



April 30, 2019

The Honorable Mary E. Fairhurst
Chief Justice, Supreme Court of the State of Washington
Temple of Justice
Post Office Box 40929
Olympia, WA 98504-0929

Re: Pro Bono Council Input about WSBA Structure

Dear Chief Justice Fairhurst:

The Pro Bono Council (PBC) is a convening body to represent and advocate for the network of 16 individual Volunteer Lawyer Programs (VLPs) in Washington. VLPs provide free, high quality, efficient, and innovative civil legal assistance to low income people through the recruitment, training, supervision, and support of volunteer lawyers. Each VLP is at least partially funded by state and private resources granted by the Legal Foundation of Washington (LFW).

The PBC appreciates the Washington State Bar Association's (WSBA) role as a long-time partner in supporting access to justice for those in our communities who experience multiple and compounding barriers to the legal system. On behalf of the PBC, we believe access to justice is a key component that should continue to be incorporated into WSBA. We urge the Bar Structure Work Group to recommend that WSBA maintain space, time, and resources to continue its access to justice work, including the Access to Justice Board and WSBA's member-driven efforts to support and enhance pro bono legal help. We encourage WSBA to adhere to its mission, **to serve the public** and the members of the Bar, to ensure the integrity of the legal profession, and **to champion justice**. By continuing this mission, WSBA will safeguard the profession's connection with and accountability to individuals and communities who are farthest from access to justice.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on WSBA's structure and the regulation of the practice of law. Please be in touch if we can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

Eloise Barshes
Pro Bono Council Co-Chair

Elizabeth Fitzgearld
Pro Bono Council Co-Chair

MEMBERS

ELOISE BARSHES, CO-CHAIR
ELIZABETH FITZGEARLD, CO-CHAIR
MAREN ANDERSON
LORI BASHOR-SARANCIK
QUINN DALAN
ANNE DALY
LAURIE DAVENPORT
CHRIS GRAVES
MICHAEL HEATHERLY
GERALD KRÖON
RACHAEL LUNDMARK
VEANEY MARTINEZ
BARB OTTE
KRISTINA RALLS
SHAUNA ROGERS MCCLAIN
GAIL SMITH
EVA WESCOTT

STAFF

CATHERINE BROWN
PRO BONO COUNCIL MANAGER
CATHERINEB@KCBA.ORG
(206) 267-7026

