

# News»Flash



An Update on the Work of the WSBA Board of Governors

The Washington State Bar Association's mission is to serve the public and the members of the Bar, ensure the integrity of the profession, and to champion justice.

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## News Flash

*The Board of Governors met Nov. 16-17, 2012. For information on this or past Board meetings, please contact Margaret Shane at [margarets@wsba.org](mailto:margarets@wsba.org).*

### Words from the President

President **Michele Radosevich** (Seattle) conducted her first meeting as WSBA's 2012-2013 president, welcoming the BOG and guests to Seattle. She informed the Board that she would be providing them weekly updates to help keep them informed of her actions each week. President Radosevich also mentioned WSBA's new blog, [NWsidebar](#), encouraging others to make use of this new resource, and letting them know she'll be sharing her updates on the blog as well.

### Updates from the Executive Director

Executive Director **Paula Littlewood** shared materials indicating steady growth and usage of Job Target, WSBA's new online [Career Center](#) that allows employers to post job openings and job seekers to find employment. Two more career services will be added in the future. The first will be housed in MyWSBA.org and create a place to match those looking for contract work with those offering contract work. The second new service, referred to as "Practice Transition Opportunities," will provide opportunities to match up attorneys transitioning out of practice with newer attorneys entering the practice, with the goal of helping to facilitate mentoring, contract work and potential sales of practices.

Littlewood also reported on the [Moderate Means Program](#). It continues to remain strong and is experiencing growth.

### Budget Update

It was reported by Gov. **Phil Buri** (Bellingham), treasurer, and **Ann Holmes**, COO that WSBA is in the process of closing the books for FY12. It is projected that the organization will net at least \$1.2 million at year's end. This is a result of receiving more revenues than anticipated from license fees, pro hac vice fees, regulatory services, advertising and investments, while maintaining lower expenses than predicted, including some savings from unfilled open positions. The auditors began their work after Thanksgiving and an audited financial statement will be presented to the Board in January.

### Update from the Escalating Cost of Civil Legal Litigation Task Force

**Russ Aoki**, chair of the task force, provided an update on the task force's work, which began last year. The goal of the task force is to assess the current cost of civil litigation in Washington state courts and make recommendations on controlling those costs. There are five sub-committees conducting research that includes collecting empirical evidence, evaluating literature, examining the federal and state court systems, and conducting practice reviews. The ECCL Task Force anticipates having the subcommittee reports completed in 2013, with a final report to the Board to follow.

### **Foundation Presents Annual Report**

**Judy Massong** (Seattle), president of the Washington State Bar Foundation, presented the Foundation's annual report. She expressed gratitude for the support received by the Foundation that allows them to support bar programs that promote diversity as well as access to justice. She noted that the Foundation now has the ability to fundraise through a checkoff that is available on all members' license forms.

### **Local Rules Task Force Extended**

The Local Rules Task Force, initially created in 2006, was given the task of reviewing local rules; the impact of local rules on courts, litigants and the trial bar; and possible means to mitigate the detrimental effects of the ever-increasing number of local rules. The LRTF presented its initial report to the BOG in December 2008 that also included a draft set of Family Law Civil Rules (FLCR). In January 2009, the BOG accepted Court Rules & Procedures' offer to have an ad-hoc group from the Committee review and scrub the draft FLCR. In July 2009, the Board approved the LRTF's proposed FLCRs for submission to the Supreme Court. The FLCRs were published for comment, but received opposition from the SCJA. The Task Force then worked extensively with the SCJA to reach resolution on the revised rules. The BOG approved the Revised FLCR for submission to the Court on April 8, 2012, which ordered the Revised FLCR published for comment with a comment period expiring April 30, 2013. Given the comment period, the BOG voted to extend the task force's charter for two more years to allow them to respond to comments and to continue reaching out to the remaining counties that have not requested task force assistance.

### **Board Votes on Suggested Amendments to MCLE Rules and Regulations**

The revised MCLE rules and regulation amendments were passed by the Board at its November meeting. They were the product of two former meetings. The rules have now been submitted to the Supreme Court and will go

through an extensive review process, including posting the amendments for comment. There are a few substantive changes to the rules. Highlights of these changes include:

- The creation of a new category of credits called "development" credits. Up to six credits per reporting period can be earned for topics including work/life balance, stress reduction, career development, how to increase profits, planning for giving post-retirement pro bono service, and CLE presentation skill development.
- The creation of a new category of credits called "leadership" credits. Up to six credits per reporting period can be earned for topics that enhance leadership skills and enhance the leadership performance of lawyers.
- Pro bono training credit and service credit periods were changed from an annual basis to a reporting period basis. The number of credits that can be earned for pro bono was increased to 25.5, of which three need to be pro bono training. Service credits will count as self-study credits.
- Credit for law school competition judging will be self-study credits.

Read more about the proposed amendments on the [WSBA website](#).

### **WLI Presents Community Service Project**

Members from the 2012 class of the Washington Leadership Institute (WLI) reported on their community service project (CSP), which is a requirement of the program. The 2012 CSP is entitled "[Mentorship Program Guide: For Mentors and Young Attorneys.](#)" The goal of the guide is to provide a template for a program that creates opportunities for experienced attorneys to provide professional guidance and practical knowledge to new attorneys. The tools provided include a program guide, a mentoring plan, and resources for program participants. All resources can be found at [www.thementoringlawyer.org](http://www.thementoringlawyer.org). On Oct. 1, 2012, the WLI became a partnership between WSBA

and the [University of Washington School of Law](#), where it is now housed.

### **Board Approves Legislative Committee Proposals**

The WSBA Legislative Committee presented three legislative proposals as WSBA-request legislation in the upcoming 2013 legislative session. They are:

- 1) A bill that makes technical changes and other updates to the Washington Trust Act.
- 2) A bill that addresses dissenters' rights under the Washington Business Corporation Act.
- 3) A returning bill from 2012 that requires institutions of higher education to provide an opportunity to make up missed exams/classes for reservist students who are called to active or inactive duty. Minor modifications were made to the original proposal.

The Board voted that WSBA sponsor all three bills in the upcoming legislative session.

### **LLLT Board Nominees Approved by Board, Submitted to Supreme Court**

The LLLT Nominating Committee, chaired by President-elect **Patrick Palace** (Tacoma) presented a slate of 21 applicants they recommended to be sent to the Supreme Court for final approval. Per the Court's request, the committee also included eight additional applicants for consideration. A total of 69 applications were reviewed. The committee sought balance in its recommendations that included diversity, practice, geography, gender and skills.

It is expected that the Supreme Court will soon announce the appointments. You can find more information on the Limited License Legal Technician Rule on the [WSBA website](#).

### **Upcoming Events**

*For a complete listing of events, go to the Calendar of Events on the [WSBA homepage](#).*

#### **January/February**

WSBA CLE – [Making Your Case with a Better Memory](#), featuring Paul Mellor – Jan. 10

WSBA CLE – [Advanced Issues in the Law of Nonprofit Organizations](#) – Jan. 15

Board of Governors' meeting – Jan. 17-18, Olympia

Latina/o Bar Association of Washington's 21st [Annual Awards Gala](#), Jan. 18, Seattle

[Open Section Night](#) – Jan. 23, Seattle

27th Annual [Goldmark Award Luncheon](#), Feb. 15, Seattle