



2009-2010 Overview of Standing Committees, Regulatory Boards, and Panels

Standing Committees

Amicus Brief Committee

Reviews all requests for *amicus curiae* positions which in any way are identified as connected to the WSBA. The committee does not prepare *amicus curiae* briefs. It administers standards and makes recommendations to the Board of Governors.

Continuing Legal Education (CLE) Committee

Provides policy guidance for the WSBA CLE Department in fulfilling its mission of serving the ongoing education needs of Washington lawyers. Has four subcommittees: quality control, technology, section relations, and programming.

Court Rules and Procedures Committee

Studies and develops suggested amendments to designated sets of court rules on a regular cycle of review. Performs the rules study function outlined GR 9 and reports its recommendations to the Board of Governors. The Criminal Rules for Superior Courts and Criminal Rules for Courts of Limited Jurisdiction will be reviewed in 2009-2010. Lawyers with experience or interest in these areas are encouraged to apply.

Committee for Diversity

Works to increase diversity within the membership and leadership of the WSBA; promote opportunities for appointment or election of members to the bench; support and encourage opportunities for minority attorneys; aggressively pursue employment opportunities for minorities; and raise awareness of the benefits of diversity.

Editorial Advisory Committee

Acts mainly in an advisory capacity, supervising the publication of *Bar News*, including the recommendation of finalists for the editor position for selection by the Board of Governors, and the establishment of guidelines for format, content, and editorial policy.

Judicial Recommendation Committee

Screens and interviews candidates for state appellate court positions and makes recommendations thereon to the Board of Governors.

Legislative Committee

Reviews proposals from WSBA sections for state legislation which relate to the practice of law and the administration of justice, and makes recommendations to the BOG for a position thereon.

Pro Bono and Legal Aid Committee

Deals with questions in the fields of pro bono and legal aid, with respect to: (1) supporting activities that assist volunteer attorney legal services programs and organizations, and encouraging pro bono participation to meet the aspirational goals in RPC 6.1, Pro Bono Publico Service; (2) addressing the administration of justice as it affects indigent persons; and (3) cooperating with other agencies interested in these objectives.

Professionalism Committee

Recommends programs to increase professionalism by assisting attorneys in fostering better client relations; improving civility among attorneys; and creating and promoting educational opportunities focusing on issues related to professionalism, ethics, and civility.

Rules of Professional Conduct Committee

Considers and responds to inquiries arising under the Rules of Professional Conduct (RPCs) and may, upon request, express its opinion to the Board of Governors concerning proper professional conduct.

Regulatory Boards

Board of Bar Examiners

Prepares the questions and grades the papers for the bar examinations under the direction of the Board of Governors, in accordance with the Admission to Practice rules as approved by the Supreme Court.

Character and Fitness Board

Deals with matters of character and fitness bearing on qualifications of applicants for admission to practice law in Washington; conducts hearings on the admission of any applicant; makes recommendations to the Board of Governors and Supreme Court; and considers petitions for reinstatement after disbarment. Five positions are available, which must be filled by members from Districts 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Disciplinary Board

Carries out the functions and duties assigned to it according to the Rules for Enforcement of Lawyer Conduct adopted by the Supreme Court. The full board meets at least six times a year, reviewing hearing officer decisions and stipulations. Three-member review committees meet at least an additional three times a year and review disciplinary investigation reports and dismissals. Considerable reading and meeting preparation is required. Three positions are available, one which must be filled by a member from District 6, one by a member from District 8, and one by a member from any district.

Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection Board

Pursuant to APR 15, reviews claims for reimbursement of financial loss sustained by reason of an attorney's dishonest actions; decides claims up to \$25,000; and makes recommendations to the Board of Governors on claims for greater amounts. Meets four times a year. Two positions are available, and candidates from Districts 4, 6, and 9 are especially encouraged to apply.

Panels

Adjunct Investigative Counsel (AIC) Panel

Assists the Office of Disciplinary Counsel as needed pursuant to Rule for Enforcement of Lawyer Conduct 2.9. AIC volunteers may be asked to investigate a grievance against a lawyer; assist staff disciplinary counsel with a portion of an investigation; serve as special disciplinary counsel and represent the Association in the prosecution of a disciplinary case; provide staff disciplinary counsel with an outside opinion on an area of law; serve as a probation monitor following imposition of a disciplinary sanction; serve as a file custodian when a lawyer dies, disappears, or otherwise becomes incapable of protecting clients' interests; or serve as a limited guardian or guardian *ad litem* for an incapacitated lawyer. Members must have been an active or judicial member of the WSBA for at least seven years with no record of disciplinary misconduct. Appointment is for a five-year term.

Hearing Officer Panel

Panel members serve as trial judges for lawyer disciplinary hearings and are expected to make evidentiary rulings; rule on motions; and prepare written findings of fact, conclusions of law, and (as necessary) sanction recommendations according to strict deadlines. Attendance at an annual training session is required. Hearing officers may not serve as expert witnesses on professional-conduct issues, represent respondents in disciplinary matters, or serve as special disciplinary counsel or adjunct investigative counsel. Please review the Rules for Enforcement of Lawyer Conduct, particularly ELC 2.5 to 2.6, prior to applying. A hearing officer must be an active member of the WSBA, have been an active or judicial member of the WSBA for at least seven years, have no record of public discipline, and have experience as an adjudicator or advocate in contested adjudicative hearings. The Hearing Officer Selection Panel reviews applications and makes recommendations to the Board of Governors for appointments to the panel. In addition to the application form, first-time applicants are required to submit a letter of interest (highlighting relevant skills and experience) and résumé to the Hearing Officer Selection Panel, WSBA, 1325 Fourth Ave., Ste. 600, Seattle, WA 98101-2539 or elizabetht@wsba.org. Initial appointment is for one year commencing October 1, 2009, and may be followed by reappointment for five-year terms. All application materials and requested information must be submitted in order to be considered for appointment, and the Selection Panel may request additional information during the evaluation process.