



## Washington State Bar Association

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## WSBA Executive Director and UW School of Law Dean set to discuss future of the legal profession

*Town hall format invites participants to weigh in on what the future holds: Is there crisis or opportunity ahead?*

University of Washington School of Law **Dean Kellye Testy** and Washington State Bar Association **Executive Director Paula Littlewood** are teaming up at for a Town Hall on **Tuesday, Jan. 29, starting at 5:30 p.m.** at the **WSBA-CLE Center** located at 1501 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Ste. 308, Seattle, for a discussion about the future of the legal profession.

“The legal profession is changing — just as it should — to keep pace with an ever more complex and connected world,” said Dean Testy. “Guided by what is relevant today, the University of Washington School of Law is expanding our mission and making necessary changes to prepare our graduates to serve as society’s most able and ethical leaders.”

Growing pressures from many directions have placed the U.S. legal professional at the forefront of a public debate. There is an aging lawyer population. The number of unemployed lawyers is growing. Law school costs are escalating. Online lawyer-in-a-box services are exploding, and there is a widening gap of those unable to access the justice system. Do these types of factors point to a crisis or offer opportunities?

“The legal profession is undoubtedly undergoing a transformation, and how it looks in five years depends a lot on those of us in the legal community acknowledging the shifts and seizing this opportunity to make systemic changes for the good of the profession and the public,” said Littlewood.

Testy and Littlewood will discuss the future of the profession and welcome comments and questions about where the profession is headed and what the impending changes mean to the public, law students and attorneys.

The two bring their unique perspectives to the conversation. Littlewood has served as executive director of the Washington State Bar Association since 2007. The WSBA licenses, regulates and serves the state’s more than 35,000 attorneys. She was recently appointed to the American Bar Association’s Future of the Legal Profession Task Force. Kellye Y. Testy became the 14th permanent (and first woman) dean of the University of Washington School of Law in 2009. She is known throughout academic and legal communities for her dedication to the rule of law and its commitment to justice and equality.

Tuesday’s Town Hall is open to the public and is also accessible via webcast. Please register for the webcast (required) or in-person attendance (suggested) [here](#).

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