

Volunteer Opportunity: Board of Bar Examiners

Entity Type:

- Board
- Committee
- Council
- Other Bar Entity

Created By:

- WSBA
- Supreme Court
- Court Rule

Term:

- One Year
- Two Years
- Three Years
- Four Years

Meetings:

- In-Person Only
- Virtual Only
- Hybrid

Eligibility:

License Type:

- Lawyer
- LLLT
- LPO

License Status:

- Active
- Inactive
- Judicial
- Honorary
- Pro Bono

Public Members:

- Yes
- No

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The WSBA Board of Bar Examiners grades the written answers on the bar examination and reviews and edits the subject matter outlines and test questions for the Washington Law Component. For the Portfolio Evaluation, a new pathway for admission, the Board is also tasked with writing ethics prompts and grading the portfolio items submitted from applicants seeking admission by portfolio evaluation.

Benefits:

- Valuable public service and opportunity to serve the legal community.
- Networking opportunities with graders in Washington during grading conferences.
- Stipends are awarded to examiners who complete a grading assignment, complete a review of a subject matter outline and related test questions for the Washington Law Component, or complete writing of ethics prompts.

Requirement and Time Commitment

- Attend a half-day Board of Bar Examiners training; remotely or in-person at the WSBA offices.
- Attend at least one:
 - three-day bar exam grading conference held in mid-March or mid-August in-person at the WSBA offices in downtown Seattle; or
 - three-day portfolio grading conference held quarterly in-person at the WSBA offices in downtown Seattle.
 - Attend one-day mandatory NCBE grading workshop prior to each bar exam grading conference; remotely.
- For selected members: Review and edit a subject matter outline and related multiple-choice questions for the Washington Law Component once every year.
- For selected members: Write ethics prompts for applicants seeking admission through portfolio evaluation.
- Be an active or judicial member of the WSBA.
- Accept appointments to the Board for a four-year term.

Preferred Qualifications and Skills:

- Ability to work independently and as a team during the grading conferences.
- Ability to work with grading partner at the beginning of the conference to calibrate scoring and collaborate with partner during grading to maintain calibration.
- Ability to review written exam answers on a computer monitor for long periods of time.
- Ability to become familiar with and use grading software.

- Willingness to devote uninterrupted time during a grading conference to grade until completed.
- Ability to work efficiently to complete grading a high volume of items, while paying attention to detail to ensure grading is performed accurately and consistently.
- Ability to maintain strict confidentiality.

About the Board of Bar Examiners and the Washington Bar Examination

The Board of Bar Examiners grades the NextGen UBE consisting of Integrated question sets and performance tasks and produces the content for the Washington Law Component test under the direction of the Board of Governors, in accordance with the Admission and Practice Rules as approved by the Washington Supreme Court.

The NextGen UBE is administered over one and a half days, consisting of multiple-choice questions, integrated question sets and performance tasks. The multiple-choice questions are scored by NCBE. The grading is completed over the course of one long weekend at a grading conference held in mid-March and mid-August in Seattle. After the grading conference, the written responses graded by the Bar Examiners are scaled by NCBE with the multiple-choice answers.

The winter exam requires a total of 12 examiners to grade the integrated questions sets and performance tasks and the summer exam requires a total of 22 examiners. Each examiner must attend the mandatory scheduled NCBE grading workshop by teleconference, or by review of the conference video prior to grading the exams.

The Washington Law Component (WLC) consists of 15 subject matter outlines and related multiple choice questions covering the following topics: Administrative Law, Civil Procedure, Statute of Limitations and Washington Courts, Community Property and Domestic Partnerships, Constitutional Law, Consumer Protection Act, Criminal Law and Procedure, Evidence, Foreclosure and Limited Practice Officers, Indian Law, Land Use, Landlord Tenant Law, Public Records Act, Torts and Product Liability. The WLC educates applicants about areas of law that are unique to Washington or substantially different from the general law covered on the UBE. The WLC includes an online, open-book test that applicants must pass with a score of 80% or higher prior to admission to practice law. The Board of Bar Examiners reviews and edits the outlines and test questions on a regular schedule.

The Board of Bar Examiners, in 2027, will begin grading portfolio items submitted by applicants pursuing admission by portfolio evaluation, a new experiential pathway for demonstrating minimum competence to practice law. Grading sessions are expected to occur quarterly over the course of a long weekend in Seattle. Examiners will also draft professional responsibility prompts for portfolio evaluation applicants who choose not to take the Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam.

Reimbursement policy: Reasonable travel expenses may be reimbursed according to the WSBA Expense Reimbursement Policy.

Selection and appointment process: Candidates are vetted by a nomination team including the Board chair and vice-chair, staff liaison and the liaison from the Board of Governors. The Board of Governors makes the appointments.

For further information: See <https://www.wsba.org/Legal-Community/Committees-Boards-and-Other-Groups/client-protection-board>

How to apply: See instructions at www.wsba.org/joincommittee. Questions about the application? Email barleaders@wsba.org.

We are committed to promoting diversity, equity and inclusion on the Board and strongly encourage folks from a diverse array of backgrounds to apply. We define diversity broadly to include age, disability, ethnicity, gender identity, geographical location, indigenous background, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, social class, and veteran status.