



## Board of Governors March Meeting Recap

March 6, 2026

A summary, prepared by the Washington State Bar Association Board of Governors (Board), of its meeting held March 6, 2026, Grand Mound, WA. The agenda, materials, and video recording from this Board meeting are [posted online](#). The next regular meeting is May 1-2 in Wenatchee. The Board is the WSBA's governing body charged with determining general policies of the WSBA and approving its annual budget.

### TOP TAKEAWAYS

**Local Hero.** The WSBA recognized [Trevor Zandell](#), an honor bestowed by the WSBA President in partnership with county bar associations to recognize colleagues who make noteworthy contributions to their communities. Trevor was nominated by the Thurston County Bar Association for his unwavering commitment to service, whether as a board president for United Way of Thurston County, as a youth sports coach, or as a leader with the Thurston County Bar.

**Celebration of Law Clerks.** The WSBA held its second annual celebration for graduating [APR 6 Law Clerks](#). The Law Clerk Program is an alternative to law school, a 4-year course of study designed to provide educational and practical experience through a combination of work and study with an experienced lawyer or judge. This year's ceremony featured keynote speaker King County District Court [Judge Fa'amomoi Masaniai](#), the first Law Clerk graduate to join a judicial bench.

**Annual Meeting with the Washington Supreme Court.** The Board traditionally meets with the Court in March to talk about mutual interests. This year's topics included updates on the [Entity Regulation Pilot Project](#), [new pathways to licensure](#), [Equity and Justice Action Plan](#), [Justice Gap Scoping Work Group](#), and [Rule of Law Ambassador Program](#). [Watch a recording of the meeting on TVW.](#)

**Pledge to Preserve the Independence of the Profession.** In line with values and commitments made as part of the [Rule of Law Ambassador Program](#), the Board as an entity agreed to sign the National Conference of Bar President's (NCBP) Pledge to Preserve the Independence of the Legal Profession and the Judicial System and approved sponsoring a related ABA House of Delegates resolution. Patrick Palace, NCBP President and former WSBA President, told the Board he drafted the pledge in response to growing concerns about threats to judicial independence and the rule of law and to unite bar leaders across the nation in support of democratic governance. Board members remarked that these principles underlie the [Speak Up for Justice Washington!](#) tour, a partnership between the ambassador program and county bars. The WSBA will sponsor a related resolution before the ABA House of Delegates at the ABA annual meeting in August. [Read the full pledge here.](#) ([See page 241.](#))

**Lunch and Learn Events: Immigration Enforcement.** The [Rule of Law Ambassador Program](#) was an prominent topic throughout the March meeting, with Board and Court leaders emphasizing the need for legal professionals to be present in their communities to uphold the rule of law—as sources of good information, to build relationships, and for civic engagement. Toward that goal, the WSBA is creating an ongoing series of virtual lunch-and-learn events to equip legal professionals to answer questions and be resources about hot topics in the law. The first three events—with free CLE credit available—will focus on federal immigration enforcement, with all-star panels ready to answer your questions about these intersecting laws: Fourth Amendment rights (noon Monday, March 30); First and Second Amendment rights (noon Thursday, April 2); and jurisdictional conflicts/supremacy (noon Tuesday, April 7). Email [ambassadors@wsba.org](mailto:ambassadors@wsba.org) to receive registration information as well as ongoing ambassador opportunities, events, and resources.

**The Board also:**

- Approved comments to CrR 4.2, CrR 4.7, CrRLJ 4.7, and GR 33, as recommended by the WSBA Court Rules and Procedures Committee. This committee is actively reviewing the Criminal Rules for Superior Courts and the Criminal Rules for Courts of Limited Jurisdiction this year. The comments will now be submitted to the Court for consideration during the public comment period. ([See page 25.](#))
- Heard an update on the experiential pathway to licensure, as an alternative to the bar exam. ([See page 40.](#) and expect to learn more about recommendations for [implementation of the new pathways to licensure](#) in an upcoming Bar News.)
- Appointed a new trustee to the Washington State Bar Foundation. ([See page 23.](#))
- Approved changes recommended by the Board's Governance Committee to the WSBA Bylaws regarding political activities by governors and officers. ([See page 33.](#))

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