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Fulfilling Our Obligations to the Public – Promoting Respect for the Law

Just like doctors on the frontlines of the nation’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic, legal professionals have the obligation to speak from our position of expertise and educate our communities during a tumultuous election season. [When we became members of the legal community, we each took an oath](#) to uphold the constitutions of the state of Washington and the United States of America. Furthermore, the [rules that delineate WSBA’s purpose](#) specify an obligation to **promote understanding of and respect for our legal system and the law**¹ and to **maintain and foster programs of public information and education** about the law and the legal system².

So how can legal practitioners do this? Here are some ideas:

- Serve as a pro bono lawyer for election officials through the non-partisan [Election Official Legal Defense Network](#).
- Give talks in your community and offer to write in your local newspaper about [the rule of law](#), democracy, and our elections.
- Follow local election board proceedings, understand any proposed rules changes and how they support or possibly don’t support election integrity.
- Get to know your local election board members and the board’s legal counsel and offer to help if/when appropriate.
- Tour your local election facilities to learn how elections are administered in your community and then use that knowledge to promote understanding.
- Host a “lunch and learn” event in your firm or in your community about local election administration and invite an election board member or election clerk to give a presentation and to take questions.
- Work to improve public dialogue by modeling and encouraging ways for members of your community to engage in civil and respectful discussion despite political differences.

By working together, we can fulfill our obligation to promote understanding of and respect for the law. Our communities need us to be involved.

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¹ GR 12.2 (a)(9)

² GR 12.2 (b)(19)