

Small Town and Rural Committee

Volunteer Position Description

The Small Town and Rural (STAR) Committee was established by the Board of Governors with approval of its charter in April 2021. The STAR Committee is committed to strengthening and supporting the practice of law in the rural communities throughout Washington state. The STAR Committee furthers the WSBA mission to serve the public and the members of the Bar by providing focused attention on the unique needs of residents and members in rural areas.

Position overview: The STAR Committee will guide policy and program development, serve as ambassadors between the WSBA and these communities, explore and advocate for creative and innovative solutions that further the goals of strengthening and supporting the practice of law in rural communities. The three main focus areas of the Committee are:

1. Community Education and Outreach
2. Pipeline and Placement Program(s)
3. Job Opportunities and Clearinghouse.

See the Committee charter for more information.

Time commitment: Given that the STAR Committee is focused on and will largely be composed of rural practitioners, attendance to meetings will be primarily and predominantly virtual. As this Committee is new, it is anticipated that meetings in the first year may be monthly for 2 – 2.5 hours for the first quarter, with meetings thereafter being monthly for 60-90 minutes. Subcommittees may meet between meetings and there may be additional work completed by members outside of the meeting schedule.

In accordance with the Charter, the initial terms will be staggered to implement a regular rotation of incoming committee members. After the initial round of appointments, all subsequent appointments will be for a three-year term with eligibility to be reappointed for a second term. Committee Chair will serve a two-year term.

Requirements: Applicants must be active WSBA members, unless otherwise stated in the charter. One emeritus pro bono position is available. There are no requirements for years of practice or practice area. Applicants should be committed to advancing WSBA's mission to serve the public and champion justice, through pro bono and public service-oriented opportunities. A willingness to attend and participate in the meetings and workgroups is required.

Preferred qualifications and skills: Interest and/or experience practicing law in Washington's rural communities and/or developing a practitioner pipeline to support growth of legal practitioners in rural communities. Applicants should be solution-oriented, collaborative, and dedicated to Washington's rural communities.

Benefits:

- Develop and contribute to a deeper understanding of the unique needs, opportunities, and benefits of a rural practice
- Opportunity to explore creative solutions.
- Create connections, build relationships, and network with practitioners in Washington's rural communities as well as law students and members of the public.

- Enhance leadership development through program development, project management, and committee work

Reimbursement policy: This is an unpaid volunteer position. Reasonable travel and other expenses will be reimbursed per the WSBA Expense Reimbursement Policy.

Selection and appointment process: The initial group of candidates will be reviewed and nominated by the current Rural Practice Project Team which consists of staff, members of the Board of Governors, WSBA members, Washington Young Lawyers Committee members, and law school representatives. Subsequently, candidates will be reviewed by a team including the committee chair, staff liaison, and BOG liaison. Recommendations are made to the Board of Governor's Nominations Committee, which makes the final appointments.

For further information: <https://www.wsba.org/connect-serve/committees-boards-other-groups/small-town-and-rural-committee>

How to apply: See instructions at www.wsba.org/joincommittee. Questions about the application? Email barleaders@wsba.org.