

**3RD
ANNUAL**

**WASHINGTON STATE
BAR ASSOCIATION**

WSBA SMALL TOWN AND RURAL (STAR) PRACTICE SUMMIT

JUSTICE WITHIN REACH

**Sustaining Rural Practice
Through Community**

THURSDAY, JUNE 25 – FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 2026
Central Washington University in Ellensburg

**IN-PERSON
ONLY**



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**Central Washington University,
Student Union and Recreation Center, Ellensburg**

Justice in rural and small-town communities depends not only on access to legal services, but on the ability of attorneys and advocates to build sustainable, connected, and supported practices over time.

This year's STAR Summit centers the people who make justice possible and explores what it takes to sustain rural lawyering in the face of workforce shortages, professional isolation, economic pressures, and evolving community needs. Sessions will highlight practical strategies for strengthening rural practice, sharing resources, and building professional and community networks. The Summit will also create intentional space for connection, peer learning, and collaboration, fostering relationships that support attorneys and communities long after the event ends.

This year the STAR Council is partnering with the Access to Justice Board! The Summit will be held at the Central Washington University Student Union and Recreation Center and opens with a hosted reception on the evening of Thursday, June 25, at Gallery One Visual Arts Center in Ellensburg. Lunch will be provided on Friday, June 26, and a final hosted reception will close out the event on Friday afternoon.

The STAR Council would also like to thank the Central Washington University Law and Justice Department for their partnership this year.

**Space is limited. \$30 registration fee includes welcome reception, continental breakfast, and lunch. Schedule is subject to slight modifications as sessions are confirmed.*

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ON THE COVER: The sun shines down on Manastash Ridge as the first fruits of the summer begin to be offered and the grapes are beginning to mature. *Photo © Getty Images/Brian O'Kelly*



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Central Washington University,
Student Union and Recreation Center, Ellensburg

STAR26026ELL: IN-PERSON ONLY

REGISTRATION - ONLINE:

- [STAR26026ELL](#)

5.25 CLE CREDITS:	Other	Ethics
STAR26026ELL	4.0	1.25

TUITION:	
Standard	\$30
Law Students	\$0

CO-CHAIRS:

- **Ashley Cummins** - Seattle University School of Law, Seattle
- **Michele Moore** - Guardian Community Law, Ellensburg
- **Gloria Guizar** - Seattle University School of Law (JD Candidate), Seattle
- **Kevin Plachy** - Washington State Bar Association, Seattle

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS OF THE CONFERENCE:

Fette Trust
 Columbia Bank
 WSBA Solo and Small Practice Section

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Central Washington University,
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Lodging Information

There are several hotels located in close proximity to Gallery One Visual Arts Center and Central Washington University. Follow the links below to be taken to the information for each hotel.

- [Hotel Windrow](#)
- [TownePlace Suites Ellensburg](#)
- [Red Lion Hotel Ellensburg](#)

DAY 1 > THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2026

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. > Welcome Reception

Gallery One Visual Arts Center, 408 N Pearl St, Ellensburg, WA 98926

DAY 2 > FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 2026

**8:00 a.m. > Check-in • Walk-in Registration •
Coffee and Continental Breakfast**

8:30 a.m. > Opening Remarks

- **Dr. Cody Stoddard** – *Central Washington University, Ellensburg*
-

KEYNOTE

**8:40 a.m. > Creating Impactful Sustainable
Change: How Me Becomes We**

40 minutes, 0.75 credits Other

Justice G. Helen Whitener will share her intersecting lens on creating and providing lasting solutions that enhance access to justice for all.

- **Justice G. Helen Whitener** – *Washington Supreme Court, Olympia*
-

9:20 a.m. > BREAK

(DAY 2 CONTINUED NEXT PAGE)

DAY 2 > FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 2026

9:30 a.m. > AI for Lawyers: Practical Applications and Everyday Use

75 minutes, 1.25 credits Other

This session moves beyond general overviews to focus on real-world applications of artificial intelligence. Legal practitioners and technology experts will share how they are using AI tools to support client work, improve efficiency, and expand capacity in resource-limited environments. Attendees will leave with concrete examples, practical tips, and a clear understanding of how to use AI ethically and responsibly within their own rural practices.

- **Lesly Diaz-Perez** - *Familias Fuertes | Strong Families, Legal Technician, LLC, Spokane*
 - **David Leonhardt** - *Seitel Systems, Seattle*
 - **Michele Moore** - *Guardian Community Law, Ellensburg*
 - **Tyler O'Brien** - *The Longhair Lawyer, Ritzville*
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10:45 a.m. > BREAK

11:00 a.m. > Building Community and Strengthening Referral Networks

45 minutes, 0.75 credits Other

Strong rural practice depends on strong relationships. This panel will highlight how attorneys and community partners have built local networks to better meet legal and non-legal needs in their communities. Panelists will share concrete strategies for developing referral pipelines, collaborating across organizations, and connecting clients with critical resources such as interpreters, social services, and advocacy groups. This session is designed to spark ideas and set the stage for meaningful connection, with time intentionally placed before lunch to encourage continued conversation and networking among attendees.

- **Jocelyn Granados** - *University of Washington School of Law (JD Candidate), Seattle*
 - **Fabiola Jimenez** - *Lawmera, PLLC, Seattle*
 - **Edwardo Morfin** - *Morfin Law Firm, PLLC, Kennewick*
 - **Camila Quintero** - *Yakima County Superior Court Intern, Toppenish*
-

11:45 a.m. > LUNCH (hosted)

(DAY 2 CONTINUED NEXT PAGE)

DAY 2 > FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 2026

1:00 p.m. > Ethics in Rural Practice: Unbundled Services, Alternative Payments, and Real-World Challenges

75 minutes, 1.25 credits Ethics

Rural practitioners often adapt their services to meet the realities of their clients' lives, including offering limited scope representation and navigating non-traditional payment arrangements. This session will explore the ethical considerations that arise in rural practice, including unbundled legal services, bartering, and alternative fee structures. Presenters will provide practical guidance grounded in the Rules of Professional Conduct, helping attorneys identify common pitfalls and make informed decisions while continuing to serve their communities effectively.

- **Mark K. Baumann** – *Mark K. Baumann Attorney at Law, P.S., Port Angeles*
- **Sandra Schilling** – *Washington State Bar Association, Seattle*

2:15 p.m. > BREAK

2:30 p.m. > Access to Courts in Rural Communities: Barriers and Solutions

75 Minutes, 1.25 credits Other

Access to the courts in rural communities is shaped by geography, resources, and systems that are not always designed with rural realities in mind. This session will explore key barriers and emerging solutions that can improve accessibility and ensure individuals are able to meaningfully participate in the legal process, regardless of where they live. The discussion will also highlight current efforts underway across Washington, including work by the Administrative Office of the Courts related to the State Plan for Access to Justice for People Without Lawyers and collaborative initiatives focused on addressing legal deserts in rural communities.

- **Crissy Anderson** – *Administrative Office of the Courts, Olympia*
- **Ashley Cummins** – *Seattle University School of Law, Seattle*
- **Rikki Thompson** – *Pacific County Superior Court, South Bend*

3:45 p.m. > Closing Remarks by STAR Council Chair • Adjourn

- **Kari Petrasek** – *Petrasek Law PLLC, Mukilteo*

WRAP UP
SOCIAL
4:00 p.m.

3rd Annual WSBA Small Town and Rural (STAR) Practice Summit

Thursday, June 25 – Friday, June 26, 2026 • STAR26026ELL

REGISTRATION

To register online, please go to the [registration page](#). Click to add to cart and complete your purchase. You may pay by credit card, or via ACH. Alternatively, you may print and mail an invoice seven business days prior to the program along with your check payable to WSBA. Credit card payments by mail or fax are no longer accepted. Note, our service provider will charge you a separate, non-refundable transaction fee of 2.5% on all bank card transactions.

Effective Oct. 1, 2025, applicable sales tax will be applied to all live seminar registrations (in-person or virtual). For more information, refer to changes to [Washington sales tax law](#).

If special accommodations are needed, please email cle@wsba.org or call toll-free at 1-800-945-9722.

Please omit my name from the networking list made available to exhibitors and/or attendees.

Registrations received less than 48 hours before a seminar are not guaranteed a coursebook or other presentation materials on-site. If special accommodations are needed, please email cle@wsba.org or call toll-free at 800-945-9722.

PRICING INFORMATION

STAR26026ELL, attend in Ellensburg
6/25/26 through 6/26/26

\$30 Standard

\$0 Law Students

*Space is limited.
\$30 registration fee includes
welcome reception, continental
breakfast, and lunch.*

Seminar Registration Transfers, Refunds and Cancellations

In most circumstances, if you cannot attend the live event, we can transfer your registration to the on-demand product, once available (8-10 weeks from the program delivery date). Generally, for webcast/ webinar registrations, tuition fees may be refunded, less \$25 for processing, for written cancellations postmarked, emailed, or faxed up to the start of the event. For in-person registrations, tuition fees may be refunded, less \$25 for processing, for written cancellations postmarked, emailed, or faxed by 5 p.m. up to three business days before the event. No refunds will be provided after the dates specified. You may also send a substitute in lieu of canceling. *When applicable, specific exceptions to these policies will be noted on individual event registration pages.* Please email cle@wsba.org with any requests or questions.

ONLINE > Go to www.wsba.org and enter **STAR26026ELL** in the search box. Payment by credit card.

PHONE > Call **800-945-9722** or **206-443-9722** with credit card and registration/order form in hand. Our service provider will charge you a separate, non-refundable transaction fee of 2.5% on all bank card transactions.