

# WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

Outline of topics for consideration by the Ad Hoc WSBA COVID-19 Response Task Force

- I. Members
  - a. Common Matters and Practice Management
    - i. Meeting with clients in a world of social distancing
    - ii. Working remotely
      1. Best practices (productivity)
      2. Best practices (security and privacy)
      3. Insurance Issues SSP Round Table
      - 4.
    - iii. Keeping your business afloat
      1. Small business loans
      2. Ethical staff reductions
        - a. Cutting pay versus layoffs
        - b. Deferring pay
      3. Family Medical Leave Act and other regulations
        - a. Exemptions for small law firms? (exemption changes from “more than 50” to “fewer than 500” – exceptions can be granted by US Sec of Labor)
        - b. Federal Stimulus Package – CARE Act/SBA loans and grants
    - iv. Licensing
      1. Should inactive/retired members be allowed to practice (pro-bono or otherwise) to assist during crisis?
  - b. Criminal Law Matters
    - i. Interfacing with opposing counsel (prosecutors and defense counsel)
    - ii. Filing documents and motions with the court
    - iii. Schedules and deadlines
  - c. Civil Matters
    - i. Interfacing with opposing counsel (other attorneys and pro se)
    - ii. Filing documents and motions with the court
    - iii. Schedules and deadlines
      1. Missed deadlines
    - iv. Electronic signatures and notarization/Remote witnessing of wills (AL Governor issued proclamation allowing for remote notaries and witnessing)
    - v. Insurance Issues associated with remote notary/Work through ALPS
    - vi. Somewhat obscure legal matters of new import
      1. Force Majeure - CLE Topic
      2. Insurance denials (business interruption insurance policy under a government forced shutdown) - excludes bacteria and viruses - can insurance companies deny the claim? Provide help with this. CLE Topic
      3. Employment matters - CLE Topics
      4. Family Law issues – parenting plan orders requiring visits w/out consideration of social distancing/considered essential under Governor’s order? No electronic filing in Whatcom County. Clarity on emergency motions. Counties without electronic filing procedures.
      5. Perhaps WSBA could work with WA Supreme Court to coordinate local courts - **Bar could be a clearinghouse for information.** Logistics for putting forward a motion. Communicate it on the website.



6. NW Justice Project is following local courts and monitoring compliance with orders - Could the Bar circulate areas that need clarification to Supreme Court?