

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

MEMO

To: WSBA Board of Governors

From: Chris Meserve, BOG Legislative Committee Chair, and Sara Niegowski, WSBA Chief Communications and Outreach Officer

Date: November 16, 2017

Re: 2018 WSBA Legislative Priorities

<p><u>ACTION:</u> Approve the 2018 WSBA Legislative Priorities for the upcoming legislative session.</p>

OVERVIEW:

The WSBA Legislative Affairs Office is pleased to propose the 2018 WSBA Legislative Priorities for consideration and approval by the Board of Governors (BOG).

BACKGROUND:

The WSBA and its entities are allowed to engage in the legislative process if issues are related to the practice of law and/or the administration of justice (GR 12).

The 2018 WSBA Legislative Priorities seek to make improvements to the practice of law and administration of justice that ultimately benefit both members of the public as well as legal professionals across the state. The genesis of these priorities is tied directly to the WSBA Guiding Principles. These include supporting access to justice, increasing public understanding of Washington's justice system, and supporting a fair and impartial judiciary.

The majority of these legislative priorities remain unchanged from years past. Please note: This legislative session, one Bar-request bill—to enable corporations to hold virtual shareholders' meetings—has come forward from the Business Law Section, been approved by the Legislative Review Committee, and is before the Board for action.

2018 WSBA Legislative Priorities

- Support Bar-request legislative proposals initiated by WSBA Sections that are approved by the Board.
- Support non-Bar request legislative proposals approved by the Board under GR 12, that seek to:
 - Create and promote access to justice for all Washington residents;
 - Enhance statewide civics education;
 - Provide funding for the state’s court system; and
 - Provide funding for civil legal aid services through general-fund state dollars.
- Monitor and take appropriate action on legislative proposals that would:
 - Increase existing court user fees;
 - Alter court rules and/or the structure of the state’s judiciary branch; and
 - Other items of significance to the practice of law and administration of justice.