



The Board of Governors met October 28 in Tacoma. For information on this or past Board meetings, please contact Margaret Shane at margarets@wsba.org.

President's Report

President **Stephen Crossland** (Cashmere) reported that the officers and executive director enjoyed meeting with local bar leaders and Pierce County Superior court judges the day before the Board meeting. Recently returned from leading a delegation of 28 WSBA members to Cuba, President Crossland reported on the trip. Delegates participated in professional meetings and site visits during their six days there (some delegates spent an extra three days). Watch for a report about the trip in an upcoming issue of *Bar News*. (Note: No WSBA funds were used for the trip; all delegates paid their own way.)

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director **Paula Littlewood** reported on an international conference of bar associations she attended where executive directors from 37 countries, representing five continents, were in attendance. The future of self-regulation and non-lawyer ownership of law practices were two of the topics discussed. Many common law jurisdictions in other parts of the world have either lost self-regulation of the profession or the system of self-regulation is under serious attack. Non-lawyer ownership of law firms is also growing in other jurisdictions, with Australia seeing a publicly traded law firm and England preparing to allow for law firms owned 100% by non-lawyers by the first of the year. She advised that it is important for us to watch these trends here in the United States as we seek to preserve a democratic society based on the rule of law.

Update on Court Funding

The Board was honored to welcome Chief Justice **Barbara Madsen**, who provided an update on court funding. The Chief spoke about the impact of the past two years' court funding cuts and reductions that are anticipated to be made in the upcoming special session of the Legislature beginning on November 28. She described a number of impacts from recent cuts that the Branch is currently experiencing, including a significant backlog at the State Court of Appeals and reductions in professional

and support staff at the administrative, court, civil legal aid, and public defense system levels. The Chief characterized the current situation as a "turning point" for the Branch and the system's ability to meet its constitutional mandate, and she raised grave concerns about the impact that additional cuts would likely have on existing programs and services like the Office of Public Guardianship and the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program. In her closing remarks, the Chief asked the Board to help by reaching out to its members and others and asking them to share their stories about how Judicial Branch funding cuts have impacted their lives.

WLI Community-Service Project

WSBA Leadership Institute (WLI) Co-Chairs Judge **Marcine Anderson** (Shoreline) and **Bill Garcia** (Seattle) introduced three fellows from the class of 2011: **Twyla Carter** (Seattle), **Masako Kanazawa** (Seattle), and **Stephen Semaala** (Olympia), who presented the class's community-service project — a guide titled [*Police Accountability: What You Need to Know to Resolve a Dispute with Law Enforcement in Washington State*](#). The fellows worked with the Seattle Police Department, Spokane Police Department, the ACLU of Washington, and the University of Washington School of Law Library to create the guide. Its purpose is to encourage individuals to actively participate in their communities and have positive dialogues with law enforcement for greater community empowerment and law enforcement accountability.

WSBA Membership Study

BOG Diversity Committee Chair **Roger Leishman** updated the Board on the Membership Study — in January, a 10% random sampling of WSBA members will receive a membership survey. The survey will also be posted on the WSBA website so that any interested members may participate. Read more about the Membership Study in the December issue of *Bar News*.

Local Hero Award

At a luncheon attended by members of the Pierce County bench and bar, President **Stephen Crossland** presented Tacoma attorney [**Lynn Johnson**](#) with the Local Hero Award. These awards are presented to attorneys who have made significant contributions to their communities.

Upcoming Events

Many more events are listed on the Legal Community Events Calendar on the WSBA website homepage.

November

November 15: Vietnamese American Bar Association of Washington 7th Annual Banquet, Triple Door, Seattle

December

December 9: Washington State Association for Justice Annual Holly Ball, Grand Hyatt, Seattle

December 9–10: WSBA Board of Governors meeting, Hotel Bellwether, Bellingham

December 9–11: WYLD Board of Trustees meeting and retreat, Bellingham

January

January 26–27: WSBA Board of Governors meeting, Olympia

January 27: Latina/o Bar Association of Washington Annual Awards Gala, Seattle

*** Web addresses**

Police Accountability: What You Need to Know to Resolve a Dispute with Law Enforcement in Washington State

<http://bit.ly/vwJs55>

Lynn Johnson Receives Local Hero Award

<http://bit.ly/vTgYsi>