

# THE SUPREME COURT OF WASHINGTON

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPROVAL OF )  
AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLE III AND ARTICLE )  
XI OF THE WSBA BYLAWS )  
 )  
 )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

**ORDER**

NO. 25700-B-678

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 a letter dated November 2, 2021, WSBA Executive Director Terra Nevitt provided the Court proposed amendments to Article III and Article XI of the WSBA bylaws that were approved by the Board of Governors at its November 2021 meeting. The amendments to Article III and Article XI provide WSBA Sections the option of permitting inactive members of the WSBA to join a WSBA Section as voting members and serve on section executive committees as voting members.

Now, therefore, it is hereby

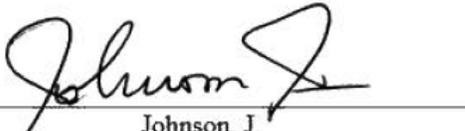
ORDERED:

PAGE 2  
ORDER NO. 25700-B-678  
APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLE III AND ARTICLE XI TO THE WSBA  
BYLAWS

That the WSBA Bylaws Amendments to Article III and Article XI, 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.

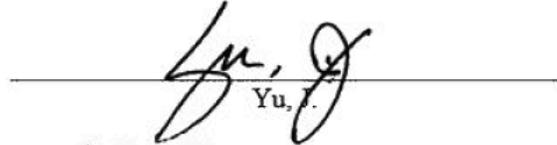
DATED at Olympia, Washington this 6<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2022.

  
González, C.J.

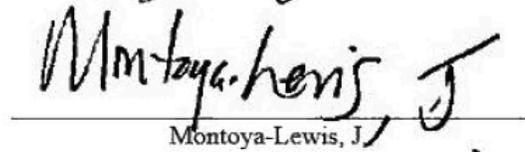
  
Johnson, J.

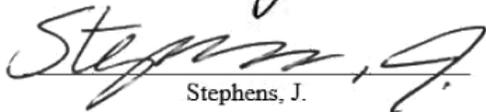
  
Gordon McCloud, J.

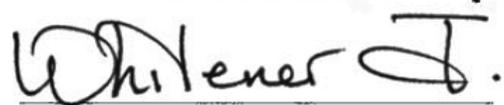
  
Madsen, J.

  
Yu, J.

  
Owens, J.

  
Montoya-Lewis, J.

  
Stephens, J.

  
Whitener, J.

### **III. MEMBERSHIP**

#### **A. MEMBER LICENSE TYPES**

1. Members of the Washington State Bar consist of these types of licensed legal professionals:
  - a. Lawyers admitted to the Bar and licensed to practice law pursuant to APR 3 and APR5;
  - b. Limited License Legal Technicians; and
  - c. Limited Practice Officers.

Members of one type do not automatically qualify to be or become a member of another type, and in order to become a member of another type the member must comply with the requirements for admission as a member of that type.

2. Lawyers licensed to practice law in Washington pursuant to APR 8 and APR 14, or who are permitted to practice law pursuant to RPC 5.5 without being licensed in Washington are not members of the Bar.
3. Membership in the Bar ends when a member is disbarred or the equivalent, the member resigns or otherwise terminates his or her license, or when the member's license is revoked or terminated for any reason.

#### **B. STATUS CLASSIFICATIONS**

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

##### **1. Active**

Any member who has been duly admitted by the Supreme Court to the practice of law in Washington State who complies with these Bylaws and the Supreme Court rules applicable to the member's license type, and who has not changed to another status classification or had his or her license suspended is an Active member.

- a. Active membership in the Bar grants the privilege to engage in the practice of law consistent with the rules governing the member's license type. Upon payment of the Active annual license fee and assessments required for the member's license type, compliance with these Bylaws and the applicable Supreme Court rules, and compliance with all other applicable licensing requirements, Active members are fully qualified to vote, hold office and otherwise participate in the affairs of the Bar as provided in these Bylaws.
- b. Active members may:
  - 1) Engage in the practice of law consistent with the rules governing their license type;
  - 2) Be appointed to serve on any committee, board, panel, council, task force, or other Bar entity;
  - 3) Vote in Bar matters and hold office therein, as provided in these Bylaws;
  - 4) Join Bar sections as voting members; and
  - 5) Receive member benefits available to Active members.

- c. All persons who become members of the Bar must first do so as an Active member.

## **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 vote or hold office therein, or serve on any committee or board, 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.
- 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.

## **3. Judicial**

- a. A member may qualify to become a Judicial member if the member is one of the following:

- 1) A current judge, commissioner, or magistrate judge of the courts of record in the State of Washington, or the courts of the United States, including Bankruptcy courts;
- 2) A current judge, commissioner, or magistrate in the district or municipal courts in the State of Washington, provided that such position requires the person to be a lawyer;
- 3) A current senior status or recall judge in the courts of the United States;
- 4) An administrative law judge, which is defined as either:
  - (a) Current federal judges created under Article I and Article II of the United States Constitution, excluding Bankruptcy court judges, or created by the Code of Federal Regulations, who by virtue of their position are prohibited by the United States Code and/or the Code of Federal Regulations from practicing law; or
  - (b) Full-time Washington State administrative law judges in positions created by either the Revised Code of Washington or the Washington Administrative Code; or
- 5) A current Tribal Court judge in the State of Washington.

- b. Members not otherwise qualified for Judicial membership under (1) through (5) above and who serve full-time, part-time or ad hoc as pro tempore judges, commissioners or magistrates are not eligible for Judicial membership.
- c. Judicial members, whether serving as a judicial officer full-time or part-time, must not engage in the practice of law and must not engage in mediation or arbitration for remuneration outside of their judicial duties.
- d. Judicial members:
  - 1) May practice law only where permitted by the then current Washington State Code of Judicial Conduct as applied to full-time judicial officers;
  - 2) May be appointed to serve on any task force, council or Institute of the Bar;
  - 3) May receive member benefits provided to Judicial members; and
  - 4) May be non-voting members in Bar sections, if allowed under the section's bylaws.
  - 5) Judicial members are not eligible to vote in Bar matters or to hold office therein.
- e. Nothing in these Bylaws will be deemed to prohibit Judicial members from carrying out their judicial duties.
- f. Judicial members who wish to preserve eligibility to transfer to another membership status upon leaving service as a judicial officer:
  - 1) must provide the member registry information required of other members each year unless otherwise specified herein, and provide the Bar with any changes to such information within 10 days of any change; and
  - 2) must annually pay any required license fee that may be established by the Bar, subject to approval by the Supreme Court, for this membership status. Notices, deadlines, and late fees will be consistent with those established for Active members.
- g. Judicial members must inform the Bar within 10 days when they retire or when their employment situation has otherwise changed so as to cause them to be ineligible for Judicial membership, and must apply to change to another membership status or to resign.
  - 1) Failure to apply to change membership status or to resign within ten days of becoming ineligible for Judicial membership, when a Judicial member has annually maintained eligibility to transfer to another membership status, is cause for administrative suspension of the member.
  - 2) A Judicial member who has not annually complied with the requirements to maintain eligibility to transfer to another membership status and who is no longer eligible for Judicial membership who fails to change to another membership status will be deemed to have voluntarily resigned.
- h. Administrative law judges who are judicial members must continue to comply with APR 11 regarding MCLE. Either judicial continuing education credits or lawyer continuing legal education credits may be applied to the credit requirement for judicial members; if judicial continuing education credits are applied, the standards for determining accreditation for judicial continuing education courses will be accepted as establishing compliance.
- i. Legal, legislative, and policy positions and resolutions taken by the BOG are not taken on behalf of Judicial members, are not considered to be those of Judicial members, and are not binding on Judicial members.

- j. The Bar's disciplinary authority over Judicial members is governed exclusively by ELC 1.2 and RPC 8.5.

#### **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 on any task force, council, or Institute of the Bar. In addition, up to two Pro Bono members are permitted to serve on the Pro Bono and Public Service Committee (PBPS) 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**

Members of any type and status can have their membership suspended by order of the Washington Supreme Court. Although suspended members remain members of the Bar, they lose all rights and privileges associated with that membership, including their authorization and license to practice law in Washington.

### **C. REGISTER OF MEMBERS**

- 1. All Bar members, including Judicial members who wish to preserve eligibility to transfer to another membership status upon leaving service as a judicial officer, must furnish the information below to the Bar:
  - a. physical residence address;
  - b. physical street address for a resident agent if required to have one pursuant to these Bylaws or by court rule;
  - c. principal office address, telephone number, and email address;
  - d. such other data as the BOG or Washington Supreme Court may from time to time require of each member

and must promptly advise the Executive Director in writing of any change in this information within 10 days of such change. Judicial members are not required to provide a physical residence address.

- 2. The Executive Director will keep records of all members of the Washington State Bar Association, including, but not limited to:
  - a. physical residence address furnished by the member;
  - b. principal office address, telephone number, and email address furnished by the member;
  - c. physical street address of any resident agent for the member;
  - d. date of admittance;
  - e. type and status of membership;
  - f. date of transfer(s) from one status to another, if any;

- g. date and period(s) of administrative suspensions, if any;
  - h. date and period of disciplinary actions or sanctions, if any, including suspension, disbarment, and revocation;
  - i. such other data as the BOG or Washington Supreme Court may from time to time require of each member.
3. Any Active member residing out-of-state must file with the Bar, in such form and manner as the Bar may prescribe, the name and physical street address of a designated resident agent within Washington State. The member must notify the Bar of any change in resident agent within 10 days of any such change.
  4. Any member who fails to provide the Bar with the information required to be provided pursuant to these Bylaws, or to notify the Bar of any changes in such information within 10 days, will be subject to administrative suspension pursuant to these Bylaws and/or the Admission and Practice Rules. Judicial members are exempt from suspension pursuant to this provision while eligible for Judicial membership and serving as a judicial officer.

#### **D. CHANGE OF MEMBERSHIP STATUS TO ACTIVE**

1. Members may change membership status as provided below.
  - a. **Transfer from Inactive to Active.**
    - 1) An Inactive member or Honorary member may transfer to Active by:
      - (a) paying an application and/or investigation fee and completing and submitting an application form, all required licensing forms, and any other required information. The fee in this paragraph is not required from an LPO or LLLT who has been inactive for 90 days or less;
      - (b) earning, within the six years preceding the return to Active status, and reporting the total number of approved MCLE credits required for one reporting period for an Active member with the same license type, and paying any outstanding MCLE late fees that are owed. If the member has been Inactive or a combination of Suspended and Inactive for less than one year, and the member would have been required to report during the time the member was Inactive and/or Suspended, the member must establish that the member is compliant with the MCLE reporting requirements for that reporting period before the member can change to Active. This paragraph does not apply to members transferring back to Active during their first MCLE reporting period;
      - (c) passing a character and fitness review essentially equivalent to that required of all applicants for admission to the Bar, pursuant to APR 20-24.3; and
      - (d) paying the current Active license fee, including any mandatory assessments, less any license fee (not including late fees) and assessments paid as an Inactive member for the same year.
    - 2) If a member was Inactive or any combination of Suspended and Inactive in Washington for more than six consecutive years, the member must earn MCLE credits in a manner consistent with the requirement for one reporting period for an Active member of the

same license type, and these credits must be earned and reported within the three years preceding the return to Active status. In addition, the member must complete a reinstatement/readmission course sponsored by the Bar, which must consist of education on law office management and professional responsibility (including the applicable RPC for the member's license type, proper handling of client funds and trust accounts, and client communications), legal research and writing, and changes in the law that apply to the member's license type, as follows:

- (a) For lawyer members, a minimum of 15 live CLE credits, consisting of at least four credit hours on law office management and professional responsibility, at least three credit hours on legal research and writing, and the remaining credit hours on recent significant changes in the law;
- (b) For LLLT members, a minimum of seven live CLE credits, consisting of at least two credit hours on law office management and professional responsibility, at least one credit hour on legal research and writing, and the remaining credit hours on recent significant changes in the law in approved LLLT practice or core education areas;
- (c) For LPO members, a minimum of seven live CLE credits, consisting of at least two credit hours on professional responsibility, and the remaining credit hours on recent significant changes in the law covered by the approved LPO Study Topics.

The member is required to pay the cost of the course. Any member completing such course will be entitled to credit towards mandatory continuing legal education requirements for all CLE credits for which such reinstatement/readmission course is accredited. The member must comply with all registration, payment, attendance, and other requirements for such course, and will be responsible for obtaining proof of attendance at the entire course and submitting or having such proof submitted to the Bar.

Periods of administrative and/or disciplinary suspension occurring immediately before or after a change to Inactive will be included when determining whether a member is required to take the readmission course. For purposes of determining whether a member has been Inactive and/or Suspended for more than six consecutive years, the period continues to run until the change to Active membership is completed, regardless of when the application is submitted to the Bar.

- 3) Any member seeking to change to Active who was Inactive or any combination of Suspended and Inactive in Washington and does not have active legal experience as defined in APR 1(e) in any jurisdiction for more than ten consecutive years, is required to complete the requirements in Art. III. Sec.D.1.a.1)(a), (c) and (d), above, and is also required to take and pass the examinations required for admission to the Bar for the member's license type.
- 4) A Disability Inactive status member may be reinstated to Active pursuant to the disciplinary rules applicable to their license type. Before being transferred to Active, after establishing compliance with the disciplinary rules, the member also must comply with the requirements in these Bylaws for Inactive members transferring to Active status.

- 5) A member of any type who has transferred to Inactive status during the pendency of a grievance or disciplinary proceedings may not be transferred to Active except as provided herein and may be subject to such discipline by reason of any grievance or complaint as may be imposed under the ELC, ELPOC, or ELLTC.

**b. Transfer from Judicial to Active.**

A Judicial member may request to transfer to any other status, including Active. Upon a Judicial member's resignation, retirement, or completion of such member's term of judicial office, such member must notify the Bar within 10 days, and any Judicial member desiring to continue his or her affiliation with the Bar must change to another membership status within the Bar.

- 1) A Judicial member who has complied with all requirements for maintaining eligibility to return to another membership status may transfer to Active by submitting an application for change to Active membership status and
  - (a) paying the then current Active license fee for the member's license type, including any mandatory assessments, less any license fee (not including late fees) and assessments paid as a Judicial member for the same licensing year; and
  - (b) complying with the MCLE requirements for members returning from Inactive to Active. Either judicial continuing education credits or lawyer continuing education credits may be applied to the credit requirement for Judicial members transferring to Active. If judicial continuing education credits are applied, the standards for determining accreditation for judicial continuing education courses will be accepted as establishing compliance.
- 2) A Judicial member wishing to transfer to Active upon leaving service as a judicial officer who has failed in any year to provide the annual member registry information or pay the annual license fee required of Judicial members to maintain eligibility to transfer to another membership status shall, prior to transfer to Active, be required to pay the Active license fee for the member's license type any years the registry information was not provided or the Judicial fee was not paid, in addition to complying with the requirements of (a) above.

**c. Transfer from Pro Bono to Active**

A Pro Bono member may transfer to Active by complying with the requirements for members returning from Inactive to Active. There is no limit on how long a member may be Pro Bono before returning to Active status.

**d. Referral to Character and Fitness Board**

All applications for readmission, reinstatement or transfer to Active status will be reviewed by Bar staff and handled consistent with the provisions of APR 20-24.3. In all cases reviewed by it, the Character and Fitness Board has broad authority to recommend withholding a transfer to Active status or imposing

conditions on readmission to Active status, which may include retaking and passing the licensing examination applicable to the member's license type. The member will be responsible for the costs of any investigation, examination, or proceeding before the Character and Fitness Board and the Washington Supreme Court.

#### **E. CHANGE OF MEMBERSHIP STATUS TO INACTIVE**

1. Any member who is an Active, Judicial, or Pro Bono member and who is not Suspended will become an Inactive member when the member files a request for Inactive membership with the Bar, in such form and manner as the Bar may require, and that request is approved.

Effective January 1, 2012, a Judicial member wishing to transfer to Inactive member status upon leaving service as a judicial officer, who has failed in any year to provide the annual member registry information or to pay the annual licensing fee required of Judicial members to maintain eligibility to transfer to another membership status shall, prior to transfer to Inactive, be required to pay the Active license fee for lawyer members for any years the registry information was not provided or the Judicial fee was not paid.

2. Members are transferred to Disability Inactive pursuant to Title 8 of the ELC, ELPOC, or ELLLTC. Any member seeking to transfer from Disability Inactive to Inactive member status must first establish that the member has complied with the requirements of Title 8 of the ELC, ELPOC, or ELLLTC, and then must submit a written request to make the change and comply with all applicable licensing requirements for Inactive members.
3. All members who have been Active or Judicial, or a combination of Active and Judicial, members for 50 years may qualify for Honorary status. A qualified member may request to change to Honorary status by submitting a written request and any required application.
4. An Active member may apply to change from Active to Inactive status while grievances or disciplinary proceedings are pending against such member. Such transfer, however, shall not terminate, stay or suspend any pending grievance or proceeding against the member.

#### **F. CHANGE OF MEMBERSHIP STATUS TO JUDICIAL**

An Active member may request to become a Judicial member of the Bar by submitting a written request on judicial letterhead and any required application, and complying with the provisions of these Bylaws.

#### **G. CHANGE OF MEMBERSHIP STATUS TO 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.

Effective January 1, 2012, a Judicial member wishing to transfer to Pro Bono status upon leaving service as a judicial officer who has failed in any year to provide the annual member registry information or to pay the annual licensing fee required of Judicial members to maintain eligibility to transfer to another membership status shall, prior to transfer to Pro Bono, be required to pay the Active license fee for any years the registry information was not provided or the Judicial fee was not paid.

## **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. A member seeking readmission after resignation must comply with these Bylaws.

## **I. ANNUAL LICENSE FEES AND ASSESSMENTS**

### **1. License Fees**

Unless established otherwise by order of the Washington Supreme Court, the following provisions apply to member license fees.

#### **a. Active Members**

- 1) Effective 2010, and all subsequent years, the annual license fees for Active members will be as established by resolution of the BOG, subject to review by the Washington Supreme Court.
- 2) First time admittees who are not admitted or licensed to practice law elsewhere, who take and pass the required examination for admission to practice law in Washington and are admitted in the first six months of the calendar year in which they took the exam, will pay 50% of the applicable full Active license fee for that year.
- 3) First time admittees who are not admitted or licensed to practice law elsewhere, who take and pass the required examination for admission to practice law in Washington and are admitted in the last six months of the calendar year in which they took the exam, will pay 25% of the applicable full Active license fee for that year.
- 4) First time admittees who are not admitted elsewhere, who take and pass the required examination for admission to practice law in Washington in one year but are not admitted until a subsequent year, shall pay 50% of the applicable full Active license fee for their first two license years after admission.
- 5) First time admittees who are admitted as a lawyer in one calendar year in another state or territory of the United States or in the District of Columbia by taking and passing a bar examination for that state, territory, or district, who become admitted as a lawyer in Washington in the same calendar year in which they took and passed the examination, will pay 50% of the full Active lawyer license fee if admitted in Washington in the first six months of that calendar year and 25% of the full active license fee if admitted in Washington in the last six months of that calendar year.

- 6) All members in their first two full licensing years after admission or licensure to practice law in any jurisdiction will pay 50% of the applicable full Active license fee.
- 7) An Active member of the Bar who is activated from reserve duty status to full-time active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States for more than 60 days in any calendar year, or who is deployed or stationed outside the United States for any period of time for full-time active military duty in the Armed Forces of the United States will be exempt from the payment of license fees and assessments for the Client Protection Fund upon submitting to the Executive Director satisfactory proof that he or she is so activated, deployed or stationed. All requests for exemption must be postmarked or delivered to the Bar's offices on or before February 1st of the year for which the exemption is requested. Eligible members must apply every year they wish to claim the exemption. Each exemption applies for only the calendar year in which it is granted, and exemptions may be granted for a maximum total of five years for any member. Granting or denying an exemption under this provision is within the sole discretion of the Executive Director and is not appealable.

**b. Inactive Members**

- 1) The annual license fee for Inactive members will be as established by resolution of the BOG and as approved by the Washington Supreme Court. Except for the amount of the license fee itself, the annual license fee payment requirements, including deadlines and late payment fees, for Active members will apply to Inactive members.
- 2) Honorary and Disability Inactive status members will be exempt from license fees and assessments, unless otherwise provided by Supreme Court order.

**c. Judicial Members [Effective January 1, 2012]**

Judicial members who wish to preserve eligibility to transfer to another membership status upon leaving service as a judicial officer must pay the annual license fee established by the Bar and as approved by the Supreme Court. Except for the amount of the license fee itself, the annual license fee payment requirements, including deadlines and late payment fees, for Active members apply to Judicial members; however, Judicial members are not subject to administrative suspension for nonpayment of license or late payment fees.

**d. Pro Bono Members**

Pro Bono members must pay the annual license fee required of Inactive members with the same type of license unless the member qualifies for the license fee waiver as provided for in APR 3(g). Except for the amount of the license fee itself, the annual license fee payment requirements, including deadlines and late payment fees, for Active members apply to Pro Bono members.

**2. Assessments**

Members must pay any Client Protection Fund assessment, and any other assessments, as ordered by the Washington Supreme Court.

### **3. Deadline and Late Payment Fee**

License fees and mandatory assessments are due and payable on or before February 1st of each year, in such form and manner as required by the Bar, unless otherwise established by these Bylaws or the APR. Members who pay their license fees on or after February 2nd will be assessed a late payment fee of 30% of the total amount of the license fees required for that membership type and status. License fees for newly admitted members are due and payable at the time of admission and registration, and are not subject to the late payment fee.

### **4. Rebates /Apportionments**

No part of the license fees will be apportioned to fractional parts of the year, except as provided for new admittees by the BOG. After February 1st of any year, no part of the license fees will be rebated for any reason, including but not limited to death, resignation, suspension, disbarment, license termination, cancellation or revocation, or change of membership status.

### **5. License Fee and Assessment Exemptions Due to Hardship**

In case of proven extreme financial hardship, which must entail a current annual household income equal to or less than 200% of the federal poverty level as determined based on the member's household income for the calendar year immediately preceding the calendar year for which the member is seeking to be exempted from license fees, the Executive Director may grant an exemption from payment of annual license fees and assessments by any Active member. Hardship exemptions are for one licensing period only, and a request must be submitted on or before February 1st of the year for which the exemption is requested. Denial of an exemption request is not appealable. A member may be granted a hardship exemption a maximum of two times, on the basis of separate exemption requests, and the exemptions may be granted for consecutive or non-consecutive calendar years.

### **6. License Fee Referendum**

Once approved by the BOG, license fees shall be subject to the same referendum process as other BOG actions, but may not be modified or reduced as part of a referendum on the Bar's budget. The membership shall be timely notified of the BOG resolutions setting license fees both prior to and after the decision, by posting on the Bar's website, e-mail, and publication in the Bar's official publication.

## **J. SUSPENSION**

### **1. Interim Suspension**

Interim suspensions may be ordered during the course of a disciplinary or disability investigation or proceeding, as provided in the ELC, ELPOC, or ELLLTC, and are not considered disciplinary sanctions.

### **2. Disciplinary Suspension**

Suspensions ordered as a disciplinary sanction pursuant to the ELC, ELPOC, or ELLLTC are considered disciplinary suspensions.

### **3. Administrative Suspension**

- a. Administrative suspensions are neither interim nor disciplinary suspensions, nor are they disciplinary sanctions. Except as otherwise provided in the APR and these Bylaws, a member may be administratively suspended for the following reasons:
  - 1) Nonpayment of license fees or late-payment fees;
  - 2) Nonpayment of any mandatory assessment (including without limitation the assessment for the Client Protection Fund);
  - 3) Failure to file a trust account declaration;
  - 4) Failure of a lawyer to file a professional liability insurance disclosure;
  - 5) Failure of a LLLT or LPO to provide proof of financial responsibility;
  - 6) Failure to comply with mandatory continuing legal education requirements;
  - 7) Nonpayment of child support;
  - 8) Failure to designate a resident agent or notify the Bar of change in resident agent or the agent's address;
  - 9) Failure to provide current information required by APR 13 or to notify the Bar of a change of information required by APR 13 within 10 days after the change; and
  - 10) For such other reasons as may be approved by the BOG and the Washington Supreme Court.
- b. Unless requirement for hearing and/or notice of suspension are otherwise stated in these Bylaws or the APR, ELC, ELPOC or ELLLTC, a member will be provided notice of the member's failure to comply with requirements and of the pendency of administrative suspension if the member does not cure the failure within 60 days of the date of the written notice, as follows:
  - 1) Written notice of non-compliance will be sent one time by the Bar to a member at the member's address of record with the Bar by registered or certified mail. Such written notice will inform the member that the Bar will recommend to the Washington Supreme Court that the member be suspended from membership and the practice of law if the member has not corrected the deficiency within 60 days of the date of the notice.
  - 2) In addition to the written notice described above, the Bar will make one attempt to contact the member at the telephone number(s) the member has made of record with the Bar and will speak to the member or leave a message, if possible. The Bar will also make one attempt to contact the member at the member's e-mail address of record with the Bar.
- c. Although not required to provide any additional notice beyond what is described above, the Bar may, in its sole discretion, make such other attempt(s) to contact delinquent members as it deems appropriate for that member's situation.
- d. A member failing to correct any deficiency after two months' written notice as provided above must be suspended from membership. The Executive Director must certify to the Clerk of the Supreme Court the name of any member who has failed to correct any deficiency, and when so ordered by the Supreme Court, the member will be suspended from membership in the Bar and from the practice of law in Washington. The list of

suspended members may be provided to the relevant courts or otherwise published at the discretion of the BOG.

#### **4. Multiple Suspensions**

A member may be suspended from membership and from the practice of law for more than one reason at any given time.

#### **K. CHANGING STATUS AFTER SUSPENSION**

1. Upon the completion of an ordered disciplinary or interim suspension, or at any time after entry of an order for an administrative suspension, a suspended member may seek to change status from suspended to any other membership status for which the member qualifies at the time the change in status would occur.
2. Before changing from suspended status, a member who is suspended pursuant to an interim or disciplinary suspension must comply with all requirements imposed by the Washington Supreme Court and/or the applicable disciplinary rules in connection with the disciplinary or interim suspension. Additionally, such member must comply with all other requirements as stated in these Bylaws and in the applicable APR.
3. If a member was suspended from practice for more than one reason, all requirements associated with each type of suspension must be met before the change from suspended status can occur.
4. Unless otherwise provided in the applicable APR, a suspended member may seek to change status by:
  - a. paying the required license fee and any assessments for the licensing year in which the status change is sought, for the membership status to which the member is seeking to change. For members seeking to change to Active or any other status from suspension for nonpayment of license fees, the required license fee will be the current year's license fee and assessments, the assessments for the year of suspension, and double the amount of the delinquent license fee and late fees for the license year that resulted in the member's suspension;
  - b. completing and submitting to the Bar an application for change of status, any required or requested additional documentation, and any required application or investigation fee, and cooperating with any additional character and fitness investigation or hearing that may be required pursuant to APR 20-24.3; and
  - c. completing and submitting all licensing forms required for the license year for the membership status to which the member is seeking to change.
  - d. In addition to the above requirements:
    - 1) Any member seeking to change to Active who was Suspended, or any combination of Suspended and Inactive, for less than six consecutive years must establish that within the six years prior to the return to active status, the member has earned and reported approved MCLE in a manner consistent with the requirements for one reporting period for an Active member with the same license type. However, if the member has been Suspended and/or Inactive for one year or less and the member was required to report

MCLE compliance during the time the member was Suspended and/or Inactive, the member must establish that the member is compliant with the MCLE credits the member would have been required to report that period.

- 2) Any member seeking to change to Active who was Suspended, or any combination of Suspended and Inactive, for six or more consecutive years must establish that within the three years prior to the return to Active status, the member has earned and reported approved MCLE credits in a manner consistent with the requirement for one reporting period for an Active member with the same license type. In addition, the member must have completed the applicable readmission/reinstatement course as set forth in Art. III. Sec.D.1.a)(2).

Any member completing such course will be entitled to credit towards mandatory continuing legal education requirement for all CLE credits for which such reinstatement/readmission course is accredited. It is the member's responsibility to pay the cost of attending the course. The member must comply with all registration, payment, attendance, and other requirements for such course, and will be responsible for obtaining proof of attendance at the entire course and submitting or having such proof submitted to the Bar.

#### **L. REINSTATEMENT AFTER DISBARMENT OR REVOCATION**

Applicants seeking reinstatement after disbarment or revocation must file a petition for reinstatement and otherwise comply with the requirements of the APR relating to reinstatement after disbarment or revocation. If the petition is granted and reinstatement is recommended, the petitioner must take and pass the required examination for admission and comply with all other admission and licensing requirements applicable to the member's license type for the year in which the petitioner is reinstated.

#### **M. REINSTATEMENT AFTER RESIGNATION IN LIEU OF DISCIPLINE, DISBARMENT, OR REVOCATION**

No former member will be allowed to be readmitted to membership of any type after entering into a resignation in lieu of discipline, disbarment, or revocation pursuant to the ELC, ELPOC, or ELLLTC. Persons who were allowed to resign with discipline pending under former provisions of these Bylaws prior to October 1, 2002, may be readmitted on such terms and conditions as the BOG determines, provided that if the person resigned with discipline pending and a prior petition for reinstatement or readmission has been denied, no petition may be filed or accepted for a period of two years after an adverse decision on the prior petition for reinstatement or readmission.

#### **N. READMISSION AFTER VOLUNTARY RESIGNATION**

Any former member who has resigned and who seeks readmission to membership must do so in one of two ways: by filing an application for readmission in the form and manner prescribed by the Bar, including a statement detailing the reasons the member resigned and the reasons the member is seeking readmission, or by seeking admission by motion pursuant to APR 3(c) (if the former member is

licensed as a lawyer in another U.S. jurisdiction and would otherwise qualify for admission under that rule).

1. A former member filing an application for readmission after voluntary resignation must:
  - a. pay the application fee, together with such amount as the BOG may establish to defray the cost of processing the application and the cost of investigation; and
  - b. establish that such person is morally, ethically and professionally qualified to be licensed as the applicable member type and is of good moral character and has the requisite fitness to practice law consistent with the requirements for other applicants for admission to practice law as the applicable member type. An application for readmission will be subject to character and fitness investigation and review as described in APR 20-24.3, consistent with other applications for admission.
  - c. In addition to the above requirements, if an application for readmission is granted and:
    - 1) it has been less than four consecutive years since the voluntary resignation, the applicant must establish:
      - (a) that within the three years prior to readmission the former member has earned and reported approved MCLE credits in a manner consistent with the requirement for one reporting period for an Active member of the same license type, without including the credits that might otherwise be available from the reinstatement/readmission course; and
      - (b) attend and complete the applicable Bar-sponsored reinstatement/readmission course as set forth in Art. III.Sec.D.1.a)(2).
    - 2) it has been four or more consecutive years since the voluntary resignation, the applicant must take and pass the applicable examination required for admission.
  - d. Upon successful completion of the above requirements, the former member must satisfy the preadmission requirements and be admitted by Supreme Court order as set forth in APR 5, except that:
    - 1) A lawyer who has been resigned for less than four years need not take and pass the Washington Law Component; and
    - 2) A LLLT applicant who has been resigned less than four consecutive years need not demonstrate completion of substantive law-related work experience.
2. A voluntarily resigned former member seeking readmission through admission by motion pursuant to APR 3(c) must comply with all requirements for filing such application and for admission upon approval of such application.

## **O. EXAMINATION REQUIRED**

All applications for reinstatement after disbarment or revocation will be subject to character and fitness review, and taking and passing the examination for admission for the applicable license type, pursuant to the provisions of APR 25-25.6. All applications for readmission after voluntary resignation will be subject to character and fitness review pursuant to the provisions of APR 20-24.3. All applications for reinstatement to Active status from Suspended status will be handled in a similar fashion to applications for a return to Active status from Inactive status. The Character and Fitness Board, and (on review) the

Washington Supreme Court, have broad authority to withhold a transfer to Active or to impose conditions on reinstatement or readmission to Active membership, which may include taking and passing the applicable examination for admission, in cases where the applicant fails to meet the burden of proof required by APR 20-24.3. The member/former member will be responsible for the costs of any investigation, bar examination, or proceeding before the Character and Fitness Board and the Washington Supreme Court.

## **XI. SECTIONS**

### **A. DESIGNATION AND CONTINUATION**

Sections are entities of the Bar created and tasked to carry on the work of the Bar and further their purposes as defined in individual section bylaws. A list of all current sections will be maintained by the Executive Director. Once established, a section will continue until discontinued as provided in these Bylaws or in the section bylaws.

### **B. ESTABLISHING SECTIONS**

1. The BOG will consider the establishment of a new section on a petition and report endorsed by at least 150 Active members of the Bar. Any such petition must be filed with the Executive Director at least one BOG meeting prior to the meeting at which action on the proposal is contemplated and must substantially set forth:
  - a. The contemplated purpose of the section, which will be within the purposes of the Bar and not in substantial conflict with the purpose of any existing section or committee, the continuance of which is contemplated after the section is established;
  - b. Proposed bylaws of the section, which must contain a definition of its purpose;
  - c. The names of any proposed committees of the section;
  - d. A proposed budget of the section for the first two years of its operation;
  - e. A list of members of the Bar who have signed statements that they intend to apply for membership in the section;
  - f. A statement of the need for the proposed section.
2. The BOG may create a new section by combining sections as set forth in these Bylaws.

### **C. MEMBERSHIP**

1. Any Active member of the Bar may be a voting member of a section and eligible for election to office in the section upon paying the annual dues established by the section. Inactive members may be voting members of sections, if permitted by a section's bylaws.
2. If provided for in the section bylaws, any Pro Bono member pursuant to APR 3(g), Judicial member, House Counsel under APR 8(f), professor at a Washington law school (whether licensed in Washington or not), or any lawyer who is a full time lawyer in a branch of the military who is stationed in Washington but not licensed in Washington, may be a voting member of the section and eligible for election to office in the section.
3. Law students will be allowed to be nonvoting members of any section at a standard annual dues amount set by the BOG.
4. Sections may adopt bylaw provisions authorizing inactive members to be voting members of the section. Article III.B.2.b of these Bylaws defines inactive WSBA members to include inactive, disability inactive, and honorary members. Sections may adopt bylaw provisions authorizing inactive members, and/or others not eligible for section membership as voting members, to be nonvoting members or "subscribers" of the section.

## **D. DUES**

Dues will be paid annually in the amount determined by the section executive committee and approved by the BOG. Any person who fails to pay the annual dues will cease to be a member of the section.

## **E. BYLAWS AND POLICIES**

Sections are subject to all Bar Bylaws, policies, and procedures. Each section must have bylaws consistent with the Bar Bylaws. Amendments to section bylaws may be made by a majority vote of the voting executive committee members or by a majority vote of section members present at a section meeting. Section bylaws or amendments thereof will become effective when approved by the BOG.

## **F. SECTION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

1. Each section will have a section executive committee consisting of, at minimum, the following Officer positions: Chair, Secretary and Treasurer (or Secretary/Treasurer); and may have At-Large members. Unless otherwise permitted by a section's bylaws, voting members of a section executive committee must be Active members of the Bar and a member of the section for their entire term of office on the executive committee. Additionally, a section executive committee may have non-voting members. The section executive committee is empowered to act on behalf of the section unless it chooses to take a vote of the section membership.
2. Due to the section executive committee's unique need to be able to act quickly to address issues that arise during a regular or special legislative session, between executive committee meetings during a legislative session, upon notice to all section executive committee members, the section executive committee may discuss and vote on issues relating to the section's position on pending or proposed legislation by email. However, if any section executive committee member objects to using an email process for any particular issues, the section executive committee instead will take up that issue at its next section executive committee meeting.
3. Officers. Unless otherwise permitted by a section's bylaws, officers of a section executive committee must be Active members of the Bar and elected by the section membership to complete the one-year term of office.
  - a. Chair. The chair of the section presides at all meetings of the section and section executive committee, and will have such other executive powers and perform such other duties as are consistent with the Bar and section bylaws.
  - b. Secretary. The Secretary will take minutes at each meeting of the section and section executive committee, and provide approved minutes to the Bar for publication and record retention.
  - c. Treasurer. The Treasurer will work with the Bar to ensure that the section complies with Bar fiscal policies and procedures, work with the Bar to prepare the section's annual budget, and review the section's monthly financial statements for accuracy and comparison to budget.
  - d. A section may have additional officer positions as defined in its sections bylaws.
4. At-Large Members. At-large members of the section executive committee will be voting members. At-large members will be elected by the section membership for terms of upto

three-years. A section executive committee may appoint its Young Lawyer Liaison (if any) as a voting member of the section's executive committee.

5. Non-voting Members. Voting members of the section executive committee may appoint non-voting members from among the current members of the section to further the work of the Bar and section. Non-voting members serve at the discretion of the section executive committee.
6. Executive committee members are not subject to a limit on the number of the consecutive terms they may serve unless stated in a section's bylaws.
7. All section executive committee positions will begin October 1 each year.

## **G. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS**

1. Nominations
  - a. Nominating Committee. Each section will have a nominating committee consisting of no less than three section members appointed annually by the Chair or executive committee. At least one member of the nominating committee should not be a current member of the section executive committee.
  - b. The executive committee should reflect diverse perspectives. To assist this, all applicants will apply through an electronic application process administered by the Bar. The application form will, on a voluntary basis, solicit information including, but not limited to, the person's ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, disability status, area of practice, years of practice, employer, number of lawyers in law firm, previous involvement in section activities, and skills or knowledge relevant to the position. The nominating committee should actively take factors of diversity into account when making recommendations.
  - c. Alternate Nomination Process. The executive committee will also have an alternative process to allow for nominations to occur outside of the nominating committee process.
  - d. Executive Committee Approval. The executive committee will approve a list of nominees for each open position. Persons nominated through an alternative nomination process will be included on the final list of approved nominees.
2. Elections
  - a. Only voting members of the section may participate in section elections.
  - b. The Bar will administer the elections by electronic means and certify results, unless the section develops its own equivalent electronic election process. For sections that administer elections through an alternate equivalent electronic election process, the section must provide the Bar with the total number of votes cast and the number of votes received for each candidate immediately following the close of the election.
  - c. In the event of a tie, the section executive committee will implement a random tie-breaker of its choice, such as a coin toss or a drawing of lots, to determine the winner.
  - d. All election processes must comply with the Bar record retention policies.
3. Timing. Nominations and elections for open section executive committee positions will be held no later than June 30th of each year.

## **H. VACANCIES AND REMOVAL**

1. The section executive committee will appoint, by a majority vote, members to fill vacancies on the section executive committee. When a member is appointed to fill a vacancy in an unexpired term, the member will do so until the next annual election when an individual will be elected to serve the remainder of the vacated term.
2. Any member of the executive committee may be removed by a two-thirds majority vote of the section executive committee. Grounds for removal include, but are not limited to, regular absence from section executive committee meetings and events, failure to perform duties, unprofessional or discourteous conduct or whenever, in the executive committee's judgment, the executive committee member is not acting in the best interest of the section membership.

## **I. OTHER COMMITTEES**

The section executive committee may create other committees as necessary to further the purposes of the section. Section committees, section committee chairs, and section committee members serve at the discretion of the section executive committee.

## **J. BUDGET**

Each section executive committee must submit an annual budget request for each fiscal year to the BOG for review. The BOG will approve final section budgets as part of the Bar's annual budget. The section executive committee expenditures must be consistent with the approved section budget and consistent with the Bar fiscal policies and procedures.

## **K. SECTION REPORTS**

Each section must submit an annual report to the Executive Director and such other reports as requested by the BOG.

## **L. TERMINATING SECTIONS**

1. The BOG may consider terminating a section when it appears the section is no longer carrying on the work of the Bar as defined in these Bylaws. The issue will be raised (a) on motion, (b) on petition, or (c) at a "viability review" as defined in these Bylaws.
2. A section that has less than 75 voting members for two consecutive years will be automatically placed on the BOG agenda for a "viability review." The BOG has the discretion to retain a section despite what might otherwise be considered to be a lack of viability when in the BOG's opinion the section is carrying on the work of the Bar as defined in these Bylaws, and the work is of value to the legal profession.
3. Any section subject to a motion, petition, or viability review pursuant to paragraph (1) above will be given notice and an opportunity to be heard by the BOG. Notice must be sent by the Bar to the current section officers and/or executive committee and posted on the Bar website at least one BOG meeting prior to the meeting at which the Board plans to vote on the proposal.

4. A section subject to potential termination may petition the BOG to be combined with another section, with that section's written approval, and will be given reasonable opportunity to present that petition to the BOG before the BOG votes on the section's termination.
5. If a section is terminated pursuant to these Bylaws, section members will be allowed to transfer to another section of their choosing, without payment of additional fees, for that remainder of the section dues year.
6. A section terminated pursuant to these Bylaws may apply for reactivation if they meet qualifications for establishing a new section.
7. Any funds remaining in the treasury of a section at the time of termination will be transferred to the Bar's general operating fund unless otherwise designated by the BOG. Funds in the treasury of combined sections will be combined.