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The Board of Governors met April 29 in Bellevue. For information on this or past Board meetings, please contact Margaret Shane at margarets@wsba.org.

Welcome to Bellevue!

Eighth District Governor **Brian Comstock**, First District Governor **Marc Silverman**, and WSBA President **Steve Toole**, all of Bellevue, welcomed the Board of Governors to the east side of Lake Washington. The Board was pleased to host members of the local bar and bench for lunch.

President's Report

President **Steve Toole** reported that the officers and executive director enjoyed meeting local bar leaders and judges from the district and municipal courts the day before the Board meeting. The week after the Board meeting, he, President-elect **Steve Crossland**, and Executive Director **Paula Littlewood** will attend the Northwest States Bar Conference in Salt Lake City.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director **Paula Littlewood** announced that the new [website](#)* will be launched in May; it's currently undergoing a final review. [Board elections](#)* are in progress; **Bill Viall** (Seattle) is the confirmed governor-elect for District 8, and runoff elections for the three remaining districts are underway: District 3: **Jane Habegger** and **Brian Kelly**; District 6: **Jean Cotton** and **Vernon Harkins**; and District 7-East: **Daniel Ford** and **Chris Youtz**. Ballots are due May 23. Additionally, an at-large governor and the 2011–2012 president-elect will be elected by the Board at the June Board meeting.

Council on Public Defense

The Board heard from Council Chair **Marc Boman** (Seattle), Seattle University School of Law Professor **Bob Boruchowitz** (Seattle), and Thurston County Public Defense Attorney **Sally Harrison** (Tumwater), in addition to several prosecutors, public defenders, those who provide contract public defense services, and lawyers who represent cities and counties.

The Council is asking the Board to approve a resolution recommending adoption by the Washington State Supreme Court of specific Standards for Indigent Defense Services pursuant to recent amendment of CrR 3.1 (Right to and Assignment of Lawyer), CrRLJ 3.1 (Right to and Assignment of Lawyer), and JuCR 9.2 (Additional Right to Representation by Lawyer), and also approve adoption of new Performance Guidelines for Criminal Defense Representation. Although a motion to approve the proposed Standards for Indigent Defense Services was made, after continued discussion it was tabled to the June meeting.

Legislative Issues for the 2011 Session

WSBA Legislative Liaison **Kathryn Leathers** updated the Board on the 62nd Legislature, which adjourned on April 22. After a long weekend break, Governor Gregoire convened a special session on April 26, to begin the challenging work of passing a final operating budget. Notwithstanding the difficult work ahead for the Legislature, she lauded the policy changes proposed by WSBA sections that were enacted. Of the 10 proposals brought by the WSBA, 8 were enacted — most as proposed and without amendment. The 2 that did not pass had full bipartisan support in both chambers — the Senate simply ran out of time. WSBA's achievements include enactment of a 48-page, omnibus trust and estates bill — the result of over 8 years of work by the Real Property, Probate and Trust Section — as well as bills addressing a broad range of issues, including guardianships, personal property exemptions, receivership laws, the Principal and Income Act, the Uniform Parentage Act, and the Corporation Act. The following WSBA-requested bills were enacted, in part or in full: HB 1051, HB 1052, HB 1053, HB 1615 (formerly SB 5627), HB 1864 (formerly SB 5085), SB 5057, SB 5058, and SB 5849.

She concluded by noting that, while there are many people to thank, a special debt of gratitude is owed to the chairs of the House and Senate Judiciary Committees, Representative **Jamie Pedersen** and Senator **Adam Kline**, and their skilled, professional nonpartisan legislative committee and caucus staff.

WSBA section involvement in the legislative process is not limited to promoting WSBA-requested legislation. Hundreds of non-WSBA bills were referred to sections, whose review frequently resulted in the improvement of other proposed changes in law. Thanks to the many section members who donated countless hours both before and during session, on both WSBA-request and non-WSBA legislation. She highlighted a letter from Senator Kline dated April 27, 2011, addressed to WSBA section members who worked so hard this session that captured the sentiment well:

“... Your willingness, and that of your colleagues, to spend countless uncompensated hours on a public service that goes largely unregarded and unthanked is, I know, the result of this sense that the law spells out the details of our social contract, and that our profession is at the service of the larger community. At a time when political life and discourse have become marred by a cynical disregard of the community’s greater interests, *I am truly humbled by the quiet public service and integrity shown by members of the Bar.*” (emphasis added)

New President Rotation Adopted

The Board amended the WSBA Bylaws so that the office of WSBA president will be open to active members in any geographic region three out of four years, with the fourth year reserved exclusively for candidates from Eastern Washington. (Currently the office of president rotates as follows: Western Washington outside of King County, King County, Eastern Washington, King County.) This change will be effective with the 2012 president-elect election.

Lawyers Assistance Program

The Lawyers Assistance Program (LAP) promotes the health and well-being of WSBA members through counseling and a variety of programs. The Board heard a report from a consultant hired to evaluate LAP. The consultant’s recommendations included developing enhanced capacity to deliver services to WSBA members across the state; focusing on group, rather than individual, delivery of services; reaching out to specific groups within the Bar, such as older and newer members; emphasizing prevention as opposed to treatment; and using technology, such as videos, to deliver programming. The Board endorsed the recommendations as the direction to pursue.

Public Access to WSBA Records

The Board approved submission of a new General Rule 12.4, Washington State Bar Association Access to Records, to the Washington State Supreme Court.

Local Hero Award

At the luncheon with members of the local bench and bar, President **Steve Toole** presented the local hero award to Bellevue attorney [Loretta Story](#).*

Access to Justice/Bar Leaders Conference

The 2011 [Access to Justice/Bar Leaders Conference](#)* will be held June 3–5 in Kennewick. This year’s conference theme is “Eliminating Bias in the Justice System: A Call to Action and Service.” All members are invited to attend.

Upcoming Events

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

May

May 19–20: Washington Minority Bar Associations Collaboration Project Annual Statewide Diversity Conference; University of Washington School of Law (May 19); Seattle University School of Law (May 20)

May 20: Loren Miller Bar Foundation Annual Philip L. Burton Memorial Scholarship Gala; Grand Hyatt, Seattle

June

June 3: WSBA Board of Governors meeting; Three Rivers Convention Center, Kennewick

June 3: WYLD Board of Trustees meeting; Three Rivers Convention Center, Kennewick

June 3–5: Access to Justice/Bar Leaders Conference; Three Rivers Convention Center, Kennewick

June 22: King County Bar Association Annual Dinner; Seattle Sheraton

July

July 21–24: Washington Defense Trial Lawyers Annual Meeting and Convention; Chateau Fairmont, Whistler, BC

July 22–23: WSBA Board of Governors meeting; Quinault Beach Resort, Ocean Shores

July 28–31: Washington State Association for Justice Annual Meeting and Convention; Four Seasons Resort, Whistler, BC

* **Web addresses**

WSBA website

www.wsba.org

Board elections

<http://bit.ly/kDMhhL>

Local Hero Award to Loretta Story

<http://bit.ly/jb9p0Q>

Access to Justice/Bar Leaders Conference

<http://bit.ly/mtV1JD>