



Washington State Bar Association

COUNCIL ON PUBLIC DEFENSE
APRIL 18, 2025 - 9:30AM – 11:00AM
MINUTES

CPD Voting Members: Jason Schwarz (Immediate Past Chair), Maialisa Vanyo (Chair), Paul Holland, David Montes, Jonathan Quittner, Judge Dee Sonntag, Molly Gilbert, Christopher Swaby (Vice-Chair), Abraham Ritter, Jonathan Nomamuiker, Victoria Blumhorst, Louis Frantz, Karen Denise Wilson, Christie Hedman, Larry Jefferson, Arian Noma, Maya Titova

CPD Emeritus members (non-voting members): Ann Christian, Bob Boruchowitz, Eileen Farley

WSBA Staff: Bonnie Sterken, Cate Schur

Guests: Michael Schueler, Ramona Brandes, Molly Fraser, Jocelyn Cook, Maguire, Geoff Hulse, Travis Stearns, Brandy Gevers, Dee Brown

Absent:

Kathy Kyle, Justice Sheryl Gordon McCloud, Judge Maria Polin

Vacancies: Two current or former prosecutors, one local government/public defense agency representative, One At-Large

New Members: Maialisa Vanyo shared that new members will be nominated for appointment, with the hope that they will be in place by next month. She also mentioned that there are potential candidates to join in the fall.

Standards Issue: Jason Schwarz moved to amend the proposed Court Standards by changing the implementation deadline in Section 3.0, *Implementation of the Standards*, and to submit the revised version to the BOG for approval as outlined in the meeting materials. This amendment would delay implementation by six months. David Montes seconded the motion.

The Council had a lively discussion. Jason shared the rationale behind the motion, explaining that the delay would give the Court more time and help avoid discrepancies between the WSBA and Court standards. Bob Boruchowitz offered a counterargument, suggesting instead that line

attorneys and managers find ways to make the current timeline work. Others also shared their perspectives. The motion did not pass.

March Meeting Minutes: Jason Schwarz moved to approve the minutes. Larry Jefferson seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Office of Public Defense: Sophia Byrd McSherry reported on the legislative session and provided updates on bills still in progress. One amendment related to using sales tax revenue to fund public defense services was withdrawn. She noted there is growing pressure on the legislature to fund the 10101 grants. The session is expected to end soon. Sophia addressed questions from the Council.

Announcements: Maialisa Vanyo reminded members that CPD could send participants to the Access to Justice Conference and encouraged those interested to contact staff. Paul Holland reported that the mandatory reporting bill is still active. Bob Boruchowitz shared information about a conference he is hosting on June 27.

Ann Christian brought attention to a Court Order that temporarily suspends Standard 14 and is set to expire soon and may need to be extended. Jason and others agreed to review it and follow up with a letter.

The meeting adjourned at 10:27 a.m.