

THE SUPREME COURT OF WASHINGTON

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPROVAL OF)
AMENDMENTS TO THE WSBA BYLAWS)
)
)
_____)

ORDER

NO. 25700-B-723

The Washington Supreme Court has plenary authority over the practice of law in Washington. The Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) serves under the delegated authority of the Court in regulating and administering licenses to practice law in Washington and effectuating other purposes and functions as set forth in General Rule (GR) 12 and 12.1 – 12.5. All amendments to the WSBA’s bylaws are subject to Supreme Court approval.

In an email dated November 19, 2024, the WSBA provided the Court proposed amendments to Article III, Sections B and H, of the WSBA bylaws that were approved by the Board of Governors at its November 7, 2024, meeting. The amendments permit inactive, honorary, and pro bono members to volunteer on WSBA entities and allow a member who has voluntarily resigned their WSBA membership to have the resignation displayed as “retired” on the WSBA legal directory.

Now, therefore, it is hereby

ORDERED:

That the WSBA Bylaws Amendments to Article III, Sections B and H, as described above and as provided in the attached copy of the amendments, are approved by this Court and shall be given full force and effect.

DATED at Olympia, Washington this 31st day of December, 2024.

Johnson J.
madsen, J.
Stephens, J.

Carrález, C.J.
Gearty McLeod, J.
Lu, J.
Montoya-henis, J.
Whitener J.

III. MEMBERSHIP

...

B. STATUS CLASSIFICATIONS

Membership status classifications have the qualifications, privileges, and restrictions specified.

1. Active

[Unchanged.]

2. Inactive

Inactive members must not practice law in Washington, nor engage in employment or duties that constitute the practice of law. Inactive members are not eligible to hold Bar except an inactive member may vote and hold office in a Bar section if a section's bylaws permit.

a. Inactive members may:

- 1) Join Bar sections,
- 2) Continue their affiliation with the Bar;
- 3) Change their membership status to Active pursuant to these Bylaws and any applicable court rule;
- 4) Request a free subscription to the Bar's official publication; and
- 5) Receive member benefits available to Inactive members.

b. Types of Inactive membership:

- 1) Inactive Member: Inactive members must pay an annual license fee in an amount established by the BOG and approved by the Supreme Court. They are not required to earn or report MCLE credits while Inactive, but may choose to do so, and may be required to do so to return to Active membership. Inactive members may be appointed to serve as voting or nonvoting members on any committee, board, panel, council, task force, or other Bar entity, as deemed appropriate.
- 2) Disability: Disability inactive members are not required to pay a license fee, or earn or report MCLE credits while in this status, but they may choose to do so, and they may be required to earn and report MCLE credits to return to Active membership.
- 3) Honorary: All members who have been Active or Judicial, or a combination of Active and Judicial, members for 50 years may elect to become Honorary members of the Bar. Honorary members are not required to pay a license fee. A member who otherwise qualifies for Honorary membership but wants to continue to practice law in any manner must be an Active member or, if applicable, a Pro Bono member. Honorary members may be appointed to serve as voting or nonvoting members on any committee, board, panel, council, task force, or other Bar entity, as deemed appropriate.

3. Judicial

[Unchanged.]

4. Pro Bono

A member may become a Pro Bono member by complying with the requirements of APR 3(g), including payment of any required license fee and passing a character and fitness review.

Pro Bono members must not engage in the practice of law except as permitted under APR 3(g), but may:

- a. Be appointed to serve as voting or nonvoting members on any committee, board, panel, council, task force, or other Bar entity, as deemed appropriate. In addition, up to two Pro Bono members are permitted to serve on the Pro Bono and Public Service Committee (PBPSC) and may be appointed to serve as Chair, Co-Chair, or Vice-Chair of that committee;
- b. Join Bar sections;
- c. Request a free subscription to the Bar's official publication; and
- d. Receive member benefits available to Pro Bono members.

5. Suspended

[Unchanged.]

...

H. VOLUNTARY RESIGNATION

Voluntary resignation may apply in any situation in which a member does not want to continue practicing law in Washington for any reason (including retirement from practice) and for that reason does not want to continue membership in the Bar. A member may voluntarily resign from the Bar by submitting a written request for voluntary resignation to the Bar in such form and manner as the Bar may require. If there is a disciplinary investigation or proceeding then pending against the member, or if at the time the member submits the written request the member has knowledge that the filing of a grievance of substance against such member is imminent, resignation is permitted only under the provisions of the ELC, ELPOC, or ELLLTC. A member who resigns from the Bar cannot practice law in Washington in any manner. For official purposes the former member's status will be voluntarily resigned. The former member may choose to be designated either voluntarily resigned or retired as the status in the WSBA legal directory. A member seeking readmission after resignation must comply with these Bylaws.

...