



November 2010 ■ Volume XIII ■ Number 7

*The Board of Governors met October 29 in Vancouver, Washington. For information on this or past Board meetings, please contact Margaret Shane at [margarets@wsba.org](mailto:margarets@wsba.org).*

## First Meeting of the New Fiscal Year

October marked the first meeting for the new Board presided over by **Steven G. Toole**, of Bellevue, the WSBA's 120th president. Other new officers are **Stephen R. Crossland**, of Cashmere, president-elect; **Salvador A. Mungia**, of Tacoma, immediate past president; and **Patrick A. Palace**, of Tacoma, treasurer. New governors are **Philip J. Buri**, of Bellingham (District 2); **Tracy S. Flood**, of Port Orchard (at-large); **Susan Machler**, of Seattle (District 9); and **Judy I. Massong**, of Seattle (District 7-Central).

## Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection (LFCP)

LFCP Board member **Janice Schurman**, of Vancouver, and WSBA General Counsel **Robert Welden** presented the LFCP [Annual Report](http://www.wsba.org/lawyers/groups/lawyersfund/10lfcpannuarptcomplete.pdf) (<http://www.wsba.org/lawyers/groups/lawyersfund/10lfcpannuarptcomplete.pdf>), which was approved by the Board of Governors. This is the 50th anniversary of such a fund in Washington. General Counsel Welden serves as president of the National Client Protection Organization.

## WSBA Admissions Testing

Director of Regulatory Services **Jean McElroy** reported on the July bar exam, which was held concurrently in Bellevue and Spokane — this was the first time in many years that the WSBA held exams in both eastern and western Washington simultaneously. The Board voted unanimously to hold the summer 2012 exam in both the Seattle area and Spokane.

Director McElroy also reported on the work of the subcommittee looking at a possible change to admissions testing in Washington. Additional

information is still being compiled and a report will be made to the Board in January based on that information.

## Council on Public Defense

Council Chair **Marc Boman**, of Seattle, gave a first reading of a resolution encouraging Washington courts to advise defendants in writing to consult with an attorney regarding the consequences of a guilty plea, and distributed a draft flyer that would educate defendants. A vote on approval of the resolution will be on the December Board agenda.

## Washington State Bar Foundation

Foundation President **Ronald Ward**, of Seattle, presented the first reading of a proposed Foundation Bylaw change to increase the number of Foundation Board trustees from 12 to 15. The Board of Governors also discussed a proposal to add the opportunity for members to make contributions to the Foundation as part of the annual licensing process.

## General Rule 31 (Access to Court Records)

The Board discussed whether to support or oppose inclusion of the WSBA as a "judicial agency" in proposed amendments to GR 31, and will vote on this issue in December; the Board for Judicial Administration is scheduled to decide in January whether to forward the proposed amendments to the Supreme Court for consideration. If the WSBA is not included in GR 31 or another court rule, the Legislature may seek to include the WSBA under the Public Records Act (RCW 42.56). Designation of the WSBA as a judicial agency under GR 31, or inclusion of the WSBA in the Public Records Act, could have a significant impact on the WSBA's ability to maintain the privacy of member records. The Board voted unanimously to draft a rule under GR 12 (which pertains to the WSBA) that would identify the critical areas that need to be protected and the acceptable disclosure areas.

## **WSBA Committee for Diversity**

Co-chairs **Maureen Mannix** and **Robert Taylor**, both of Seattle, reported on the Committee's projects and priorities. The Committee has worked with members of the WYLD Committee for Diversity to compile information about and assess all current diversity-related programming. The analysis is enabling the Committee to focus its efforts on continuing existing effective programming, as well as developing additional activities that will support the WSBA's Guiding Principle relating to enhancing the diversity of the legal profession.

## **Educational Program on Bias in the Justice System**

The Board voted unanimously to host or otherwise support an educational program addressing bias in the justice system.

## **Local Hero Award**

At a luncheon with members of the Clark County bench and bar, President **Steven Toole** presented Vancouver attorney **Charles Buckley** with the Local Hero Award.

## **Executive Director's Report**

**Paula Littlewood** gave an update on the Moderate Means Program. The WSBA is collaborating with Washington's three law schools on this program, which will serve those who are within 200–400 percent of the federal poverty level. Lawyer recruitment will begin in December, law students are being trained in client intake, and it is anticipated that the program will be launched to the public after the first of the year.

Volunteer lawyers have provided legal assistance to more than 570 households through the Home Foreclosure Legal Aid Project, a partnership with Northwest Justice Project. Executive Director Littlewood also highlighted, though, that the Seattle/Tacoma/Bellevue area leads the nation in foreclosure filings, with an increase of over 70 percent reported in the third quarter of 2010.

Executive Director Littlewood also reported that redesign of the WSBA website is well underway, and the new website is scheduled to make its debut the first quarter of 2011.

## **Upcoming Events**

*Many more events are listed on the Legal Community [Events Calendar \(www.wsba.org/info/event-calendar.htm\)](http://www.wsba.org/info/event-calendar.htm) on the WSBA website.*

### **December**

**December 2–3:** Washington State Association for Justice Winter Conference and Exposition, Washington State Convention Center, Seattle

**December 4:** WYLD Board of Trustees Meeting, Inn at Port Gardner, Everett

**December 10–11:** WSBA Board of Governors Meeting, La Conner Country Inn, La Conner

**December 11:** Tacoma-Pierce County Bar Foundation "Art for Equal Justice" holiday evening and auction, Tacoma Art Museum, Tacoma

### **January**

**January 14:** King County Bar Association Annual Martin Luther King Jr. luncheon, Sheraton Seattle Hotel

**January 27-28:** WSBA Board of Governors meeting, The Heritage Room, Olympia

**January 28:** Latina/o Bar Association of Washington 19th Annual Awards Gala, Seattle Waterfront Marriott

### **February**

**February 16:** WYLD Board of Trustees meeting, phone conference

**February 25:** 25th Annual Legal Foundation of Washington Goldmark Luncheon, Red Lion Hotel, Seattle