

## **Access to Justice Board**

### **Volunteer Position Description**

The Access to Justice (ATJ) Board was established by the Washington Supreme Court in 1994 at the request of the Washington State Bar Association in response to a growing need to coordinate access to justice efforts in Washington. Recognizing that access to the civil justice system is a fundamental right, the ATJ Board works to achieve equal access for those facing economic and other significant barriers. The ATJ Board is an active member of the Race Equity and Justice Initiative, a community of legal and justice system partners in Washington State working toward eradicating racially biased policies, practices, and systems. The ATJ Board is committed to furthering equity internally and externally, particularly through centering the voices of folks who have been denied justice because of racism, poverty, and other forms of oppression. For more information about the ATJ Board, see <http://allianceforequaljustice.org/access-to-justice-board/who-we-are/>.

#### **Position overview:**

ATJ Board member responsibilities include:

- Attending 10-12 regular half-day Board meetings (currently via Zoom);
- Engagement in meaningful conversations and activities to promote equity and inclusion with the ATJ Board and throughout the justice system, with an emphasis on race equity.
- Participating in an annual day-long retreat (currently via Zoom);
- Attending the biennial Access to Justice Conference (location varies);
- Serving as co-chair or liaison to at least one standing committee of the Board;
- Serving as ATJ liaison to at least one Supreme Court Board or Commission, and/or one partner organization; and
- Active participation in Board initiatives.

We are currently conducting all meetings virtually via Zoom. When we return to being able to hold in-person meetings, some meetings may be held at the WSBA offices in downtown Seattle and occasionally in locations outside of King County.

Appointment is for a three-year term with eligibility to be reappointed for one additional three-year term.

**Time commitment:** Service on the ATJ Board requires a substantial time commitment estimated at ten to twenty hours per month.

**Requirements:** The ATJ Board has one open position that may be filled by an attorney or a person who is not an attorney.

**Preferred qualifications and skills:** We are looking for a strategic thinker who is committed to race equity and justice. We are looking for demonstrated leadership in race equity and justice work and a proven track record of collaboration, strategic thinking and communication, fostering processes of renewal and building new leaders. We strongly encourage applications from people who are or have been eligible for civil legal aid services or who can center the voices of communities most impacted by

racism, poverty, and other forms of oppression. Personal/professional experience working in community-based organizations, civil legal aid programs, pro bono programs or public defense is a plus.

**Benefits:**

- Significantly influence, improve and support civil legal aid and pro bono services across the state
- Participate in a statewide network of equity and justice advocates seeking to dismantle systems of oppression that perpetuate racism and poverty
- Networking
- Leadership opportunities
- Public service

**Reimbursement policy:** This is an unpaid volunteer position. Reasonable travel expenses may be reimbursed per the WSBA Expense Reimbursement Policy.

**Selection and appointment process:** Appointments are made by the Washington Supreme Court upon nomination of the Washington State Bar Association Board of Governors in consultation with the Access to Justice Board.

**For further information:** See <http://allianceforequaljustice.org/access-to-justice-board/who-we-are/>.

**How to apply:** <https://www.mywsba.org/personifyebusiness/MyProfile/CommitteeApplication.aspx> (requires myWSBA login). Deadline is April 16, 2021. As asked in the application, please provide a résumé and a letter of interest describing your commitment to access to justice, and your commitment, experience, and any contribution you can share about promoting race equity and centering community voices. We are committed to promoting diversity, equity and inclusion on the Board and strongly encourage folks from a diverse array of backgrounds to apply. We define diversity broadly to include age, disability, ethnicity, gender identity, geographical location, indigenous background, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, social class and veteran status. You may also include one letter of recommendation. Questions about the application? Email [bonnies@wsba.org](mailto:bonnies@wsba.org).