



WSBA Board of Governors Meeting Recap – July 22-23, 2016

Board Action:

- **WSBA Treasurer Election** - The [Board](#) elected District 3 governor, Jill Karmy as its next treasurer, a position now held by at-large, outgoing Governor Karen Denise Wilson. We commend Karen Denise for an exemplary job of chairing the Budget and Audit Committee and overseeing the WSBA's budget this past year.
- **Board Response to the Escalating Cost of Civil Litigation (ECCL) Task Force Recommendations.** The Board approved the BOG's Report on the ECCL Task Force Recommendations and commended the outstanding leadership of Task Force chair Russ Aoki and the members of the group. The BOG now seeks guidance from the Supreme Court, in response to the following question: *Is there interest from the Supreme Court to consider rule changes as the next step in this process?* The Board's report can be found beginning on page 228 of the [Public Materials](#).

First Reading (discussion with no votes taken):

- **WSBA FY2017 Budget and 2018-20 WSBA License Fees.** The Board reviewed the FY17 budget, 2018-20 license fees and revised reserve policy recommendations of the Budget and Audit Committee. The objectives of the presentation were to provide the information, answer questions and seek input, along with identifying any changes necessary between the first and the final draft of the budget to be presented in September.
In addition to the proposed FY17 line item budget, the Budget and Audit Committee recommends what is referred to in the materials as Option E, found on page 302 of the [Public Materials](#), which maintains a reserve of \$2 million and the minimum setting of license fees to maintain that level of reserve. The license fee is proposed at \$449 in FY18, \$453 in FY19 and \$458 in FY20. A final vote on the budget and license fee will be taken at the September Board meeting.
- **Committee on Mission Performance and Review (CMPR) Report**
The Board reviewed annual reports submitted by all WSBA boards and committees. The CMPR recommends that the Amicus Brief Committee be sunsetted in FY18, and such requests be handled through the Executive Committee. Additionally, a work group will be formed to review the structure of the WSBA Legislative Committee and develop a plan to work more effectively with the BOG Legislative Committee. The draft report can be found on page 19 of the [Public Materials](#).
- **Suggested Amendments to Admission and Practice Rules (APRs) for Administrative Coordination.** The Board was presented suggested amendments necessary to develop a coordinated system for administering all of the various licenses and programs. Suggested amendments to APRs centered on the following focus areas: 1) clarifying functions, 2) combining like functions, 3) eliminating duplication of rules and regulations, 4) increasing uniformity of terms, and 5) increasing the availability of services and opportunities for Limited Practice Officers and Limited License Legal Technicians. The suggested amendments can be found beginning on page 77 of the [Public Materials](#).
- **WSBA Religious and Spiritual Practices Policy.** The Board was presented two policies for consideration, regarding religious and spiritual practices at WSBA events and activities. Attachment A would not permit

religious practices at WSBA and Attachment B is a policy in line with policies for opening session of legislative bodies with a religious practice. An extensive discussion was held, with testimony provided by many members who participated via teleconference. The BOG appreciated all of the feedback during this first reading. The dialogue is continuing. The draft policies can be found beginning on page 198 of the [Public Materials](#).

- **Recommendations for WSBA APEX Awards.** Our popular and well-attended annual awards dinner was renamed this year as the WSBA APEX Awards, with APEX being an acronym for Acknowledging Professional Excellence. The Board adopted recommendations to update award categories by adding a **new award, the Legal Innovation Award**, combining the Public Service Award with the Pro Bono Award and ~~to~~ creating separate categories for individuals and firms, and eliminating the Courageous Award. The new categories take effect in 2017.

Updates:

- The Board heard updates from the Bylaws Work Group and Sections Policy Work Group and heard testimony from members. Both groups are expected to have recommendations for the Board to consider for first reading at a special board meeting on Aug. 23. Prior to that meeting, the Bylaws Work Group will meet on Aug. 8 and the Sections Policy Work Group will meet on Aug. 12. All meetings are public. Feel free to reach out to me or any Governor if you have comments or feedback.

Notices

- **A special board meeting will be held on Aug. 23** (10 a.m. – 3 p.m.) in Seattle at the WSBA Conference Center. You are welcome to attend in-person or join via webcast. Agenda items include:
 - Sections Policy Work Group Recommendations (first reading)
 - Proposed WSBA Bylaw Amendments (first reading)
 - Proposed GR 12 Amendments (first reading)
 - Suggested Amendments to APRs for Administrative Coordination (second reading)
- **The final board meeting of the fiscal year** will be in Seattle on Sept. 29-30.
- The [WSBA APEX Awards Dinner](#) and swearing in of new officers and governors will be on Sept. 29 in Seattle.

Kudos

- **Local Heroes:** Long time Walla Walla County Court Administrators **Tina Driver** and **Linda Latham** were recognized with WSBA Local Hero Awards for their dedicated service to the legal community. At the luncheon honoring them, President Hyslop read an “Ode to Tina and Linda,” prepared by the Walla Walla County Bar. As mentioned by one of the county prosecutors, “Linda and Tina have the patience of saints – especially with new lawyers – and possess the organizational skills of General George Patton.”