



# WSBA

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

## **Local Rules Task Force**

### **CHARTER EXTENSION**

**As Adopted December 5, 2008**

**Extended October 29, 2010**

**Extended November 16, 2012**

### **Preamble**

In Washington's recent history, there have been two significant efforts to address the proliferation of local court rules and their effect on the administration of justice. In the first effort, former Chief Justice Keith Callow proposed abrogating the authority of individual courts to enact local rules, urging that all courts operate under uniform court rules of statewide applicability. In the second effort, former Justice Philip Talmadge convened a "Model Local Rules" Committee (later chaired by Justice Charles Johnson) to develop a set of local rule drafting standards, with the intent to make local rules as uniform as possible. Neither of these efforts resulted in any change to the local rules system in Washington, although the product of the Model Local Rules Committee is still available and possibly viable as a model.

In 2006 a coalition of eight WSBA sections asked the WSBA Court Rules and Procedures Committee to consider the impact of the proliferation of local rules on lawyers who practice in multiple counties. This coalition recommended abolition of all local rules with the exception of those governing docket management. The Court Rules and Procedures Committee suggested to the Board of Governors that a special task force be convened to evaluate this issue.

In early 2007 the WSBA chartered the Local Rule Task Force (LRTF) to review the previous work efforts. The Task Force was charged with reviewing the purpose and function of local rules, including the impact of local rules on courts, litigants (both pro se and represented) and the trial bar, and developing recommendations to mitigate the detrimental effects of the ever-increasing number of local rules on lawyers practicing in multiple courts (including improvements or modifications to Washington's local rulemaking process and authorizations). The Task Force was to complete its work by the Spring of 2009.

The Task Force completed a significant portion of its charge in the Fall of 2008 with its report to the Board of Governors entitled "Conclusions and Recommendations Regarding Local Civil Rules and Family Law Rules." One of the recommendations is that the Task Force Charter be extended to allow it to pursue the implementation of the report's recommendations and then to complete any additional work assigned to the Task Force by the Board.

### **Extended Charter**

The extended task of the Local Rules Task Force is to develop means to assure the implementation of the Task Force recommendations, including recommendations for rule and procedural changes, and an oversight system. The Task Force is authorized, at its discretion, to review local rules other than those promulgated by the Superior Courts

### **Extended Timeline**

The Task Force should complete its implementation system recommendations by December 31, 2009, which will include working with the Washington State Supreme Court, the Washington Superior Court Judges' Association, and such other judicial groups as the Task Force deems appropriate. If more time is needed to complete the Task Force assignment, it may request more time of the Board. The Task Force shall report to the Board regarding its ongoing work.

**Effective October 29, 2010, the Task Force's charter is extended through December 31, 2012.**

**Effective November 16, 2012, the Task Force's charter is extended through December 31, 2014.**