

2012

# Your Legal Community

*Practical resources and tools to accelerate your success from the start!*

Who is available to help? ..... 3  
How do you become familiar with local customs? ..... 4  
Other Resources on wsba.org ..... 5







## Your Legal Community

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### Who is available to help?

The local practitioners who volunteer their time to present as part of the Preadmission Education program are your best resources for getting to know your new legal community. Interact with these individuals. Take advantage of these new connections. Keep in touch with the attorneys you meet and ask them about how they developed their practice.

Members of your local bar association are the best resources for information on the following:

- Introductions to local judges, clerks, bar association officers, YLD, etc.
- Unwritten customs and practices within the local community.
- Highlights of local rules that differ from adjoining jurisdictions.
- Opportunities for getting involved in your local bar association. One of the best ways to start building your professional reputation among your local colleagues is to become active in the local bar.
- The pro bono opportunities that exist in your area.
- Mentoring experiences of local bar members and how to find a mentor of your own.

### Learn More

In this program...	Would you like more information or continuing legal education (CLE) on this topic? Let us know! <a href="mailto:nle@wsba.org">nle@wsba.org</a>
At the Bar...	<a href="#">Minority, and Specialty Bars</a> lists can be found on wsba.org under <b>Legal Community &gt; Minority Bar Associations</b> <a href="#">County Bar Associations</a> can be found on wsba.org under <b>Legal Community &gt; County Bar Associations</b>
On the web...	Local Practice Rules, Community, Citizenship, Preadmission



**How do you become familiar with local customs?**

Some Washington state and federal district courts have adopted local rules that relate to civility, conduct, and professionalism. Here some good conversations to have with an experienced peer or mentor in your jurisdiction:

**Addressing the Judge**

- How is a Judge customarily addressed in court and formal functions?
- Would you address a Judge differently in a social setting or if you inadvertently met at the Mariner’s game?
- Does your response change if you knew the Judge personally before s/he took the bench?
- How do you address the Judge if you serve on a bar committee together?

**Interacting with court staff**

- What is the appropriate demeanor with court personnel?
- What are the different roles of court staff?

**Addressing opposing counsel**

- What is appropriate demeanor when working with opposing counsel?
- How do you address opposing counsel in court? In the hallway outside of court?
- Are your answers different if you are personal friends?
- How do you respond to opposing counsel who is underhanded or dishonest?
- What are some tips for remaining calm when opposing counsel acts unprofessionally?

**Dressing like a lawyer**

- Is there a dress code for lawyers in your county court system? Should there be?
- Does the nature of the court or the case make a difference on how a lawyer dresses?
- Do you have responsibility for your client’s proper attire for court?
- Is attire different for a transactional lawyer? In-house counsel?

**Learn More**

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At the Bar...	WSBA <a href="#">Court Rules and Procedures Committee</a> can also be found on wsba.org under <b>Legal Community &gt;Committees, Boards, and Other Groups &gt;Court Rules and Procedures Committee</b>
On the web...	Links to Local Court Rules can be found on the Washington Courts web site (wa.courts.gov) under “Local Court Rules”.  Local Practice Rules, Community, Citizenship, Preadmission



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### Other Resources on [wsba.org](http://wsba.org)

[Washington Young Lawyers Committee](#) is a vehicle to connect with people, resources and opportunities around the state. Connect with this group under **Legal Community > New and Young Lawyers**

[WSBA Committees, Boards, Panels, Councils and Task Forces](#)

Connect with a community of professionals dedicated to ensuring equal access to justice for the public via WSBA's online information dedicated to the [Supreme Court's Access to Justice Board](#)

WSBA [Sections](#) can also be found under **Legal Community > Sections**

[Public Service](#) Opportunities can also be found under **Legal Community > Volunteer Opportunities > Public Service Opportunities**

A calendar of WSBA [News and Events](#) can also be found under **News & Events**