



January 2010 ■ Volume XIII ■ Number 1

The Board of Governors met January 21st in Olympia. For information on this or past BOG meeting materials, please contact Margaret Shane at margarets@wsba.org.

January Marks BOG Visits to Three Branches of Government

January marks the Board of Governors (BOG) annual visit to Olympia and is a time to incorporate visits to each of the three branches of our government. The BOG held a reception with a number of legislators and was able to discuss mutual issues of interest. In addition, President Mungia, President-elect Toole, and Executive Director Littlewood spent time with Governor Gregoire outlining many of the great projects WSBA and its many dedicated volunteers are working on this year. Finally, the BOG met with the Supreme Court for dinner and for another three hours the next day to discuss issues of mutual interest with the Court. We appreciated the time each vital branch of government gave us and find it is time well-spent each January.

Bylaw Review Committee Recommendations Continue

The Bylaw Review Committee presented a number of recommendations at the January meeting including discussions about the make-up and definitions for committees, task forces, councils, regulatory boards, and sections. There was also a discussion about membership criteria, including clearer definition around administrative law judges (ALJs) and how they should be defined within the WSBA Bylaws. ALJ organizations from around the state were well-represented at the meeting sharing their perspectives with the BOG. A work group was formed to include ALJ representatives, members of the BOG, WSBA staff and Bylaw Review Committee members, with the goal to craft appropriate language to accurately describe eligible ALJs.

Justice and Legislative Programs – Program Review

Former WSBA Treasurer and Program Review Committee Chair **Russ Aoki** presented the Program Review Committee's report for the Legislative Program and the Access to Justice Programs. Issues discussed related to the Legislative Program included staffing recommendations, GR 12 changes, and contingency funding for legislative efforts. The BOG also received a number of recommendations related to Access to Justice Programs. Included in the recommendations were continued funding of the ATJ Board; technology improvements; changes to the GAAP Committee (GAAP, the Greater Access and Assistance Program, is now called the Moderate Means Program); reporting hours for Emeritus Program attorneys; an analysis of RPC 6.1; and recommendations to improve training for pro bono, emeritus, and moderate means panel attorneys.

Executive Director's Report

Paula Littlewood provided a report to the Board regarding online licensing and the early adoption of mywsba.org to conduct licensing business by members. Littlewood also commented that as of the end of 2009, members had given nearly \$200,000 to LAW Fund as part of this year's licensing. Littlewood congratulated the Washington Young Lawyers Division (WYLD) and their efforts on Facebook in their successful launch of their Facebook page. Within the first week of the WYLD's Facebook page launch, more than 200 people signed up as fans.

Upcoming Events

Many more events are listed on the Legal Community Events Calendar on the WSBA website at www.wsba.org/info/event-calendar.htm.

February

Feb. 26: 24th Annual Legal Foundation of Washington Goldmark Luncheon, Red Lion Hotel, Seattle.

March

Mar. 5-6: WSBA Board of Governors meeting, Kitsap Conference Center, Bremerton.

Mar. 6: WYLD Board of Trustees meeting, Kitsap Conference Center, Bremerton.

Mar. 10: King County Bar Foundation Breakfast with Champions, Sheraton Seattle.

Mar. 11: Northwest Indian Bar Association Annual Banquet, Red Lion Hotel, Seattle.

April

Apr. 23-24, WSBA Board of Governors meeting, Red Lion, Port Angeles.

June

June 4: WSBA Board of Governors meeting, Coast Wenatchee Center Hotel

June 4: WYLD Board of Trustees meeting, Coast Wenatchee Center Hotel

June 4-6: Annual Access to Justice/Bar Leaders Conference, Wenatchee.