENTIFIED	GEOGRAPHIC	
Female: 4 (36%)	District 1:	District 6: 1 (9%)
Racial/Ethnic Underrepresented Group: 5 (45%)	District 2: 1 (9%)	District 7: 1 (9%)
Disability: 0 (0%)	District 3:	District 8: 1 (9%)
LGBTQ+: 1 (9%)	District 4:	District 9: 2 (18%)
	District 5: 1 (9%)	District 10: 1 (9%)

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

TO: WSBA Board of Governors Nominations Committee
Governor Matthew Dresden, Chair

FROM: Efrem Krisher, Client Protection Board Chair
Nicole Gustine, Staff Liaison
Todd Bloom, BOG Liaison

CC: Paris Eriksen, Manager of Volunteer Engagement

DATE: May 30, 2025

RE: Recommendation(s) for Appointment to the Client Protection Board

APPOINT/NOMINATE:

- Luis Beltran, attorney member, 10/1/2025 to 9/30/2028
- Carla Higginson, attorney member, 10/1/2025 to 9/30/2028
- Efrem Krisher, attorney member, 10/1/2025 to 9/30/2028
- Sarah Moen, attorney member, 10/1/2025 to 9/30/2028
- Ruthanna Walker, attorney member, 10/1/2025 to 9/30/2028

Chair Efrem Krisher and BOG liaison Todd Bloom conducted this year's Client Protection Board (CPB) applicant evaluation. Chair Krisher and BOG liaison Bloom reviewed application materials and made these recommendations. The above applicants are returning Board members and are well known to the Chair and BOG liaison. These returning board members have shown commitment to the work of the Board, applying reasoning skills, and devoting ample time to prepare for and attend every meeting, and participating fully in the Board's decision-making process. These recommended lawyer applicants are well qualified, and Chair Krisher and BOG liaison deemed that no interviews were necessary.

The CPB received eight applications for seven lawyer member vacancies. The five recommended applicants are well qualified and possess the skills needed to carry out the work of the Board. If these appointments go forward, the Board will have two remaining vacancies for the term beginning 10/1/2025. The CPB seeks applicants from a wide variety of backgrounds, geographic locations, areas of practice, years of experience, and a diverse range of racial, ethnic, gender, age, sexual orientation, disability status, and religious affiliation, thus promoting better outcomes in its decision-making duties.

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

TO: WSBA Board of Governors Nominations Committee
Governor Matthew Dresden, Chair

FROM: Lisa Amatangel, WSBA Office of General Counsel Associate Director
Nicole Gustine, WSBA Assistant General Counsel and Public Records Officer

CC: Paris Eriksen, Manager of Volunteer Engagement

DATE: May 30, 2025

RE: Recommendation(s) for Appointment as Records Request Appeals Officer

APPOINT/NOMINATE:

- *Appoint Timothy Feulner to serve as Records Request Appeals Officer (RRAO) pursuant to General Rule (GR) 12.4(h) for a term beginning on October 1, 2025, and ending on September 30, 2027.*

The Records Request Appeals Officer (RRAO) is a position created by GR 12.4 (effective July 1, 2014). The RRAO conducts any requested second-level review, following a first-level review by the Executive Director, of records disclosure decisions made by WSBA's public records officer. Review by the RRAO is informal and summary but, in the sole discretion of the RRAO, may include briefing and oral argument. Decisions of the RRAO are final unless the requestor asks for, and the Washington Supreme Court decides to grant, discretionary review. The RRAO must be appointed by the Board of Governors. See GR 12.4(h).

We recommend that the Board of Governors appoint Timothy Feulner for a two-year term as RRAO, beginning on October 1, 2025, and ending on September 30, 2027. GR 12.4 does not specify a term length or whether an incumbent is eligible for reappointment. Past practice has been to recommend that after an initial one-year term, the RRAO be eligible for reappointment to subsequent two-year terms. We believe that is still a good approach.

We recommend that the RRAO continue to serve in a volunteer capacity and be reimbursed for all necessary and reasonable expenses incurred in the completion of the duties. Though the current workload does not warrant additional compensation, this issue can be revisited in future years if it appears necessary.

Mr. Feulner was the only applicant who applied through the WSBA volunteer recruitment process. In reviewing his application, we considered his experience with public records laws, overall work experience and credentials, whether he had experience serving in an adjudicative capacity, past volunteer service with WSBA, and diversity, equity, and inclusion.

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

TO: WSBA Board of Governors Nominations Committee
Governor Matthew Dresden, Chair

FROM: Laurie Powers, General Counsel

CC: Paris Eriksen, Manager of Volunteer Engagement

DATE: May 28, 2025

RE: Conflicts Review Officer Annette Hayes

APPOINT/NOMINATE:

- Annette Hayes

I. Background

The Office of General Counsel administers Conflicts Review Officers under ELC 2.7. Conflicts Review Officers (CROs) are responsible for reviewing grievances filed against disciplinary counsel and other lawyers employed by the Association, hearing officers, CROs and CROs pro tempore, Disciplinary Board members, officers and members of the Board of Governors, and staff, attorneys, and judicial officers of the Supreme Court.

Per ELC 2.7(b)(1), “[e]ach Conflicts Review Officer is appointed for a three-year term on a staggered basis and may be recommended for reappointment at the discretion of the Board of Governors.” In October 2024, Annette Hayes was to be appointed to fill the last year of a vacated three-year position, with a planned end date of September 30, 2025, subject to reappointment by the Board of Governors. Inadvertently, and only recently discovered, she was instead appointed for a full three-year term of October 2024 through September 2027. This means that there are now two CRO positions ending in 2027, rather than the three-year staggered terms contemplated by ELC 2.7 (b)(1).

Annette Hayes is aware of the inadvertent mistake regarding her term as a Conflicts Review Officer and has agreed to serve as a Conflicts Review Officer for another three-year term. If reappointed, Annette Hayes’ appointment would end September 30, 2028. As a prior member of the Disciplinary Board, Annette Hayes meets the eligibility requirements of ELC 2.7 (b) (3) to be appointed as a CRO.

II. Action Requested

We request that the Nominations Committee recommend that 1) Annette Hayes’ original appointment letter be revised to reflect that her current term expires on September 30, 2025; and 2) Annette Hayes be re-appointed for a full-three year term, beginning October 1, 2025, and ending September 30, 2028.