

Press and Outreach Update: October 7, 2024

Press
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Pathways to Legal Diversity Summit held September 12, 2024 in-person at Central Washington University, Ellensburg, WA▪ ABA Legal Rebels Podcast: What does the future hold for licensed paraprofessionals (Sept. 18, 2024)
LLLT Statistics
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Active LLLTs: 76▪ Inactive LLLTs: 9▪ Suspended LLLTs: 1▪ Voluntarily resigned: 8▪ Emeritus Pro Bono: 1
Upcoming Meetings/Events
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ November 19, 2024, 1-4:30 p.m., Minor Guardianship CLE for LLLTs▪ December 9, 2024, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Virtual Board Meeting▪ April 14-15, 2025<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ April 14, 2025, 1:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m. In-Person Board Meeting○ April 15, 2025, Committee Meetings, to be scheduled as needed▪ May 12, 2025, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Virtual Board Meeting▪ July 14, 2025, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. In-Person Board Meeting▪ September 8, 2025, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Virtual Board Meeting





Pathways to Legal Diversity Summit

Thursday, September 12th, 2024 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

In-Person at Central Washington University
400 E University Way, Ellensburg, WA 98926

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION | Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Council

Pathways To Legal Diversity Summit

SEPTEMBER 12TH, 2024 | CENTRAL WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

ABOUT THIS PROGRAM

This event was organized by the Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council (DEI Council), in partnership with affinity bar association leaders, law school and undergraduate institutions, public defense leaders, judges, and client community advocates. We hope that this Summit will spark of greater investment, momentum and coordination around efforts to increase diversity in our legal profession.

The program for this Summit is intended to spark collective discussion and problem-solving around two intersecting questions:

- 1) **Mapping and Strengthening Pathways Into The Profession:** What are the different programs, supports, resources available to help people from marginalized and underrepresented communities navigate barriers to entering, staying, and thriving in the profession?
- 2) **Eliminating Barriers To The Profession:** What are systemic or policy opportunities to eliminate barriers to accessing the profession, particularly those that create or exacerbate inequities?

We hope that this Summit will spark of greater investment, momentum and coordination around efforts to increase diversity in our legal profession.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Washington State Bar Foundation is pleased to offer a limited number of \$300 travel stipends to those anticipating financial barriers to participation. This funding was made possible through the generous donations of our sponsors:

Foster Garvey
K&L Gates
Lane Powell
Stokes Lawrence
Littler

Pathways To Legal Diversity Summit

SEPTEMBER 12TH, 2024 | CENTRAL WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

9:00 - 10:00 **Breakfast & Sign In**
SAMUELSON HALL LOBBY

10:00 - 11:00 **Morning Plenary Session**

DE-SILOING DIVERSITY & ACCESS TO JUSTICE EFFORTS

MALOU CHAVEZ, CHRISTOPHER SWABY, DIANA SINGLETON
SAMUELSON HALL 104

Panelists will share the current state of public defense, immigration services, and civil legal aid to illustrate the deep intersection between rural legal deserts, lack of diverse representation, and declining trustworthiness of the profession.

11:15 - 12:15 **Morning Breakout Sessions**

BUILDING ON RAMPS & BRIDGES TO THE PROFESSION

JEREMIAH (J.J.) BOURGEOIS, QUINN DALAN, DUSTY WEBER LAMAY
SAMUELSON HALL 128

Advancing equity and justice requires that we center communities who are most impacted by marginalization, injustice and lack of access to resources. This panel discussion will offer these communities' experiences and perspectives and create a space to explore how we can build onramps and bridges to the legal profession that result in a more diverse profession that reflects our communities and creates more avenues to justice.

INCREASING ACCESS TO THE PROFESSION THROUGH LIMITED LICENSING: CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

LESLI ASHLEY, SHEILA BAILEY, LESLY DIAZ-PEREZ, CANDICE WHEELER
SAMUELSON HALL 130

This session will discuss the history and status of limited license types in our state, such as the Limited Practice Officer and Limited License Legal Technician, and their role in helping to reduce barriers to the legal profession and access to affordable legal services. Participants will workshop the challenges and opportunities of having stratified or limited license types in efforts to enhance diversity.

12:30 - 2:00 **Lunch & Continued Conversations**
SAMUELSON HALL LOBBY

Pathways To Legal Diversity Summit

SEPTEMBER 12TH, 2024 | CENTRAL WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

2:00 – 3:00 Afternoon Plenary Session

PAST, PRESENT, & FUTURE OF DIVERSITY IN BAR ADMISSIONS

JORDAN COUCH, TERRA NEVITT, LAURIE POWERS
SAMUELSON HALL 104

This plenary will briefly trace the history of bar admissions in our state, including ways they have historically been used as vehicles of discrimination, then highlight efforts to reduce bias and promote inclusion. Speakers will then discuss the current opportunities and challenges towards enhancing diversity and inclusion following the SCOTUS decision on affirmative action.

3:15 – 4:15 Afternoon Breakout Sessions

LEVERAGING THE APR 6 PATHWAY TO INCREASE DIVERSITY

KAITLIN LEIFUR-MASTERTON, JUDGE FA'AMOMOI MASANIAI
SAMUELSON HALL 128

Panelists will discuss their experiences with the APR 6 Law Clerk Program – a four-year law school alternative– and the opportunities and challenges of using this as a means of enhancing diversity. Participants will generate ideas around how we can better align this opportunity with efforts to increase diversity in the profession and ensure access to justice.

REGULATING EXCLUSION AND INCLUSION: COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES ON THE LEGAL PROFESSION

ESPERANZA BORBOA, VANNA SING
SAMUELSON HALL 130

The stated purpose of regulating the legal profession is to protect the public and ensure trust in the courts. Community advocates will offer their perspectives on how the legal system and regulators can better hold themselves accountable to members of the public—especially those experiencing daily injustice and face the greatest barriers to having their legal needs met. Attendees will explore this paradox in this session, and generate ideas for ways the Washington State Bar Association and legal professionals can better involve members of the public in delivering legal services and determining what makes a competent and ethical legal professional.

4:30 – 5:00 Closing Session

NAM NGUYEN, RAINA WAGNER
SAMUELSON HALL 104

LEGAL REBELS PODCAST

What does the future hold for licensed paraprofessionals?

September 18, 2024, 8:49 am CDT

By Victor Li ([/authors/27587/](#))



Share



Like 1

Share

Post



Email

Print



Image from Shutterstock (<https://www.shutterstock.com/image-photo/scales-justice-juridical-book-on-table-1042214941>).

neighborhood.

One possible way to help bridge the gap is to expand the pool of people eligible to practice law. Some states have experimented with licensing paralegals or paraprofessionals to handle limited legal matters. In recent years

(<https://clp.law.stanford.edu/licensing-paraprofessionals>), states including Arizona

(<https://www.abajournal.com/web/article/arizona-approves-alternative-business-structures-as-part-of-access-to-justice-reforms>), Utah

(<https://www.abajournal.com/web/article/utah-embraces-nonlawyer-ownership-of-law-firms-as-part-of-broad-reforms>), Minnesota and Oregon (<https://www.abajournal.com/web/article/oregon-approves-alternative-to-bar-exam>) have started programs allowing paraprofessionals to practice limited areas of law under supervision or after many hours of training.

Much has been made of the gigantic access-to-justice gap in this country. According to a 2022 study by the Legal Services Corp., 92% of Americans do not receive any or enough help for a civil legal need. There are many reasons for this.

Lawyers can be expensive. People might not realize that they need lawyers. And let's face it, lawyers are not the most likable or trustworthy people out there. We may not be used car salesmen or members of Congress, but we're definitely in the

Of course, that raises age-old concerns about unauthorized practice of law. Those concerns have already helped derail one paraprofessional licensing program (<https://www.abajournal.com/web/article/how-washingtons-limited-license-legal-technician-program-met-its-demise>) in Washington. Could they help take down some more?

In this episode the *Legal Rebels Podcast*, Eda Rosa talks about licensing paraprofessionals to perform legal tasks, as well as the importance of paralegals and paraprofessionals to the legal profession, with the ABA Journal's Victor Li. She runs Eda Rosa LLC, a paralegal service and legal professional development training company and hosts the *Let's Talk Paralegal* podcast.



Want to listen on the go? Legal Rebels is available on several podcast listening services. **Subscribe and never miss an episode.**

Apple | Spotify | Google Play

ABA Journal: Legal Rebels

What does the future hold for licensed paraprofessionals?

0:00 / 0:00



In This Podcast:



Eda
Rosa

Eda Rosa runs Eda Rosa LLC, a paralegal service and legal professional development training company and hosts the *Let's Talk Paralegal* podcast. She has over two decades of experience aiding attorneys nationwide in efficient caseload management, creating reliable legal education programs, and improving client relationships. Her background includes 15 years as a paralegal in Florida, which inspired her to establish her own venture in 2017.

Give us feedback, share a story tip or update, or report an error.

Name	Position	Current Term
Stephen Crossland	Chair	Chair 10/01/2023-9/30/2024 1st term (full) Member 10/01/2022-09/30/2025
Nancy Ivarinen	Vice Chair	Vice Chair 10/01/2023-09/30/2024 1st term (full) Member 10/01/2022-09/30/2025
Sarah Bové	Member	2nd term (full) 10/01/2023- 09/30/2026
Margaret Bridewell	Member	2nd term (full) 10/01/2023-09/30/2026
Jen Bull	Member	1st term (full) 10/01/2024- 09/30/2027
Theodore Cropley	Member	1st term (full) 10/01/2024- 09/30/2027
John Darling	Public	2nd term (full) 10/01/2024- 09/30/2027
Miryam Gordon	Member	1st term (full) 10/01/2024-09/30/2027
Crystal Lambert	Member	2nd term (full) 10/01/2023-09/30/2026
Phyllis Lykken	Public	1st term (full) 10/01/2022- 09/30/2025
Jennifer Ortega	Member	2nd term (full) 10/01/2022-09/30/2025
Ex Officio		
	SBCTC Representative	Not Active
BOG Liaison		
Tom Ahearne		10/01/2024-09/30/2025
ATJ Board Liaison		
WSBA Staff Liaison		
Cathy Biestek	Managing Regulatory Counsel	



LLLT Board Committee Assignments

Family Law Practice Area Committee: This committee reviews the APR and the scope of the Family Law Practice Area. It suggests changes to scope and identifies and prepares required supplemental education based on changes in the permitted scope of practice for LLLTs. This committee is responsible for maintaining the bank of forms approved by the LLLT Board, including drafting and recommending new forms as needed.

1. Jennifer Ortega (CHAIR)
2. Nancy Ivarinen
3. Crystal Lambert
4. Sarah Bové
5. Steve Crossland

Discipline Committee: The Committee is governed by and performs the functions described in the Rules for Enforcement of Limited License Legal Technician Conduct (ELLTTC) and those delegated by the LLLT Board Chair. The Committee is 3-5 members appointed by the LLLT Board Chair, who does not serve on the Committee. Non-board members may be appointed by the Court as requested by the LLLT Board Chair.

1. Nancy Ivarinen (CHAIR)
2. John Darling
3. Crystal Lambert

Nominations Committee: The Committee reviews applications for LLLT Board positions. As necessary, the Committee recruits applicants for Board positions and drafts any needed changes to rules regarding Board composition.

1. _____ (CHAIR)
2. Nancy Ivarinen
3. Phyllis Lykken

~~Rules & Research Committee: This Committee will review rules related to LLLT license, draft amendments or new rules when necessary and make recommendations to the Board regarding rule amendment proposals. In addition, the Committee will research and gather information on what other states and countries are doing with respect to limited licenses, will work on collection of LLLT data, and will identify lessons learned to help guide and inform discussions.~~

1. _____ (CHAIR)
2. Nancy Ivarinen
3. Steve Crossland

~~Communications Committee: At the direction of the LLLT Board, this Committee will liaison with other Boards, Committees, and entities; and prepare materials, including reports, presentations, and short videos on the license.~~

1. Phyllis Lykken (CHAIR)
2. Sarah Bové
3. Steve Crossland

Limited License Review Committee: This Committee will examine the LLLT license. It will explore what is going well, what could be improved, and will research and gather information on what other states and countries are doing with respect



to limited licenses. The Committee will liaison with other Boards, Committees, and entities. The information gathered will be used to prepare a report.

1. (CHAIR)

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

DRAFT

