

Working Together to Champion Justice
2022-2023

Overview:

The WSBA operates under the delegated authority of the Washington Supreme Court to license the state’s over 40,000 lawyers and other legal professionals. In furtherance of its obligation to protect and serve the public, the WSBA both regulates lawyers and other legal professionals and serves its members as a professional association — all without public funding. The WSBA’s mission is to serve the public and the members of the Bar, to ensure the integrity of the legal profession, and to champion justice. For more information, visit www.wsba.org. As a regulatory agency, the WSBA administers the bar admission process, including the lawyer bar exam and the licensing exams for LPOs and LLLTs; provides record-keeping and licensing functions; and administers the discipline system for licensed legal professionals. As a professional association, the WSBA provides continuing legal education for lawyers, LPOs and LLLTs, in addition to numerous other educational and member-service activities.

The governance of the WSBA is vested in its Board of Governors. There are two governors from the seventh congressional district; one from each of the other nine districts; and three at-large members. The Board meets regularly (approximately every two months) at the WSBA Conference Center and at various locations around the state, and the Public Session portions of its meetings are open to the public. Much of the work of the Bar is carried out through its many committees, boards, and 29 sections.

Mission Statement:
The Washington State Bar Association’s mission is to serve the public and the members of the Bar, to ensure the integrity of the legal profession and to champion justice.

Membership:
Appx. 41,534 members (33,603 active members.) All legal professionals licensed to practice in the state are required to be members of the WSBA. Of its members who volunteer the information, appx. 41% are women and 14% are persons of color.

President: Daniel D. Clark
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WSBA Staff:
Appx. 138 staff members.

Bar Address: 1325 4th Ave., Ste.
600 Seattle, WA 98101

Other Facts:

- As reported in the recently published ABA Profile of the Legal Profession in 2021, legal practitioners in Washington contributed an average of 57 hours of pro bono service per lawyer for all lawyers – the highest among all states surveyed. Two-thirds of all lawyers in Washington (68%) reported doing at least some pro bono work and among those, the average amount of pro bono work performed was 77 hrs¹.
- 800-1,000 new legal professionals are admitted each year.
- There are more than 67 county, specialty, and minority bar associations throughout the state, serving the needs of licensed legal professionals and the public.
- To promote public confidence and protection of the public, the WSBA administers the Client Protection Fund. This program compensates clients who are victims of attorney misappropriation. Each active or house counsel lawyer member, active LLLT, foreign law consultant, and lawyer authorized to appear pro hac vice, is assessed \$30 a year as part of his or her annual licensing or per case license fee (for pro hac vice) for this fund.

¹ Washington State *Bar News*, October 2021.

