

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

Serving on the WSBA Board of Governors

Mission

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

Overview

The WSBA Board of Governors is the governing body of the Washington State Bar Association. The Board of Governors (Board) determines the general policies of the Bar and approves its budget each year. Subject to the plenary authority and supervision of the Washington Supreme Court and limitations imposed by Statute, Court Rule, Court Order, or case law, the Board possesses all power and discretion on all matters concerning the WSBA. The Board may delegate the exercise of its authority but that does not constitute a transfer of it. The Board's authority is retained and may be exercised at any time upon a majority vote of the Board.

Serving on the WSBA Board of Governors is a significant commitment, but a rewarding one.

The Board moves the Bar forward with an eye toward both its long-standing mission and guiding principles, and its short-term strategic goals.



'FIDUCIARY DUTY REQUIRES BOARD MEMBERSTO STAY OBJECTIVE, UNSELFISH, RESPONSIBLE, HONEST, TRUSTWORTHY, AND EFFICIENT.'

[BoardSource](#)

Composition

The Board of Governors consists of (a) the President; (b) one Governor elected from each Congressional District, and (c) three Governors elected at-large pursuant to the WSBA Bylaws. The Officers of the Bar consist of a President, President-elect, Immediate Past-President, and Treasurer. The Executive Director serves as secretary in an ex officio capacity. Except for the Executive Director, all offices must be Active lawyer members of the Bar. The BOG has, at a minimum, the following committees; Executive Committee, Awards Committee, Budget and Audit Committee, Legislative Committee; and Personnel Committee.

Time Commitment

Governor terms are for three years, starting in late September. Much of the Board's work is conducted in one or two-day meetings that take place every six to eight weeks. Currently, meetings are held both

BENEFITS OF BOARD SERVICE

Shape the future of the legal profession and the justice system in Washington State.

Learn from and interact with leaders in the profession.

Enjoy spirited but collegial discussions with fellow Board members.

Connect with WSBA members, staff and leaders around the state.

Meet annually with the state Supreme Court.

in-person and virtually. Meetings are held at the WSBA Offices in Seattle and around the state of Washington. Outside of regularly scheduled Board meetings, Governors can anticipate special meetings, attend meetings a BOG Liaison, and events in the legal community.

The time commitment is approximately 40 hours per month.

Requirements

Congressional District Positions: Any Active member of the Bar, except for a person who has previously served as a Governor for more than 48 consecutive months, may be nominated or apply for election as Governor from the Congressional District.

At Large Positions: Two (2) At Large positions must be an Active member of the Bar, except a person who has previously served as a Governor for more than 48 consecutive months, may be nominated or apply. One (1) Young Lawyer Position must be an Active lawyer member of the Bar who qualifies a Young Lawyer as set forth in the Bylaws.



Governor Duties

- The BOG elects the President-elect of the Bar.
- The BOG selects the Bar's Executive Director and annually reviews the Executive Director's performance.
- Each Governor is primarily obligated to ensure that the Bar fulfills the mandate set forth in General Rule 12.1, carries out the mission of the Bar, and operates in accordance with the Bar's guiding principles.

- Each Governor is expected to engage with members about BOG actions and issues, and to convey member viewpoints to the Board. In representing a Congressional District, a Governor will at a minimum: (1) bring to the BOG the perspective, values and circumstances of their district to be applied in the best interests of all members, the public and the Bar; and (2) bring information to the members in the district that promotes appreciation of action and issues affecting the membership as a whole, the public and the organization.
- Each Governor is appointed to serve as a BOG liaison to a committee, task force, council, section, board, or other entity. BOG liaisons are non-voting members of such entities.
- Each Governor must attend all Board meetings except in cases of emergency or compelling circumstances that prevent participation.
- Appropriations of Bar funds and authorization for payment of expenses will be made by the BOG through adoption of an annual budget or by special appropriation as required.

Other Expectations

- Serve as an ambassador for the organization.
- Participate in the development of the organization's strategic goals.
- Recruit and appoint members to WSBA's committees and boards, and to external groups.
- ***Make a financial contribution to the Washington State Bar Foundation.***
- Participate in ad-hoc projects; work groups, task forces etc. that may arise.

[Click here](#) to view more Governor Responsibilities.

Logistics

- Board member terms are for three years, starting in late September.
- Much of the Board's work is conducted in one or two-day meetings that take place every six to eight weeks. Meetings are held virtually and in-person at locations around the state.
- The time commitment is approximately 40 hours per month.
- Board members do not receive compensation for their service, but are reimbursed for travel and other expenses.

ABOUT WSBA

The Washington State Bar Association operates under the delegated authority of the Washington Supreme Court to license the state's nearly 40,000 lawyers and other legal professionals. In furtherance of its obligation to protect and serve the public, the WSBA both regulates lawyers and other legal professionals and serves its members as a professional association – all without public funding.

As a regulatory agency, the WSBA administers the bar admission process, including the bar exam; provides record-keeping and licensing functions; and administers the professional discipline system. As a professional association, the WSBA also provides continuing legal education for attorneys, in addition to numerous other educational and member-services and opportunities to advance professionally.