

**WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
LAW CLERK BOARD**

Public Minutes

August 1, 2025

Law Clerk Board (Board) Members in Attendance

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Benjamin Phillabaum, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alexa Ritchie
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tracy Finnegan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Christell Casey
<input type="checkbox"/> Michelle Myers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sarah Propst
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Meyers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Annemarie Weiss
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leone Reinbold	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gary Epperley
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Emily Rose	

Staff and others in attendance for some or all the meeting

Cathy Biestek, Managing Regulatory Counsel and Katherine Skinner, Law Clerk Program Lead were also in attendance.

Public Session

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The June 6, 2025, public meeting minutes were approved.

Outreach and Updates

Katherine provided an update on the current program data, including number of currently enrolled law clerks (127) and current and upcoming application numbers (14).

Katherine participated in a panel discussion focused on expanding pathways to the legal profession at Heritage University. During the session, she shared program data relevant to the Law Clerk Program, responded to questions from attendees and received and noted feedback from participants regarding the program's impact and accessibility.

Katherine also provided an update about the Law Clerk Program Reception, which was held at the Marcus Whitman hotel in Walla Walla on July 18th. The reception honored six law clerks and their families. The event celebrated the clerks' accomplishments and contributions to the legal community. Law Clerk Board (Board) attendees included Christell and Gary, who represented the program and Christell offered remarks. The reception provided an opportunity to recognize the dedication of the clerks and foster community engagement.



FY 2026 Calendar

The Board approved the fiscal year 2026 calendar and asked Katherine to add the Board calendar to the next agenda for the Board to discuss in more detail.

APR 6 and Regulations

Christell presented the proposed amendments to APR 6 and the Law Clerk Program regulations. Following the presentation, the board unanimously approved the suggested changes. Katherine will submit the approved revisions to the Board of Governors for consideration at their September meeting.

Executive Session

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The June 6, 2025, confidential meeting minutes were approved.

Requests

The Board approved nine requests for a leave of absence.

The Board approved one jurisprudence book request:

- “The Social Contract”

The Board denied seven jurisprudence book requests for not meeting the jurisprudence guidelines:

- “Unbuild Walls Why Immigrant Justice Needs Abolition”
- “Border and Rule Global Migration, Capitalism, and the Rise of Racist Nationalism”
- “No Cop City, No Cop World Lessons from the Movement”
- “To Kill a Mockingbird”
- “Nicomachean Ethics, Third Edition”
- “Politics”
- “Getting to Maybe”

The Board approved seven fourth year proposals:

- Construction Law
- Wine Law & Business with the exception that the course be two months instead of three
- Alternative Dispute Resolution & Practicum
- Cannabis Law & Policy
- Bankruptcy
- Immigration
- Intellectual Property

The Board denied two fourth year course proposal:

- Counseling Startups
- Collaborative Law



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Applications

The Board approved eight applications for enrollment in the Law Clerk Program beginning when the final confirmation letter is sent.

Evaluations

- The Board conducted three first-year evaluations and approved continuation in the program upon successful completion of all remaining first year coursework and book reports.
- The Board conducted three fourth-year evaluations and approved completion of the program upon successful completion of all remaining fourth-year coursework and book reports.

Respectfully Submitted,
Katherine Skinner, Law Clerk Program Lead

