

# Charter: Council on Public Legal Education

## Purpose and Mission

The Council on Public Legal Education, created in 1999, is re-chartered by the WSBA Board of Governors as an advisory committee of the Washington State Bar Association.

CPLE brings together representatives from the bar, the courts, the education community and the general public to promote public understanding of the law and civic rights and responsibilities. The CPLE pursues this mission by conducting, coordinating, encouraging and publicizing public legal education efforts in Washington state. The CPLE's mission addresses the WSBA's strategic goals related to educating the public about the law, the justice system, and the foundations of democracy. As a collaborative effort among the legal, judicial and education communities, the CPLE's mission and activities are directed by and reflect the values and commitments of its constituent organizations.

## Composition and Appointment of Members

The CPLE is composed of 25 members. Nominations are made by the entities listed below, with all appointments confirmed by the WSBA's Board of Governors.

Nineteen of the members are chosen from and in consultation with the entities listed below. These members do not serve as official representatives of these entities, but rather are appointed based on their knowledge, expertise and a demonstrated commitment to the mission of the CPLE. The remaining 6 positions are at large. These members will be nominated by the CPLE.

- Legal community:
  - Washington State Bar Association - 2
  - Office of the Attorney General - 1
  - Access to Justice Board - 1
  - U.W., S.U. and Gonzaga Law Schools – 3 (1 each)
- Judicial community:
  - Administrative Office of the Courts - 1
  - Supreme Court - 1
  - State Court of Appeals - 1
  - Superior Court Judges Association - 1
  - District & Municipal Court Judges Association - 1
  - Office of Administrative Hearings - 1
  - Tribal Courts – 1
  - Federal judiciary - 1
- Education community:
  - Washington State Council for Social Studies - 1
  - Washington Education Association - 1

- Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction - 1
- Association of Washington School Principals - 1
- At-large positions might include representatives from:
  - Higher education (outside of law schools)
  - State government (e.g., the Secretary of State's office)
  - Court clerks and administrators
  - PLE programs (e.g., YMCA Youth & Government)
  - Community organizations (e.g., League of Women Voters)
  - Media
  - The general public

All serve renewable 3-year terms, beginning October 1, with no term limits. One-third of the initial appointments will be for one year, one-third for two years, and one-third for three years. The CPLE annually submits a list of new appointees to the WSBA Board of Governors on the same date as other WSBA committee appointments..

### **Operations**

The CPLE has the authority to adopt internal structure and operating rules as it deems appropriate to carry out its mission, including creating subcommittees, electing officers, etc. The full CPLE will convene at least twice a year, and its meetings will be open to the public. Any changes to this charter will be made in consultation with the CPLE.

### **Budget and Staffing**

The WSBA will provide an annual budget for the CPLE that includes committee meeting, volunteer travel and program expenses. The CPLE shall observe WSBA policies regarding funding and administration, and will participate in WSBA budget processes in a timely manner.

The CPLE may raise additional funds for specific programs. Such funds may be granted to the WSBA, or to the Washington State Bar Foundation if non-profit status is required. Whichever entity is anticipated to receive the funds must approve the funding request in advance.

WSBA staff assigned to support the CPLE are employees of the WSBA. All decisions regarding hiring, termination, and annual evaluation of CPLE staff will be made in consultation with the CPLE, but the ultimate responsibility for these decisions belongs to the Executive Director of the WSBA.