



February 2012 ■ Volume XV ■ Number 2

The Board of Governors met January 26 in Olympia. For information on this or past Board meetings, please contact Margaret Shane at margarets@wsba.org.

Annual Olympia Meeting

In keeping with tradition, the Board held its January meeting in Olympia. Third District Governor **Brian Kelly** (Chehalis) welcomed the Board to the state capital. On January 25, the officers and executive director had meetings with the district and municipal court judges, administrative law judges, and leaders from the Thurston County Bar Association and Government Lawyers Bar Association. On January 27, the Board had its annual meeting with the Washington State Supreme Court.

President's Report

President **Stephen Crossland** (Cashmere) reported that he served as a judge for the We the People civic education program (Tacoma will go to the national finals) and attended the swearing-in of Supreme Court Justice **Steven González**, and that he will be addressing the class of 2012 WSBA Leadership Institute fellows on Saturday.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director **Paula Littlewood** spoke about the upcoming referendum to reduce the 2013 license fee to \$325. She emphasized the importance of getting out information about the upcoming vote, which will take place March 7 through April 6. Information about the referendum is on the WSBA [website](#).*

Executive Director Littlewood reminded everyone that the following Board positions are up for election this year: 1, 4, 5, 7-West, and the at-large position representing the Washington Young Lawyers Division (WYLD). Please note that although Washington now has an additional congressional district as a result of the 2010 Census, this year's district Board elections will be based on current congressional districts. Applications are due March 1.

Diversity Matters

Board Diversity Committee Chair and District 7-West Governor **Roger Leishman** (Seattle) and Diversity Program Manager **Chach Duarte White** informed the Board that the WSBA Membership Survey is well

underway. The [survey](#) is open through February 17 for all WSBA members who would like to participate.

The Board affirmed its September 19, 2008, [Resolution Regarding Marriage and the Law](#) in support of civil marriage for same-sex couples.

American Bar Association (ABA) Proposals and Resolutions

WSBA delegate to the ABA House of Delegates **Deborah Perluss** (Seattle) presented proposed standards for language access in the courts for those with limited English proficiency, as well as a resolution from the ABA Commission on Disability Rights that urges entities that administer law school admission testing to provide accommodations that best ensure the skills of test-takers are measured. The Board voted to co-sponsor these two items, which are on the agenda for the February ABA Midyear Meeting in New Orleans.

Immigration Advisory Work Group Suggested Comment to RPC 4.4

Immigration Advisory Work Group Chair and Eighth District Governor **Marc Silverman** (Bellevue) presented the Work Group's draft suggested comment to Washington's Rules of Professional Conduct (RPC) 4.4. The comment is intended to provide clear guidance to lawyers as to what is and what is not permitted in the context of civil litigation involving individuals who are unauthorized immigrants or who are perceived to be so, in order to protect access to the civil justice system regardless of a person's immigration status or ethnicity. Reports of clients being picked up by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents during non-immigration-related court cases due to opposing counsel reporting clients to ICE led to the formation of the Work Group and the development of the comment. The Board approved submission of the suggested comment to the Supreme Court for consideration.

Fiscal Matters

Treasurer and Fifth District Governor **Nancy Isserlis** (Spokane) reported that the WSBA recently completed its 2011 independent financial audit and received an

unqualified opinion — the highest opinion possible. Financial information is available on the WSBA [website](#).*

Resolution Honoring Justice Gerry Alexander (Ret.)

At the December 2011 meeting, the Board passed a [resolution](#)* conveying their gratitude to now-retired Justice **Gerry Alexander** for his distinguished service to the people of the state of Washington and honoring him on the occasion of his retirement from the Washington State Supreme Court. The resolution was presented to him at the Olympia Board meeting.

Local Rules Task Force Update

Local Rules Task Force Chair **Lish Whitson** (Seattle) presented the first reading of revised Family Law Civil Rules. He was accompanied by Task Force members and family law practitioners **Jean Cotton** (Elma) and **Pete Karademos** (Spokane) and Task Force member **Jeff Tilden** (Seattle), who all spoke to the need for uniform rules throughout the state.

Legislative Issues for the 2012 Session

The WSBA's three new legislative proposals have been given hearings and voted out of the policy committee in which they were heard. Those proposals relate to estate tax apportionment (HB 2224), creating a new type of for-profit corporation called a social purpose corporation (HB 2239/SB 6230), and escrow licensing for attorneys (SB 6218). Those bills are now in the Rules Committee in either the House or Senate, and will hopefully be pulled from Rules to the floor of each chamber for a vote of the full body. The two returning proposals from the 2011 legislative session, both of which relate to military personnel (HB 1221/SB 6164 and HB 1615/SB 5627), are also moving forward. Monitor the progress of bills by creating a [bill tracking list](#)* on the legislative website.

It is important to acknowledge that WSBA section executive committee members have volunteered countless hours reviewing legislation, and have provided invaluable feedback on or suggested amendments for many bills.

Specifics on how the Legislature will address the roughly \$1.5 billion deficit remain a mystery, but there is no doubt that many more cuts will be made. It is also not clear how the next revenue forecast, expected to be published on February 16, will impact budget decisions. This is a short session, which must end (*sine die*) no later than March 8.

Local Hero Awards

At a luncheon attended by members of the Thurston County bench and bar, President **Stephen Crossland** presented local hero awards to Olympia attorneys [Leslie Owen](#)*, nominated by the Thurston County Bar Association, and [Jennifer Meyer](#)*, nominated by the Government Lawyers Bar Association. These awards are

presented to attorneys who have made significant contributions to their communities.

Upcoming Events

Many more events are listed on the Legal Community Events Calendar on the WSBA website homepage.

February

February 23: Korean American Bar Association of Washington Annual Banquet Luncheon, Palace Ballroom, Seattle

February 24: Legal Foundation of Washington Annual Goldmark Award Luncheon, Seattle Sheraton

March

March 9–10: WSBA Board of Governors meeting, Marcus Whitman Hotel, Walla Walla

March 22: King County Bar Foundation 12th Annual Breakfast with Champions, Westin Hotel, Seattle

March 24: WYLD Board of Trustees meeting, Olympia

March 29: Legal Voice Spring Celebration, Renaissance Hotel, Seattle

April

April 27–28: WSBA Board of Governors meeting, Tulalip Resort, Tulalip

*** Web addresses**

License Fee Referendum

<http://www.wsba.org/referendum>

Membership Survey

<http://bit.ly/wcFvzG>

Resolution Regarding Marriage and the Law

<http://bit.ly/zGRJQk>

WSBA Financial Information

<http://bit.ly/zhPL5F>

Resolution Honoring Justice Gerry Alexander

<http://bit.ly/yyUulE>

Bill Tracking

<http://bit.ly/wIW4Ei>

Leslie Owen Receives Local Hero Award

<http://bit.ly/A2y235>

Jennifer Meyer Receives Local Hero Award

<http://bit.ly/x9L4ja>