

July 2, 2020

**re: Collecting feedback on proposed WSBA Mission Statement to incorporate our GR 12.2 mandate to ensure access for all people to the justice system, and on Diploma Privilege.**

Dear members of the legal community,

I have been compelled to action in a profound way in response to the death of George Floyd—and so many others—and the resulting national dialogue on racism and unlawful use of force. Like organizations and people across the globe, I believe the Washington State Bar Association must not continue on with business as usual. I challenged the WSBA Board of Governors at the July meeting to think deeply and take some concrete steps to begin to address the inequities in our courts, legal system, and legal profession. The conversation was difficult and not without problematic individual comments. In the end, however, we approved several positive steps to move forward, such as passing a resolution to support members' independence speaking out and chartering a multi-stakeholder Equity and Disparity Work Group to identify and suggest remedies for rules, regulations, and laws related to the practice of law and administration of justice that facilitate injustice and perpetuate institutionalized racism.

I also challenged the Board of Governors to revise the core expression of WSBA's work and values—its mission statement. While the bar's mission is a large one that covers many topics as outlined in GR 12.2, the mission statement is an opportunity to highlight what we value as most important in this time. I asked board members to consider adopting a mission statement that includes our specific GR 12.2(2) mandate to "promote an effective legal system accessible to all people."

Because we want to ensure all members see their own values reflected in the mission statement, we made a commitment to gather feedback from all stakeholders before moving forward, including individuals, minority bar associations, sections, local bar associations, and other specialty bars. Toward that end, I would appreciate your comments.

Proposed WSBA mission statement: *With a strong commitment to serving its members and the public, the Washington State Bar Association ensures the integrity of the legal profession and promotes an effective legal system, accessible to all.*

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



Please email [barleaders@wsba.org](mailto:barleaders@wsba.org) prior to our next Board of Governors meeting on July 24, 2020, with your comments, either as an individual or as a section/association. Members' feedback will help guide the board on how to move forward, which could include adopting the proposed statement, revising the proposed statement, or continuing with the current statement.

On a separate topic, the WSBA Board of Governors is also collecting feedback to send to the Court regarding its recent [Order](#) to waive the UBE (Unified Bar Exam) portion of the bar exam (the Washington practice area and ethics portions are still required) as a licensing requirement for the majority of applicants signed up for the summer exam. If you would like to submit a comment as part of the bar's aggregate submission to the Court, please likewise send them to [barleaders@wsba.org](mailto:barleaders@wsba.org) by the end of July.

Thank you for your consideration and input regarding these important matters.

In service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rajeev D. Majumdar', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rajeev D. Majumdar,  
WSBA President  
(206) 214-5177