

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

Board of Governors Governor At Large (Young Lawyer) Position Candidate Profile



JOSEPH ORTIZ

WSBA #: 61454

My name is Joseph; all of my friends call me Joey. I went to ASU for undergrad, I got my law degree at Seattle U Law. I am a first-generation lawyer. I'm an openly gay, Hispanic, EDM-loving, beer-drinking, goofball who cares about our community and making an impact.

What is your understanding of the role of the WSBA Board of Governors and how do you intend to fulfill the roles and its obligations?

The Board of Governors serve the Washington legal community. That is all there is to it. Planning, strategizing, and implementing ideas and policies that should improve the quality of life of lawyers we represent. A successful board strengthens everyone's practice and does it by putting the community first.

I plan to fulfill this role and its obligations by listening to the people I represent. The young lawyers, the next generation, are filled with new ideas. We see issues and spotlight them. I will be vocal about the problems young lawyers see; I will make it my goal to solve them.

Please share an example of how you've demonstrated your understanding and support of the WSBA mission to protect the public and the members of the Washington State Bar Association, to ensure the integrity of the legal profession and to champion justice?

I started law school in the middle of covid. I was cold-called over Zoom. It was a challenging, stressful time for my entire class, and the legal community as a whole. Isolated from one another and navigating a novel situation. I didn't want to go through it alone. I asked one student to sit and talk about class. By the end of the year, I had brought my cohort together. If finding a way to bring us together to survive law school and become new champions on justice isn't ensuring the integrity of our profession, I don't know what is.