

by Karen Denise Wilson

**A**t the end of each year, the WSBA engages an independent certified public accounting firm to audit our financial statements.

In addition to verifying financial statement accuracy and compliance with general accounting standards, the auditors review, analyze and test internal controls over reporting, management oversight, and various systems related to the WSBA's finances and overall operations of the organization.

The Budget and Audit Committee reviewed the Fiscal Year 2015 year-end financial results at its January meeting. As in prior years, the WSBA received an "unmodified opinion" for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2015. No adjustments were made, no material weaknesses were noted, and no management letter was issued. The results of this very positive audit indicate that the WSBA's finances are well managed and accurate in all material aspects. Our independent auditors wholeheartedly complimented our outstanding staff for their professionalism and excellence. For more information, the audit report and audited financial statements can be viewed at [www.wsba.org/about-wsba/financial-info](http://www.wsba.org/about-wsba/financial-info).

Notably, the 2015 audited financials show that the WSBA used \$446,337 fewer reserves than expected (we budgeted to a net loss of \$3,146,873 for the General Fund; the actual loss was \$2,700,536). This result reflects higher than anticipated revenues, as well as direct cost savings and fiscally responsible decision making to ensure our continued financial stability. Beginning in fiscal year 2013 and continuing

through 2016, in response to the reduced license fees the WSBA has budgeted to a net loss each year in an effort to spend down reserve funds. This savings is very helpful as we continue to look into the future and consider budgeting needs for 2017 and beyond.

As you can see from the above audit and budget results, we have outstanding staff support at the Washington State Bar. Under the leadership of Executive Director Littlewood and Chief Operations Officer Ann Holmes, and with outstanding support from our Controller, Tiffany Lynch, and the rest of our staff, the Bar has made fiscally responsible decisions to ensure our continued financial stability.

In the coming months, in addition to sustaining member-focused, Board-directed programs, we will continue to look closely at expenses, revenue and reserves, and keep you informed as we

continue to plan for and maintain our long-term sustainability. I look forward to any questions or feedback that you may have. **NWL**



At-large Governor **KAREN DENISE WILSON** joined the WSBA Board of Governors in October 2013. She was appointed

treasurer in October 2015. Wilson is a deputy public defender with the Skagit County Public Defender's office. She is a 2012 alumna of the Washington Leadership Institute and attended Tulane University Law School. She can be reached at [bog@kdwilsonlaw.com](mailto:bog@kdwilsonlaw.com).

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**Segura v. Cabrera,**

\_\_\_ Wn.2d \_\_\_, \_\_\_ P.3d \_\_\_, 2015 WL 6549175 (2015)  
(T/F/T was retained by Rental Housing Association to submit successful amicus brief on damages)

**State v. Sykes,**

182 Wn.2d 168, 339 P.3d 972 (2014)  
(Drug Court therapeutic proceedings not subject to open courts requirement of Washington Constitution)

**Moore v. Health Care Authority,**

181 Wn.2d 299, 332 P.3d 461 (2014) (addressing methodology for assessing damages in class action)

**Woods v. HO Sports Co., Inc.,**

183 Wn. App. 145, 333 P.3d 455 (2014)  
(defeating application of parental immunity doctrine in negligent operation of speed boat)

**Eubanks and Gray v. Brown,**

180 Wn.2d 590, 327 P.3d 635 (2014)  
(addressing venue issues in gender discrimination action against deputy prosecutor)

**Washburn v. City of Federal Way,**

178 Wn.2d 732, 310 P.3d 1275 (2013) (city liability in service of anti-harassment order)

**In re the Marriage of Larson and Calhoun,**

178 Wn. App. 133, 313 P.3d 1228 (2013), review denied, 325 P.3d 913 (2014) (successfully addressing property division issues in one of the largest dissolution cases in Washington State history)

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