



WSBA

**WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**WSBA Resolution Regarding  
Pretrial Release of Those Accused  
of Committing Crimes**

Whereas the Washington State Bar Association strives to promote the understanding of our legal system and the law;

Whereas the WSBA is charged with reporting to, and advising, public officials about matters of interest to the bar and informing public officials about bar positions and concerns;

Whereas it is a fundamental principle of American law that a person accused of a crime is presumed to be innocent;

Whereas it is a fundamental principle of American law that society incarcerates a person for what they have done, not what they might do;

Whereas it is a fundamental principle of American law that no person may be deprived of liberty without due process of law;

Whereas expanding the category of those accused of crimes who will be incarcerated while awaiting their trial will pose a significant additional cost upon the Counties and will likely, if not certainly, lead to the pretrial incarceration of those who would not cause harm to others if not incarcerated prior to trial;

Whereas promoting public safety is a vital governmental function it is one that must be pursued without sacrificing our society's fundamental values and principles and one that should be done with study and deliberation and not with haste;

Therefore be it resolved that the Washington State Bar Association urges public officials, and the public in general, to act with due deliberations and study of any changes, especially changes to the state constitution, regarding the availability of bail to those accused of a crime and to include a representative from the WSBA in any such deliberative process.

Adopted by the Washington State Bar Association Board of Governors on January 21, 2010.

*Paula C. Littlewood*

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Paula C. Littlewood  
Executive Director

