

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

Washington Young Lawyers Committee

Washington Young Lawyers Committee Meeting | Virtual via Zoom

Monday, January 13, 2024, | 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

[Via Zoom](#) | Meeting ID: 873 7434 2637 | Passcode 096954 | Call In 888-788-0099

AGENDA:

- 1) **Welcome & Introductions; Approval of December Meeting Minutes** – Mason
- 2) **WSBA Updates** –Chelle, Julianne, Jordan
 - a) BOG Meeting Updates
 - b) WSBA Updates
- 3) **Bar Exam Social Updates** – Chelle
- 4) **Project Team Updates and Regional Reports** – All
- 5) **MentorLink Mixer Update** – Chelle
- 6) **Mentorship Inquiry** - Chelle
- 7) **New ideas for Next Meeting** – All
- 8) **Adjournment** – Mason

2024 - 2025 WYLC Meeting Schedule

November 16, 2024	Meeting: 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	WSBA Office, Seattle Wa & Hybrid
December 16, 2024	Meeting: 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.	Virtual via Zoom
January 13, 2025	Meeting: 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.	Virtual via Zoom

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

Washington Young Lawyers Committee

**Washington Young Lawyers Committee Meeting I Hybrid
Zoom
Monday, December 16, 2024, | 12:02 p.m. – 12:58 p.m.
Meeting Minutes**

WYLC Members Present In-Person or Phone: Mason Ji, Aaron Haynes, Alexander Reaganson, Chawisa Laicharoenwat, Matthew Rommelmann, Stephan Yhann, Steven Brown, Thomas Garvey, Janta Steele, Makenzie Spinks, Mackenzie Lloyd, Hanna Harrison, Michelle Hesse

WYLC Members Absent: Adin Johnson (unexcused), Sydney Sherman (unexcused), Michelle Mendoza (excused), Bethany Nolan

Board of Governors Liaisons: Jordan Couch (departed 12:16 p.m.)

WSBA Staff: Chelle Gegax – WSBA Member Services and Engagement Specialist, Vanessa Sweeney – WSBA Member Services and Engagement Program Coordinator

Welcome & Introductions; Approval of November Meeting Minutes – Mason

WYLC Chair, Mason Ji, opened the meeting at 12:02 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance. Since there are two new committee members, Hanna Harrison and Michelle Hesse, introductions were made by all in attendance. On motion by WYLC Member Alexander Reaganson, seconded by WYLC Member Matthew Rommelmann, the WYLC unanimously (10-0-0) to approve the November WYLC Meeting minutes.

WSBA Updates – Chelle, Jordan

BOG Meeting Updates

WYLC Board of Governor Liaison Jordan Couch stated a Board of Governors (BOG) meeting has not taken place since the last WYLC meeting (November) therefore there is no update at this time. The next BOG meeting is scheduled in January. Jordan departed the meeting at 12:16 p.m.

WSBA Updates

WSBA Member Services and Engagement Specialist Chelle Gegax shared a reminder that 2025 open enrollment is open, with details found on the WSBA website. Additionally, now is a good time to renew/enroll in section membership, as membership runs January to December.

SWAG and Logo Discussion – All

There was a discussion on the four WYLC logos designed by WSBA's design department. WYLC Member Stephan Yhann shared his preference for option 'D' with the idea to play with color scheme elements using the orange color as shown in option A and C. Matt shared that it should be considered how the logo will be used – applying it to different swag can be different depending on the item and that in some cases a simpler logo is easier to work with, hence his preference for option 'B'. The idea was brought up that the seal can be removed for some uses, such as hats and shirts and only the word block could be used. Scaling it is another consideration.



A Zoom poll was conducted revealing the following results: Option A received 1 vote, Option B received 3 votes, Option C received 1 vote, and Option D received 7 votes. Chelle will send Option D back to design team for revisions, including adjusting the word block and incorporating other colors. Chelle will send the updated design(s) to everyone via the listserv, for a vote prior to the next meeting. This will allow the swag order to be placed by the end of January. SWAG items include Post it notes, pens, gavel stress ball, USB charger, hand sanitizer, and a dog poop bag holder. The cost estimate is \$2200 (excluding tax and shipping) for quantities ranging between 50-200 of each item. A motion to approve the distribution of goods was made by Janta, seconded by Stephan and passed unanimously.

Bar Exam Social Updates – Chelle

Chelle shared that the after-bar social venue is confirmed for 7 Seas Brewery, and that she will be meeting with the Regulatory Services Department (RSD), who manages the bar exam, to plan next steps. Since the test-taker list is confidential, RSD markets to candidates directly and includes a registration link on the admissions portal. Janta asked if there is any action on the committee's part, and Chelle replied that information will be sent to the WYLC to allow people to RSVP.

Project Team Updates and Regional Reports – All

Public Service Leadership Award – Alex

WYLC Member Alexander Reaganson stated there are no updates at this time as preparations for the next round of awards will begin in the March or April timeframe.

STAR Committee Updates – Chelle

Chelle updated that the STAR Council's primary focus is the STAR Summit which will take place in June, the specific date is yet to be confirmed. The Summit will be held at either Central Washington University or Heritage University. The Council is also planning a virtual job fair in partnership with Gonzaga. The job fair is marketed to employers and law students, who can interview for internships. Finally, a Rural Day of Service event is being planned. The next STAR Council meeting is Wednesday, December 18. WYLC Member Mackenzie Lloyd indicated she would like to attend Wednesday's meeting, and Chelle confirmed she will pass along the meeting details.

Recruitment and Outreach – Chelle

Chelle shared that she is collaborating with WSBA Volunteer Engagement Manager Paris Eriksen to initiate targeted recruitment outreach for the WYLC Olympia region position.

Financial Focus CLE - Chawisa

WYLC Member Chawisa Laicharoenwat shared that the recent Financial Focus CLE, which was held in September, is now available online for viewing. The fee is \$125 but is free for new lawyers. Chelle added that the next Financial Focus is scheduled for September 2025 and encouraged anyone with topic suggestions to reach out to her or Chawisa.

WYLC Bylaw Amendments – Mason

Mason shared an update that the efforts, which have been ongoing for the past 2+ years, to redefine "young lawyers" to be more inclusive, including individuals who are not lawyers. Findings and a proposal were presented to the BOG nearly two years ago and received positive feedback. Mason is currently updating the materials and will share a draft for feedback via email. The goal is to present findings to the BOG in June or July.

CLE Collaborations – Chelle

Chelle shared that the MentorLink Mixer is planned for late January/early February, date to be confirmed. The theme will be new members, with the topic "You Passed the Bar, Now What?" Having WYLC's partnership on the event would be highly valuable. Outreach is also being made to the WSBA Young Lawyer Liaisons, as well as the King County Bar Association, Tacoma-Pierce County Bar Association, and their young lawyer divisions to collaborate. WYLC has partnered in the past including last year's mixer. At the event, WYLC members would serve as mentors, with one person providing an elevator pitch. A motion to approve WYLC's partnership was made by Janta, seconded by Alex, and passed unanimously.

New Ideas for Next Meeting – All

Janta asked about law student involvement with the committee. Alex responded with an update from the pro bono public service side, noting that there are no updates yet from pro bono public service committee. He plans to follow up to understand their direction before deciding on further steps and determining who else should be involved. It was discussed that law students were to be invited to January's WYLC meeting and added to the standing meeting list. However, none of them responded for today's meeting. Law students can participate, but they are non-voting members. If

there was a strong demand to have them be voting members, it would require a bylaw amendment to transition the committee to a council. Per the current definition, committee seats must be filled by WSBA members. Mason asked if the idea of transitioning from committee to council should be taken to the BOG. Janta asked what the benefits of a council versus committee look like, and Chelle replied she will research further, and follow up with Janta. The conversation continued around what a transition would involve. Chelle recommends having a discussion around the level of involvement wanted from law school representatives, such as whether they should have voting or non-voting positions, and how much input they should provide. Chelle suggests initially building relationships with students before considering granting them a voting position, as student commitment can be inconsistent, which may hinder meeting quorum on a regular basis. Chelle advised to strongly consider this especially given the history with meeting quorum with the WYLC. Alex added that the pro bono committee will not be transitioning to a council but will be present as ex officio position. Chelle noted, for additional background, the STAR committee transitioned to a council as they required three seats, one for each law school, which involved a staff for each seat, as opposed to a student. The topic of law student involvement will be added to January's agenda to continue the conversation, and Chelle will encourage law school students to attend January's meeting.

Adjournment – Mason

Mason adjourned the meeting at 12:58 p.m.



WYLC Meeting Recap

December 16, 2024

General Updates

BOG Liaison Update:

- No updates as the Board of Governors has not met since the last WYLC meeting.
- Next BOG meeting scheduled for January 2025.

WSBA Updates:

- Open enrollment for WSBA memberships is active. Members are encouraged to renew or enroll for section memberships.

Committee Membership:

- Recruitment efforts underway for the Olympia Region representative position.

Events and Outreach

Bar Exam Social:

- Venue confirmed for February at 7 Seas Brewery.
- Coordination with Regulatory Services Department (RSD) is ongoing for attendee outreach.

STAR Council:

- Planning underway for the STAR Summit in June, with potential venues at Central Washington University or Heritage University.
- Virtual job fair in partnership with Gonzaga University is being planned.
- Rural Day of Service event under development.

Projects and Initiatives

Public Service Leadership Award:

- Preparations for the next nomination cycle to begin in March or April.

Financial Focus CLE:

- The September 2024 CLE recording is now available online.
- Planning for the September 2025 CLE is underway.

Policy and Administrative Discussions**Bylaw Amendments:**

- Continued efforts to redefine "young lawyers" to include legal-adjacent professionals.
- Proposal expected to be presented to the BOG in June or July 2025.

SWAG and Branding:

- Logo design discussions concluded with Option D selected for refinement.
- Planned SWAG items include pens, stress balls, USB chargers, and more, with an estimated budget of \$2,200.
- Final designs will be approved before January's end.

Law School Engagement:




- Discussion on increasing student involvement with the committee.
- Initial focus on building relationships before formalizing voting roles.
- Law students invited to attend the January WYLC meeting.

Affirmative and/or Potential Action Items:

- Fill the Olympia Region representative position.
- Finalize and approve SWAG designs for orders in January.
- Continue STAR Summit and job fair planning.
- Draft and finalize bylaw revisions for submission in mid-2025.
- Increase law student engagement through targeted outreach.

Next Meeting: January 2025

Responses Overview Active

<p>Responses</p> <p>1 </p>	<p>Average Time</p> <p>03:40 </p>	<p>Duration</p> <p>727 Days </p>
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1. Are there any initiatives with the local young lawyers we should know about?

0
Responses

0 responses submitted



2. Any recruitment actions taken in the last 2 months? Were they successful?

0
Responses

0 responses submitted



3. Any feedback from constituents on WYLC activities?

1
Responses

Latest Responses

"I received positive feedback on the quarterly email, saying it was the first they ha... "

4. What recruitment actions do you plan to take in the next two months? How will they be successful?

1
Responses

Latest Responses

"What are we recruiting for?"

5. Is there anything you need from the WYLC?


1
Responses

Latest Responses


"Can I please get information about the feedback from the first reading regarding ..."

Responses Overview Active


Responses

1 

Average Time

01:21 

Duration

789 Days 

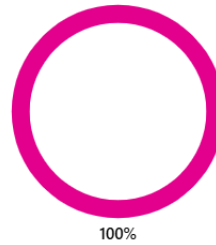
1. Member Name:

1
Responses

Latest Responses
"Alex Reaganson, PSLA Project Lead"

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

● Yes 0
● No 1



3. If yes, please provide your update below:

0
Responses

0 responses submitted

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—
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...

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

1
Responses

Latest Responses
"No updates, due to no need to act yet. Plans in place for when we start to collect ..."



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December 13, 2024

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RE: mentoring young lawyers

Dear Committee Members,

I hope this letter finds you well. My name is Evan Oshan, and I am an experienced trial attorney with over 24 years of practice in Washington State and New York. Throughout my career, I have had the privilege of handling numerous high-profile cases, most notably the Chop Zone cases in Seattle and the Harlem Fire case, both of which garnered significant national and international media attention.

My extensive experience in the courtroom has equipped me with a deep understanding of trial strategy and client advocacy. As I reflect on my journey in the legal field, I am deeply passionate about giving back and supporting the next generation of attorneys. I believe that mentorship is crucial in cultivating talent and fostering a strong legal community. I would like to offer my guidance and share the wealth of knowledge I have acquired over the years.

My goal is to empower young lawyers to develop their skills, navigate the complexities of the legal profession, and uphold the highest standards of advocacy. I would be honored to collaborate with the committee in any mentorship initiatives or programs that will benefit young attorneys. Thank you for considering my offer. I look forward to the opportunity to contribute and support the growth of our legal community.

Very truly yours,

Evan Oshan

