

## MEMO

To: WSBA Board of Governors

From: PJ Grabicki, BOG Legislative Committee Chair; Sanjay Walvekar, WSBA Outreach and Legislative Affairs Manager

Date: November 2, 2020

Re: 2021 WSBA Legislative Priorities

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<b>ACTION:</b> Approve the 2021 Legislative Priorities for the upcoming legislative session.
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### **Overview:**

The WSBA Legislative Affairs team is pleased to propose the 2021 WSBA Legislative Priorities for consideration and approval by the Board of Governors (BOG).

### **Background:**

The WSBA and its entities are allowed to engage in the legislative process if issues are related to the practice of law and/or the administration of justice (GR 12.2). The 2021 WSBA Legislative Priorities seek to make improvements to the practice of law and administration of justice that ultimately benefit both members of the public as well as legal professionals across the state. This document is primarily used to inform legislators of the WSBA's focus areas during the legislative session. The genesis of these priorities is tied directly to the WSBA Guiding Principles and GR 12.2. These include supporting access to justice, increasing public understanding of Washington's justice system, and supporting a fair and impartial judiciary.

### **Recommended Action:**

Approve the 2021 WSBA Legislative Priorities as recommended by the BOG Legislative Committee Chair and WSBA Legislative Affairs Manager.

## **2021 WSBA Legislative Priorities**

- Support Bar-request legislative proposals initiated by WSBA Sections that are approved by the Board.
- Support non-Bar request legislative proposals approved by the Board under GR 12, that seek to:
  - Create and promote access to justice for all Washington residents;
  - Enhance statewide civics education;
  - Provide funding for the state's court system; and
  - Provide funding for civil legal aid services through general-fund state dollars.
- Monitor and take appropriate action on legislative proposals that would:
  - Increase existing court user fees;
  - Alter court rules and/or the structure of the state's judicial branch; and
  - Other items of significance to the practice of law and administration of justice.