



Board of Governors Meeting Recap

May 1-2, 2026

A summary prepared by the WSBA of the Board of Governors (Board) meeting held May 1-2, 2026, in Wenatchee, WA. The agenda, materials, and video recording from this Board meeting are posted online. The next regular meeting is July 23-24 in Tulalip. The Board is the WSBA's governing body charged with determining general policies of the WSBA and approving its annual budget. To subscribe to the Board Meeting Notification list, email barleaders@wsba.org.

Law Day: Calling All Legal Ambassadors (that's YOU)! The Board commemorated Law Day on May 1 by announcing a joint campaign between the WSBA, Washington Supreme Court, and [Lawyers in the Classroom](#) program. We are asking every legal professional to take a pledge to be in a classroom on—or around—Constitution Day (Sept. 17), bringing the nation's founding document to life for the next generation of leaders. Take the pledge now, and we will wrap you in support in the coming weeks as you connect with a teacher and prepare to engage with students. "As a legal community, we feel deeply compelled to respond to a rise in civic cynicism, and one of the most meaningful and hopeful ways we can do so is by speaking to the next generation of leaders," said Chief Justice Debra Stephens. "Legal professionals witness the Constitution's real-world application and promise every day, and that's the perspective we can bring to the classroom. We want every student to understand their power, because the Constitution and the future belong to them."

- [Watch the Law Day press event at the Temple of Justice](#)
- [Watch Justice Mungia talk about the power of lawyer volunteers in classrooms.](#)
- [Take the pledge!](#) We started strong on Law Day, but we can do better—let's get hundreds and hundreds of volunteers in classrooms next September!

Congratulations to Newly Appointed Officers and Governors. The Board selected District 10 Governor Nam Nguyen as incoming president-elect, to serve as WSBA president for the 2027-2028 term. ([See page 185.](#)) Because no candidates filed in the recent election for expiring governor terms, the Board selected two individuals to serve in those seats until the next election cycle: Norma Linda Urefia for District 7-North and Qian "Sophi" Ying for District 8. They will serve terms beginning Sept. 26, 2026, and ending in September 2027. The Board also selected Min K. Kang to fill the remainder of Governor Kari Petrasek's term. She will vacate her District-2 seat in September when she becomes president. Incoming Governor Kang's term will begin Sept. 26, 2026, and run through September 2028. ([See page 193.](#))

Supporting Member Well-Being as a Strategic Goal. The Well-Being Task Force delivered its final report—a comprehensive road map for improving the well-being of Washington legal professionals—after more than two years of widespread research and surveying. The report highlights five areas of recommendation:

1. Normalize help seeking.
2. Expand education and training.
3. Improve access to resources and protect confidentiality.
4. Build connection and mentoring at scale.
5. Pursue structural and policy reforms.

[Read the entire report on the task force's webpage.](#) WSBA leaders will now determine how to implement the recommendations and then return to the Board with specific policy questions. The report makes clear, and Board members agreed, that one of the most important elements of implementation will be collaboration with legal professionals and different communities to ensure solutions are inclusive and well understood.

Local Hero. The WSBA named [David J. Bentsen](#) a Local Hero, an honor bestowed by the WSBA President in partnership with county bar associations to recognize colleagues who make noteworthy contributions to their communities. David was nominated by Chelan-Douglas County colleagues for his vital leadership role within the legal community and his prolific volunteer work, including with Chelan-Douglas Volunteer Attorney Services and the Wenatchee Valley Senior Center.

Regulatory Proposals Regarding Bar Exam and Admissions. The Board considered several recommendations to amend Admission to Practice Rules (APR) and WSBA Bylaws that relate to Bar admissions and licensing. ([See page 135.](#)) The amendments seek to:

- Eliminate the expiration of bar exam scores and remove the requirement to pass the bar exam for a current WSBA member returning to active status. (Discussion and first reading.)
- Eliminate outdated and exclusionary language and reduce the active legal experience required for a lawyer from a common law jurisdiction to sit for the bar exam. (Discussion and first reading.)
- Amend the definition of active legal experience. (Discussion and first reading.)
- Change the definition of approved law schools. (Approved by the Board.)
- Adjust the application deadlines to administer the LPO exam on the first Monday in October and April (instead of aligning the deadline to lawyer bar exam) and add one additional late filing deadline for the NextGen bar exam. (Approved by the Board.)
- Expand the pool of examiners on the Board of Bar Examiners from 50 to 75 members to support grading of the NextGen exam and portfolio review for the experiential alternative to the bar exam. (Approved by the Board.)

An Updated Professional Oath? The Chair of the [WSBA Oath Review and Drafting Task Force](#) presented an interim report. The task force formed in July 2025 to consider the preadmission oaths taken by licensed legal professionals in Washington and, as appropriate, to make recommendations to update and reinvigorate the content of those oaths. To date, the task force has examined the history and content of oaths in Washington and throughout the nation, conducted surveys, and formed two subcommittees: a Subcommittee on Revision of Existing Oath Provisions and a Subcommittee on Potential New Oath Provisions. Stay tuned for more information as the task force develops its recommendations and seeks feedback from members along the way. ([See page 254.](#))

The Board also:

- Approved a \$0 Client Protection Fund Assessment for 2027 and \$5 for 2028, as recommended by the Budget and Audit Committee after careful consideration of the current level of the fund and historic range of gifts made from it annually. The Court will consider the recommendation for approval as part of the annual license fee. ([See page 356.](#))
- Approved the slate of candidates—as recommended by the DEI Council—for a Board of governor at-large position, to go before members in an election beginning May 15. ([See page 441.](#))
- In response to a request to delegate authority to the Court Rules and Procedures Committee for initial prescreening of proposed rule changes under GR 9(f)(2), requested a draft of a committee charter that would reflecting the proposed delegation. ([See page 361.](#))
- Received confirmation that the [Board's comment](#) on a Department of Justice proposed rule, “Review of State Bar Complaints and Allegations Against Department of Justice Workers” has been publicly posted. The delay was due to the DOJ having to respond to more than 1 million comments.
- Approved a new member of the Washington State Bar Foundation Board of Trustees. ([See page 263.](#))