

WSBA Policy on Endorsing Products or Services

Excerpt from December 1990 BOG Minutes:

AIRBORNE EXPRESS PROPOSAL: The Board of Governors was provided with a proposal from Airborne Express seeking endorsement of a discounted overnight package delivery service for members of the Washington State Bar. It was moved, seconded, and passed that the Board of Governors decline to entertain this proposal.

Excerpt from May 1991 BOG Minutes:

WSBA INSURANCE TRUST FUND: Joe Nappi, Jr. appeared as "Chair" of the WSBA Insurance Trust Fund. He submitted a report to the Board seeking (1) permission to terminate the insurance trust fund, and (2) guidance on what future role the WSBA may care to play with insurance products.

Mr. Nappi gave a history of the creation of the fund and its performance. He noted that no policies had been written by the fund since the early 1980's. There are still approximately 300 people insured through the fund and there is a residue balance of \$6,321. He informed the Board that he had hired the firm of Davis Wright Tremaine to counsel the fund on termination.

Following discussion it was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously to accept the recommendation that the WSBA Insurance Trust Fund be terminated, that the legal expenses of Davis Wright Tremaine be paid out of the remaining funds, and that existing insurance contracts be transferred to the Washington State Bar Association as the policy holder. It was the specific understanding of the Board that such a transfer would impose no administrative or legal obligations on the WSBA.

The Board then took up the issue of the role of the WSBA in providing health and disability insurance benefits to its members. Mr. Nappi reported that the WSBA Insurance Trust Fund had studied the issue and had no specific recommendation. It had determined that there were sufficient market opportunities to provide the needed insurance products, so that there was no clearly defined role for the WSBA. It was moved, seconded, and passed 5 to 1 (Howell dissenting) to abolish the WSBA Insurance Trust Fund Committee, insofar as it was in the

Board of Governors' authority to do so, and to eliminate the WSBA role in endorsing insurance products.

Excerpt from March 1993 BOG Minutes:

Policy on Endorsing Products and/or Services. The Executive Director provided the Board of Governors with a memo noting that he had received a number of proposals seeking WSBA endorsement and/or sponsorship, e.g., an Airborne Express discount package, an affinity credit card program, a phone service package, and a workers comp administrator package. The Executive Director asked the Board if it was interested in reviewing its long-standing policy of declining such endorsements because of the fiscal constraints of the WSBA. The pros and cons of such a change in policy were discussed. It was then moved, seconded, and passed unanimously to affirm the existing policy of declining to endorse products or services, with the exception of uniquely legal products such as professional malpractice insurance.

Excerpt from June 1995 Minutes:

WSBA POLICY ON ENDORSING PRODUCTS OR SERVICES: The Board was provided with a memo from Executive Director Harwick concerning the issue of the WSBA Policy on Endorsing Products and/or Services. The Board was provided with excerpts from 1990, 1991, and 1993 Board minutes where the Board had specifically declined to endorse products or services with the single exception of professional liability insurance. There was a discussion concerning whether the WSBA should reconsider this policy. Various pro and con arguments were discussed. The discussion ended when Governor Peterson's call for the question died for lack of a motion. Consequently, the Board's policy remains that it does not endorse products or services.