

# WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

## BOARD OF GOVERNORS SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

**Virtual**  
**April 1, 2026**

### Call to Order and Welcome

The special meeting of the Board of Governors of the Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) was called to order by President Francis Adewale on Wednesday, April 1, 2026, at 3:30 p.m. This special meeting convened to address potential action with respect to (1) a proposed rule by the United States Department of Justice regarding the review of state bar complaints and allegations against DOJ attorneys and (2) Amendments to the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. Governors in attendance were:

Tom Ahearne  
Emily Arneson  
Christopher Bhang  
Todd Bloom  
Matthew Dresden  
Kevin Fay  
Kristina Larry  
Nam Nguyen  
Kari Petrasek  
Parvin Price  
Allison Widney  
Alain Villeneuve

Officers and Executive Staff in attendance were President Francis Adewale, Immediate-Past President Sunitha Anjilvel, Executive Director Terra Nevitt, Chief Disciplinary Counsel and Parliamentarian Doug Ende, Chief, Chief Regulatory Counsel Renata Garcia, Advancement Department Director Kevin Plachy, General Counsel Laurie Powers, and HR Director & Chief Culture Officer Glynnis Klinefelter Sio.

Also in attendance were Aziza Ozgoren, Rex Nolte, Luke Garrett, David Montes, Amanda Pollard, Randy Winn, Kelly Schmidt, Mary Sakaguchi, M. Long, Anne Watanabe, Julianne Unite, and Carolyn MacGregor.

### Member & Public Comments

President Adewale opened the floor for member and public comments, limiting each speaker to three minutes. Seven individuals—Luke Garrett, David Montes, Amanda Pollard, Randy Winn, Kelly Schmidt, M. Long, and Anne Watanabe—provided comments, all expressing opposition to the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) proposed rule and urging the Board to respond to the proposal during the public comment period.

President Adewale thanked all commenters for their participation and assured them that their input would be considered in the Board's deliberations.

### Executive Session

The Board entered executive session at 3:50 p.m. to receive and discuss legal advice regarding (1) the rule

proposed by the DOJ on the review of state bar complaints and allegations against DOJ attorneys, and (2) an amendment to the Service Members Civil Relief Act. The executive session concluded at 4:21 p.m. and the Board returned to public session.

Discuss Potential Action with Respect to a Proposed Rule by the United States Department of Justice: Review of State Bar Complaints and Allegations Against DOJ Attorneys

The Board discussed the proposed rule, which would give the DOJ a “right of first review” of ethics complaints filed against DOJ attorneys, as well as give the DOJ authority to restrain state disciplinary enforcement action while the DOJ conducted its review. Discussion addressed the legal and practical flaws in the DOJ’s proposed displacement state enforcement proceedings and the importance of maintaining intact state authority over attorney conduct. Members of the Board noted the significance of submitting a comment to ensure standing in any future litigation.

Gov. Parvin Price moved that the WSBA submit a comment opposing the proposed rule, with the comment to be drafted by Chief Disciplinary Counsel and reviewed and signed by President Adewale. The motion passed with one negative vote.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, President Adewale adjourned the meeting at 4:45 p.m. on Wednesday, April 1, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

*Terra Nevitt*

Terra Nevitt  
WSBA Executive Director & Secretary