NEED TO KNOW

1. **Bar Structure.** The Washington Supreme Court has asked the Board to make a recommendation about whether the WSBA must change structure (considering federal litigation about the integrated-bar structure) or should change structure (to best achieve its mission). In response, the Board has launched a study process to evaluate caselaw, consider what an ideal bar structure looks like, and, perhaps most importantly, to hear from members. Materials, resources, and meeting access and recordings are all online.

2. **Bar Leadership.** Congratulations to Hunter Abell (current At-Large Governor), who the Board selected as incoming President-Elect (to be President in 2023-24).

3. **Bar Finances.** The Board approved the annual budget reforecast, which is the process, halfway through the fiscal year, to reconcile actual revenues and expenditures with original assumptions and make course corrections as needed. Good news: The reforecast predicts that, because of careful stewardship, both the WSBA general fund and CLE fund will each end the fiscal year more than $300,000 ahead of original projections.

OTHER BUSINESS

**Local Hero.** Lisa Malpass was honored as a Local Hero (nominated by the Spokane County Bar Association) for her tireless efforts in the area of guardianship—including formation of and support for two initiatives, the Guardian Ad Litem Committee and the Elder Disability Estate Planning Section of the Spokane County Bar Association—that have had an enormous impact on local and state policies. The Local Hero Award is bestowed by the WSBA President to recognize colleagues who have made noteworthy contributions to their communities.

**Leadership through a diversity lens.** Minority bar association leaders have jointly proposed four actions for the Board to implement to show a genuine commitment to advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion and to ensure Board members account for the impact of their decisions on the entire legal community. The proposal calls for action in four areas: 1. Diversity, equity, and inclusion tools for
decision-making (required considerations and analysis to be done as part of all decision making); 2.
Diversity, equity, and inclusion competency for candidates and governors (mandatory training and a 
baseline of knowledge/understanding); 3. Restorative protocol for board conduct (a binding code of 
conduct with censures for those who break it); and 4. Engagement of the minority bar associations 
(continued partnership and dialogue). The Board ultimately created a task force to consider the 
proposal and develop action items by the Board’s September meeting. (See page 226.)

Race equity and justice reform in the Spokane regional legal system. Leaders in the Spokane 
community have been working to understand and eradicate systemic racism in the legal system. 
Representatives from the Spokane County Bar Association’s Task Force on Systemic Racism in Our 
Regional Justice System, the Freedom Project East, and the Health and Justice Recovery Alliance 
spoke about their efforts to address structural racism that unevenly distributes power, benefits, 
burdens, and violence that negatively impact all parts of the community. (See page 304 and page 16.)

The Board also:

- Heard an update from the WSBA Court Rules and Procedures Committee regarding guidance 
  about potential solutions to address USPS mail delays that conflict with deadlines in Court 
  Rules. This is a complex issue that will take more than a single rule change to address. The 
  Board will continue to consider whether/how to proceed. (See page 115.)
- Held separate receptions with the Washington State Bar Foundation (which helps fund WSBA 
  programs that provide legal assistance to the state’s most vulnerable populations) and the 
  Washington Leadership Institute (a WSBA/UW partnership to recruit, train, and develop 
  traditionally underrepresented attorneys for future leadership positions in the WSBA and the 
  greater legal community). Both receptions featured powerfully justice-oriented lawyers 
  making a difference in their communities!
- Heard a first reading of a proposal to transition/reshape the WSBA Diversity Committee to 
  the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Council. The change would align the entity’s 
  practice of including non-Board voting members with the WSBA Bylaws. (See page 128.)
- Selected a vendor for the annual evaluation of the executive director, which will provide a 
  professional model for years to come. (See page 306.)
- Heard a report from the WSBA Pro Bono and Public Service Committee, which 
  communicates opportunities and eliminates barriers for members to provide pro bono services 
  to communities that experience poverty and injustices. Recent accomplishments include a 
  redesigned pro bono portal—check it out! (See page 209.)
- Considered its conflict-of-interest obligations and policy, and ultimately did not adopt 
  revisions to the policy. (See page 118.)
- Considered an amendment to the WSBA Bylaws to allow the Board Legislative Committee to 
  approve WSBA entity’s comments to the Supreme Court regarding proposed rule changes, if 
  the full Board of Governors does not have a regularly scheduled meeting before the comments 
  are due. The Board will vote on the amendment at its next meeting. (See page 102.)
- Heard an update from executives of Member Benefits, the third-party administrator that 
  provides the WSBA Insurance Marketplace for members. (See page 199.)