

Working Together to Champion Justice

Overview: The WSBA operates under the delegated authority of the Washington Supreme Court to license the state's over 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. The WSBA's mission is to serve the public and the members of the Bar, to ensure the integrity of the legal profession, and to champion justice. For more information, visit www.wsba.org. As a regulatory agency, the WSBA administers the bar admission process, including the lawyer bar exam and the licensing exams for LPOs and LLLTs; provides record-keeping and licensing functions; and administers the discipline system for licensed legal professionals. As a professional association, the WSBA provides continuing legal education for lawyers, LPOs and LLLTs, in addition to numerous other educational and member-service activities.

The governance of the WSBA is vested in its Board of Governors. There are two governors from the seventh congressional district; one from each of the other nine districts; and three at-large members. The Board meets regularly (approximately every two months) at the WSBA Conference Center and at various locations around the state, and the Public Session portions of its meetings are open to the public. Much of the work of the Bar is carried out through its many committees, boards, and 29 sections.

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

Membership: Approximately 41,152 members (27,787 active members). All legal professionals licensed to practice in the state are required to be members of the WSBA. Of its members who volunteer the information, approximately 43 percent are women and 16 percent are persons of color.

WSBA Staff: Approximately 138 staff members

Other Facts:

- Over 3,000 members provided pro bono and public service under RPC 6.1. Over 2,000 have participated with a WSBA public service program, including the Moderate Means Program, the Call to Duty Initiative, and past programs such as the Home Foreclosure Legal Aid Project and the First Responder Will Clinic.
- 800-1,000 new legal professionals are admitted each year.
- There are more than 67 county, specialty, and minority bar associations throughout the state, serving the needs of licensed legal professionals and the public.
- To promote public confidence and protection of the public, the WSBA administers the Client Protection Fund. This program compensates clients who are victims of attorney misappropriation. Each active or house counsel lawyer member, active LLLT, foreign law consultant, and lawyer authorized to appear pro hac vice, is assessed \$30 a year as part of his or her annual licensing or per case license fee (for pro hac vice) for this fund.