

**WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION**  
**LAW CLERK BOARD**

**Public Minutes**  
**February 6, 2026**

**Law Clerk Board (Board) Members in Attendance**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Christell Casey, Chair | <input type="checkbox"/> Jaime Cumming            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tracy Finnegan                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ling Zhuang   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jack Range             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sarah Propst  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Meyers            | <input type="checkbox"/> Annemarie Weiss          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leone Reinbold         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gary Epperley |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Heather Derenski       |   |

**Staff and others in attendance for some or all the meeting**

Cathy Biestek, Managing Regulatory Counsel and Katherine Skinner, Law Clerk Program Lead were also in attendance for some or all the meeting.

**Public Session**

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

The December 5, 2025, public meeting minutes were approved.

**Outreach and Updates**

Katherine reported that the Board of Governors approved increasing the number of Law Clerk Board (Board) members from eleven to thirteen members, and a memo recommending two individuals for appointment has been submitted. The Nominations Committee will review the recommendations on February 26, with new terms beginning March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Katherine noted that there are differences in monthly time commitments for each Board member. To provide consistency for all Board members, Christell is connecting with John and Leone to create a manual that includes tips and guidance for reviewing monthly exams. The guide will be on the agenda for review by the Board at the April Board meeting. Katherine reminded the Board that they are not responsible for responding to administrative emails from law clerks and tutors and these emails can be forwarded or redirected to staff to prevent unnecessary workload.

Katherine updated the Board that the Law Clerk Portal email notifications for completed reviews were fixed as of January 5<sup>th</sup>.

Katherine reminded Board members to RSVP for the Annual Law Clerk Reception by February 13<sup>th</sup>.



Christell provided an update on outreach, explaining that the primary challenge is recruiting tutors rather than law clerk applicants. She noted that outreach has focused more on clerks than tutors, leaving a lot of potential tutors uncertain about time commitments and benefits. To address this, Christell will draft a Bar News article aimed at myth-busting, highlighting tutor benefits, and promoting opportunities in small-town and rural communities.

Finally, Katherine announced the creation of a new Law Clerk Program Representative role to ensure law clerk voices are heard and program needs are met.

### **Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

### **Future of Evaluations**

Christell informed the Board of the need to increase the number of law clerk evaluations conducted during meetings. To address this, the Board will trial a bifurcated approach during evaluations, splitting into two groups to conduct two evaluations simultaneously. This process will be tested at the April and June meetings.

### **Jurisprudence List Review**

The Board reviewed the jurisprudence list. Each member reviewed three assigned books and provided recommendations on whether to remove or keep each title. The Board voted to remove the identified books effective immediately as of the meeting date, with the understanding that any book currently being read by a clerk may be grandfathered in.

Christell assigned three additional books to each member for review at the April meeting, and Katherine will send out those assignments to the Board.

### **Removed titles**

Jeremy Bentham -- His Life and Works  
An Autobiography  
One L: The Turbulent True Story of a First Year at Harvard Law School  
The Defense Never Rests  
A Death in Canaan  
The Algiers Motel Incident  
The Trial of Dr. Spock  
Jury Woman  
The Pentagon Papers: The Secret History of the Vietnam War  
The Faces of Justice  
The American Jury  
A Theory of Justice  
The Self-Inflicted Wound  
Anarchy, State & Utopia  
A Supreme Court Justice is Appointed



## Executive Session

### Approval of Meeting Minutes

The December 5, 2025, confidential meeting minutes were approved.

### Requests

The Board approved four requests for a leave of absence

The Board denied three jurisprudence book request for not being substantially related to the practice of law

The Board approved three jurisprudence book requests

The Board approved one remote/hybrid office request

### Applications

The Board approved thirteen applications for enrollment in the Law Clerk Program beginning when the final confirmation letter is sent

The Board deferred two applications for enrollment in the Law Clerk Program to be reviewed at the April Board meeting

### Evaluations

- The Board conducted seven first-year evaluations and approved continuation in the program upon successful completion of all remaining first year coursework and book reports.
- The Board conducted three fourth-year evaluations and approved completion of the program upon successful completion of all remaining fourth-year coursework and book reports

Respectfully Submitted,  
Katherine Skinner, Law Clerk Program Lead

