

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

Board of Governors August Meeting Update

A summary prepared by WSBA of the Board of Governors (Board) meeting held Aug. 20-21 in Boise, Idaho. The agenda, materials, and video recording from this Board of Governors meeting are [online](#). The next regular meeting is Sept. 23-24. The Board of Governors is WSBA's governing body charged with determining general policies of the Bar and approving its annual budget. To subscribe to the Board Meeting Notification list, email barleaders@wsba.org.

NEED TO KNOW

1. **New WSBA Leadership.** Congratulations to new WSBA Treasurer Bryn Peterson (District 9 Governor), who will begin his term at the start of the new fiscal year in October. Also, District 7-South Governor-Elect Serena Sayani was sworn in a month ahead of schedule as Governor Jean Kang resigned to continue to focus on family during the pandemic.
2. **Vaccinations.** The Board of Governors passed a COVID policy—applicable to itself and other WSBA volunteers—that requires vaccinations for anyone doing in-person work as a WSBA volunteer or representative, as aligned with the [Washington Supreme Court's recent order](#). The WSBA Executive Director is likewise implementing a vaccination requirement for staff. More details will be available soon about implementation. The board noted that, with passage of this policy, the WSBA has a duty to continue to provide volunteers with robust options for virtual participation. [Read the policy.](#)
3. **2023 License Fees.** The board voted to keep license fees steady for all license types for 2023. The Court will review the license fee for reasonableness and may modify the license fee if it determined it is not reasonable. No-increase in license fees have already been approved for 2022. ([See page 7.](#))
4. **Free Legal Research Tool.** Reminder: In September, Fastcase and Casemaker—currently two different legal research platforms offered free to WSBA members—will merge under the Fastcase umbrella. Users will be able to access more information about the merger when they log on to either platform in the coming days. The WSBA is working closely with Fastcase to ensure a smooth transition and continue to provide a free, high-quality legal research tool to members. If you have questions, contact LegalResearch@wsba.org.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Board:

- Held a roundtable discussion with Idaho State Bar Board of Commissioners to talk about topics of mutual interest such as malpractice insurance requirements, federal lawsuits affecting integrated bars, access to justice, governance models, and the need for lawyers in rural areas.

- Looked at the in-progress 2021-22 WSBA budget, which will be presented for approval—after another Budget and Audit meeting with updated financial information—at the September meeting. ([See page 9.](#)) [More information about the budget draft, process, and Budget and Audit meetings is online.](#)
- Heard a presentation about the [Washington Leadership Institute](#), a partnership between the WSBA and University of Washington School of Law, and its mission to recruit, train, and develop traditionally underrepresented attorneys for future leadership positions in the legal community. The [application process for the 2021-22 cohort](#) is open now through Sept. 24.
- Approved funding to install secure-access glass doors at the entrance to the public floor at the WSBA offices for the safety of employees, members, and volunteers.
- Heard a high-level report regarding climate and culture and survey of the WSBA’s employees; the board then focused on one of the recommendations in the report: clarifying its governance operating mode—specifically, agreeing on the roles and responsibilities for the WSBA Board of Governors and its officers. ([See page 68.](#))
- Approved the Council on Public Defense’s comment to the Washington Supreme Court supporting proposed amendments in CrR 3.1 and CrR 7.8. The Council believes the proposed rules will result in greater access to justice and assist in the proportionate administration of the public defense function throughout the state. ([See page 39.](#))
- Heard a presentation from the WSBA Court Rules and Procedure Committee.
- Heard from a member urging adoption of a policy to require the disclosure of *pro tempore* judicial service as a potential conflict of interest for those sitting on the WSBA Board of Governors. The board will consider such a policy in September. ([See page 52](#) for the suggested language.)