



Board of Governors November Meeting Recap

Nov. 14, 2025

A summary, prepared by the Washington State Bar Association Board of Governors (Board), of its meeting held Nov. 14, 2025, at the WSBA Conference Center in Seattle. The agenda, materials, and video recording from this Board meeting are [posted online](#). The next regular meeting is on 16-17, 2026, in Seattle. 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.

TOP TAKEAWAYS

Legal Profession Pipeline. The Board held its annual discussion with the deans of Washington's law schools and the chair of the Law Clerk Board to talk about trends, opportunities, and challenges with respect to legal education and the legal profession. Topics included innovative methods and programs to grow the legal pipeline, especially in rural areas of state; ways the WSBA can support and engage with law schools; encouragement for legal professionals to get involved with K-12 schools to inspire future legal professionals; and bar-exam preparation.

2026 Legislative Session. The Board approved the WSBA's 2026 Legislative Priorities, which include supporting and advancing bills that promote access to justice, provide funding for the state's court system, and provide funding for civil legal aid and public defense services. The Board also recommitted to its position that [lawmakers should create a process to study the inefficiencies and inequities created by local court rules, funding, and technology](#). (See page 44.)

2027 License Fee. The Board followed its license fee policy to adopt a \$7 increase to the active-lawyer license fee next year. Per its policy, the Board applied an inflation factor (Washington L&I COLA) to the current fees to reflect the real and changing value of the dollar; a strict application of the inflation factor would have yielded a \$32 increase. The Board then evaluated projected

expenses and revenues and the bar's unrestricted reserve fund and decided to lower the inflation-generated factor by \$25 for a net \$7 increase. The Washington Supreme Court will now review the Board's 2027 fee recommendations for reasonableness. Learn more about [the Board's license fee policy](#) and its goal to create a stable, predictable, and sustainable annual budgeting process for members. ([See page 39.](#))

Pass Score for New Bar Exam. The Washington Supreme Court adopted the NextGen Uniform Bar Exam (UBE), with administration to begin in July 2026. That new exam requires a new pass score, which is set state by state. The Board looked at resources and score mapping conducted by the National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE) and voted to recommend that the Court adopt a passing score of 616, comparable to the standard under the current iteration of the exam. That recommendation will now go to the Court for consideration. [Learn more about the NextGen Bar Exam and other licensure pathways](#) approved by the Court in 2024. ([See page 180.](#))

The Board also:

- Approved an updated list of interview questions for the Judicial Recommendation Committee. ([See page 37.](#))
- Voted to terminate the WSBA CLE Committee ([see page 71](#)).
- Held first-read presentations about proposed amendments to WSBA Bylaws regarding political activity by WSBA Governors and Officers and the Board's conflict of interest policy ([see page 48](#)).
- Held its annual mandatory anti-harassment training.

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