

# WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

## Board of Governors 5th Congressional District Governor Position Candidate Profile



### FRANCIS ADEWALE

WSBA #: 30089

I began my legal career in Nigeria before immigrating to the U.S. where I became a Public Defender. I helped create a Community Court. I am current Chair of the Access to Justice Board (ATJ), and former board member/trustee of the Spokane County Bar Association/VLP. Honors include Spokane Human Rights Award, WACDL's President Award, SCBA Smithmoore P. Myers Professionalism Award, and the WSBA Apex Award.

#### **What is your understanding of the role of the WSBA Board of Governors and how do you intend to fulfill the roles and its obligations?**

The WSBA Board of Governors' primary role is to determine policies and approve each year's budget, while moving forward short-term strategic goals in a manner that honors the WSBA's mission and guiding principles. I view my role and obligations in the nature of trust. I believe in collaboration and bringing people together for the common good of our noble profession. I will be accessible to members; listening to and harmonizing the interests of all. I will ensure the 5<sup>th</sup> district has a voice in decisions that impact our geographic area, legal practices, local courts and the ethical practice of law.

#### **Please share an example of how you've demonstrated your understanding and support of the WSBA mission to protect the public and the members of the Washington State Bar Association, to ensure the integrity of the legal profession and to champion justice?**

I helped establish Spokane Community Court, bringing justice closer to the homeless community while reducing the impact of homelessness on local businesses. I chair the ATJ Board. In this capacity, I wrote an Op-Ed on funding civil legal aid and appeared before legislators to urge better funding of the justice system.

I teach Public Administration classes at Whitworth. I educate students on the rule of law and independence of the judiciary by drawing upon my experiences as an immigrant from a country where democratic rights are not guaranteed.

I speak on justice in forums across the state.