



WASHINGTON NEW MEMBERS COMMITTEE

Washington New Members Committee

Washington New Members Committee Meeting | Virtual via Microsoft Teams

Monday, June 15, | 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

[Via Teams](#) | Meeting ID: 277 071 348 516 87 | Passcode: R2Z7FE9x

AGENDA:

1. **Welcome & Introductions; Approval of May Meeting Minutes** – Alex
2. **WSBA Updates** –Chelle, Jordan
3. **Team Updates and Regional Reports** – All
 - a. **Social Media** – Ariel
 - b. **Mentorship Project Team** – Janta
 - c. **CLE Team** – Chawisa, Hanna
 - d. **Charter Project Team** – Alex
 - e. **PSLA Update** – Alex, Chelle Gegax
4. **ABA YLD Delegate Selection Discussion** – Alex, Chelle
5. **New ideas for Next Meeting** – All

Adjournment – Alex

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

Washington New Members Committee

Washington New Members Committee Meeting
Microsoft Teams
Wednesday, May 27, 2026, | 3:51 p.m. – 4:17 p.m.
Meeting Minutes

WNMC Members Present: Chawisa Laicharoenwat, Mackenzie Lloyd, Matt Rommelman, Ariel Cook, Steven Brown, Michelle Hesse, Mason Ji, Alexander Reaganson, Stephan Yhann

WNMC Members Absent: Janta Steele, Fatima Al-Rikabi, Hanna Harrison, Bethany Nolan, Mackenzie Spinks, Thomas Garvey,

Board of Governors Liaison: Jordan Couch (absent)

WSBA Staff: Chelle Gegax – WSBA Member Engagement Specialist

Welcome & Introductions; Approval of April Meeting Minutes – Alex

Washington New Members Committee (WNMC) Chair, Alexander Reagason (Alex), called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. On motion by WNMC Immediate Past Chair, Mason Ji, seconded by WNMC Member Steven Brown, the WNMC unanimously (9-0-0) approved the April meeting minutes.

WSBA Updates – Chelle, Alex

Bog Meeting Updates and Wellness Survey: Alex shared updates from the recent Board of Governors meeting held in Wenatchee. He commented on Jordan's proposed change regarding accreditation requirements for bar admission, which aims to eliminate unnecessary barriers to practice. The committee discussed and generally supported this policy shift, recognizing its alignment with efforts to make the profession more accessible.

Alex also reported on the release of the Wellness survey findings. He highlighted concerning statistics, noting significant levels of stress and burnout among law students and new members. The results were referenced in a specific report, underscoring the need for ongoing attention to wellness within the legal community.

In response to these issues, Alex announced plans to invite the chairs of the Wellness survey task force and the related practice group to attend a future meeting, with the goal of facilitating

their participation in July. This initiative aims to further address wellness challenges and foster greater engagement on these critical topics.

WSBA Member Engagement Specialist, Chelle Gegax, reminded committee members whose positions are set to expire in September to reapply through the myWSBA portal. She encouraged members to act promptly and offered support if anyone encounters access issues.

For the application process, Chelle instructed members to submit their committee applications via the myWSBA portal. She also invited anyone with questions or difficulties accessing the portal to contact her by email for assistance.

Chelle specifically emphasized the importance of beginning the reapplication process immediately for those whose committee positions end at the close of September.

July Meeting Update – Chelle

Chelle announced plans for a July social event in Tulalip/ Marysville and an after-bar exam gathering in Yakima. She requested WNMC members to attend these events, emphasizing the importance of their presence and confirming that travel expenses would be covered. Mackenzie and Stephan both expressed interest in participating.

Chelle provided specifics for the Yakima social, which is scheduled to take place on July 29th from 1:00 to 4:00 PM at Fifth Line Brewing. This event will follow the fully virtual bar exam, which concludes at 12:30 PM. Chelle especially encouraged WNMC members who live in or near Yakima to attend the social, reiterating that travel costs would be reimbursed. Mackenzie asked Chelle to send a calendar invite for the Yakima event to facilitate attendance and coordination, and Chelle agreed to do so. Chelle mentioned ongoing partnerships with KCBA and the Yakima County Bar Association for these social events.

Chelle announced Mason as the recipient of the 2026 Apex New Member award, discussed the upcoming announcement party, and encouraged committee support for Mason at the event. Mason and Chelle discussed a watch party for the award announcement, likely to occur in September, with Chelle encouraging committee attendance.

Chelle recapped their leadership at the Bar Leaders' Summit workshop on recruiting and retaining new members, highlighting new partnerships with affinity and county bar associations for future collaboration with WNMC. Chelle established new connections with bar associations, many of whom were unaware of WNMC's bar exam social sponsorship and expressed interest in partnering on future initiatives.

Team Updates and Regional Reports – all

Alex presented the final draft Charter amendments for committee review, incorporating last-minute revisions based on feedback from general counsel.

On motion by Alex, seconded by Mackenzie, the WNMC unanimously approved (9-0-0) to eliminate the signal for footnote 5 in the final version of the charter.

After summarizing the general counsel's comments and the proposed changes, Alex opened the floor for discussion on the final draft Charter. On motion by Mason, seconded by Ariel, the WNMC voted unanimously (9-0-0) to approve this final draft of the charter for submission to the Board of Governors. Alex then confirmed that the final drafts would be submitted and that the cover letter would be updated to reflect the day's votes and edits. Members were reminded to review their term schedules to support Charter implementation.

Chair Elect Application Process

Chelle requested that members interested in the chair elect position for next year submit their applications, statements of interest, and resumes. This request comes as the committee needs to solidify the role soon due to recent changes within the group. Chelle asked that all materials be sent directly to them for consideration. Ideally, the chair elect would have been identified by January, but the process was delayed because of committee changes, making it important to finalize the appointment promptly.

Alex adjourned the meeting at 4:17 p.m.

View results

Respondent

29

Anonymous

01:24

Time to complete

1. Member Name:

2. Do you have any updates since the last meeting?

 Yes No

3. If yes, please provide your update below:

4. If no, please provide a brief explanation as to why not:

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

Scholarship to Attend ABA Young Lawyer Division Meetings

The Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) and the Washington Young Lawyers Committee (WYLC) have prioritized the use of funds to send new and young lawyers to attend American Bar Association (ABA) Young Lawyer Division (YLD) meetings and/or conferences. This scholarship is designed to:

1. encourage attendance and participation at the ABA YLD meetings.
2. ensure that Washington is represented by Delegates to YLD Assembly at ABA Annual and Midyear; and
3. to create the opportunity for scholarship recipients to bring ideas back to the WYLC about how to engage and serve new lawyers in Washington.

The ABA YLD is a network of over 130,000 members and 300-plus affiliated young lawyer organizations from around the world. Twice a year, at the ABA Midyear and Annual Meetings, the ABA YLD Assembly meets to debate and vote on issues of importance to young lawyers that if passed are recommended to the ABA House of Delegates to become official policies of the ABA. The ABA YLD also holds two conferences a year, one in the spring and another in the fall.

As a scholarship recipient, you will be given the opportunity to represent the interests of new and young lawyers in Washington State at a national level by participating in the ABA YLD Assembly and attending ABA YLD conferences. Attending YLD meetings will also give you the opportunity to network with other lawyers, attend CLEs, and learn what other states are doing to tackle important young lawyer issues. You will also review and consider ideas and programs to bring back to WSBA and its WYLC. Scholarship recipients are strongly encouraged to attend plenary and closing sessions at the Midyear and Annual Meetings and at least one block of programming each day. If you are unsure of what to attend, please reach out to your 2022-2024 ABA YLD District Representative (Aaron Haynes: ahaynes@chmelik.com) or FY23 WYLC Chair (Zachary Davison: ZDavison@perkinscoie.com).

The scholarship is designed to partially offset your expenses to attend the meetings. You are encouraged to seek additional funding through the ABA or other resources available to you.

Scholarship for Fall: There will be four \$250 scholarships awarded to new and young lawyers to attend the ABA YLD Fall Conference in Portland, OR from September 29 to October 1, 2022. The scholarship will come in the form of a reimbursement.

Scholarship for Midyear: There will be three \$250 scholarships awarded to new and young lawyers to the ABA YLD Midyear Meeting in New Orleans, LA from February 1 to February 6, 2023. The scholarship will come in the form of a reimbursement.

Scholarship for ABA YLD Annual: There will be three \$250 scholarships awarded to new and young lawyers to attend the ABA YLD Annual Meeting in Denver, CO from August 2 to August 8, 2023. The scholarship will come in the form of a reimbursement.

Responsibilities

Each scholarship recipient is **required** to serve as a Washington Delegate to the YLD Assembly if the scholarship recipient attends either the Annual or Midyear meetings. All scholarship recipients must attend the following WYLC meeting (either in person or over the phone) to share what they learned that may be applicable to new and young lawyers in Washington State. Scholarship recipients may also be asked to provide a written summary for new and young lawyers via the WSBA new lawyers list serve and/or the WSBA blog, NWSidebar.

Requirements to Apply

1. Applicants must be current members or become members of the ABA YLD.
2. Applicants must be considered “Young Lawyer” as defined in section XII of the WSBA Bylaws at the time of the selection. The WSBA considers an active member a Young Lawyer if at least one of the two criteria below is met:
 - the member has been admitted to practice for fewer than five years (in any state); or
 - the member is under 36 years of age.

Selection Process

The WYLC has authority over who will be awarded the scholarships. For more information, contact newmembers@wsba.org.

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

Application for Scholarship to Attend ABA Young Lawyer Division Meeting

Name: _____

Email: _____ Bar No. _____

Employer: _____

Address: _____

Which meeting are you applying for scholarship funding to attend? Please note application deadlines:

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Application Deadline</u>
___ Fall Conference	Sep 29 – Oct 1, 2022	Portland, OR	September 3, 2022
___ Midyear	Feb 1 – Feb 6, 2023	New Orleans, LA	December 16, 2022
___ Annual	Aug 2 to Aug 8, 2023	Denver, CO	June 9, 2023

Why are you interested in attending this ABA meeting?

Are you actively involved in any Bar Association programs or projects? If so, please name them and briefly describe your involvement, including any positions held:

Please list any *pro bono* participation and/or activities:

Have you ever attended an ABA YLD Meeting? _____ Yes _____ No

Have you ever attended any other ABA Meetings, and how many?

Scholarship recipients will receive the reimbursement after each meeting by completing a WSBA Expense Report form and including all applicable receipts up to the limit specified in the scholarship they receive. In addition to receipts, scholarship recipients must submit a schedule of ABA YLD events attended. Reimbursement will only be made for expenses for airfare, hotel, registration, or meals (excluding alcoholic beverages) incurred in connection with the meeting.

If you are unable to attend a meeting for which you have been selected as a scholarship recipient, please email NewMembers@wsba.org as soon as possible. This will allow us to award another applicant the scholarship.

Signature _____

Date _____

Please return your completed application by mail or email to: New Member Programs c/o Washington State Bar Association, 1325 4th Ave., Ste. 600, Seattle, WA 98101; Phone: 206.733.5921; Email: NewMembers@wsba.org