

**WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
LAW CLERK BOARD**

Public Minutes
December 5, 2025

Law Clerk Board (Board) Members in Attendance

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Christell Casey, Chair | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jaime Cumming |
| <input checked="" 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 checked="" 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.

Public Session

Welcome and Introductions

Katherine welcomed new member Heather to the Law Clerk Board meeting. Heather introduced herself, and the Board extended their welcome.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The October 3, 2025, confidential meeting minutes were approved.

Outreach and Updates

Katherine updated the Board regarding a recent order received from the Supreme Court concerning suggested amendments to APR 6. The Court indicated that the proposed amendments will be published for public comment in January, with a deadline for submissions set for April 30th. Katherine will notify the Board, law clerks, and tutors once the comment period officially opens.

Katherine updated the Board that, due to the increased number of law clerks in the program and the goal of maintaining a liaison-to-clerk/tutor ratio between 10 and 12, a request is being submitted to the Board of Governors to amend the WSBA BOG Committees and Boards Policy. The proposed amendment would increase the number of members on the Law Clerk Board from eleven to thirteen. This memo is scheduled for review at the Board of Governors' meeting on January 16th.



Katherine updated the Board to save the date for the next Law Clerk Program reception, which will take place on March 6, 2026, at the Great Wolf Lodge in Grand Mound. These receptions are held to recognize the achievements of law clerks who have recently completed the program. More details will be shared as the date approaches.

Public Comments

Christell updated the Board that the meeting was now opened for any public comments. No public comments were received.

Jurisprudence List Review

Christell has provided an update on the status of the jurisprudence reading list refresh project and is prepared to resume work on the update. Each Law Clerk Board member will be assigned three books to review using the jurisprudence approval guidelines, with recommendations to either retain or remove each title from the list. Members are expected to complete their reviews by the next meeting on February 6th. Katherine will send an email with the individual assignments.

AI Policy Workgroup

Katherine brought up the Board's concern regarding the need to address the use of artificial intelligence (AI) within the Law Clerk Program. She emphasized the importance of discussing how AI is currently being used in the Law Clerk Program and its implications. To move this forward, Katherine requested volunteers to form a workgroup that will meet between now and the April Board meeting to draft an AI policy for the Board's review in April. Christell, Ling, John and Heather volunteered.

NextGen Bar Exam

Katherine provided the Board with an overview of the upcoming NextGen Bar Exam, including its structure, timing, and schedule. She encouraged Board members to review the provided materials on their own time to familiarize themselves with the information and the new format.

Executive Session

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The October 3, 2025, public meeting minutes were approved.

Requests

The Board approved six requests for a leave of absence

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

- "In My DNA"



The Board approved two fourth year proposals:

- Legal Writing
- Animal Law, Construction Law, Real Estate Law

The Board deferred one fourth year proposal, requesting more information about the course outline and materials:

- Legal Writing

Applications

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

The Board conditionally approved one application for enrollment in the Law Clerk Program pending an interview and recommendation from liaison, Jaime:

Evaluations

The Board conducted three 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

