

by Karen Denise Wilson

Each year, the Board of Governors appoints a new treasurer. I am honored to have been unanimously selected by my fellow governors to serve as your treasurer for fiscal year 2016. It has been my pleasure to serve on the Budget and Audit Committee of the Board of Governors for the past three years. I particularly want to thank my immediate predecessor, Ken Masters, for his outstanding leadership as your treasurer last year. In this column, I'd like to introduce myself and identify some of the important policy decisions that the Board will make this year.

Law is a second career for me. I went to law school after gaining business and management experience in the banking world, where I was responsible for strategic planning, budgeting, marketing, operations, security compliance, and customer service. One of the most

fulfilling aspects of my banking career involved helping low-income people purchase their first homes. Through that work, I saw how the law can make a big difference in peoples' lives. This, as well as a strong family dedicated to public service, drew me to the legal profession.

I've been honored to spend my legal career helping people in need: as a law clerk for the Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center; as a civil rights analyst for the City of Seattle; as a pro bono attorney for adoption, immigration, and dependency matters; and currently, as a deputy public defender in Skagit County.

I've also made it a priority to give back to our profession. Extensive volunteer work for the WSBA, which includes serving on the Board and its Budget and Audit, Diversity, Performance Review, and Court Rules and Procedures committees, has given me a deep understanding of, and appreciation for, the many wonderful programs supported by the WSBA budget. I am a fellow and advisory board member of one of those programs — the Washington Leadership Institute. I have also served as liaison to the Council on Public Defense, Northwest Indian Bar, Korean American Bar, and Criminal Law section. I am also involved in the Skagit County, Loren Miller, Latino/a Bar and Washington Defender As-

sociations, as well as the Washington Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. I bring the knowledge gained from all of these experiences in my service as your treasurer

During my term, the Board will make important policy decisions about the FY17 budget, 2018 license fees, and long range planning to support the Bar's exceptional programming, services, and operations well into the future. Throughout the year, I hope to provide insight and solicit your feedback on these and other fiscal issues that face the organization. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. **NWL**



At-large Governor **KAREN DENISE WILSON** joined the WSBA Board of Governors in October 2013. She was appointed treasurer in October 2015. Wilson is a deputy public defender with the Skagit County Public Defender's office. She is a 2012 alumna of the Washington Leadership Institute and attended Tulane University Law School. She can be reached at bog@kdwilsonlaw.com

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