

Client Protection Board Volunteer Position Description

Per Admission to Practice Rule 15, the Client Protection Board reviews claims for reimbursement of financial loss sustained by clients of WSBA members who have engaged in dishonest actions or failure to account for client funds. It decides on claims up to \$25,000, and makes recommendations to the BOG on claims for greater amounts, with the maximum gift of \$150,000. The Board reviews approximately 80-100 applications for reimbursement per year.

Position overview: This is a unique opportunity to assist members of the public who have suffered harm via legal professionals. Board members participate in a program unique to the legal profession that benefits clients who have suffered significant monetary losses and have nowhere else to turn for assistance. Appointment is for a 3-year term. Members can apply to be reappointed for an additional 3-year term.

Time commitment: Attend quarterly meetings (November, February, May and August) lasting 2-4 hours. (Meeting time varies depending on the number of applications received.) A summary of applications and supporting materials is provided prior to each meeting. Meetings are held at WSBA's Seattle offices; members can attend by telephone if needed.

Requirements:

- Active Attorneys members of WSBA and members of the public are eligible to apply.
- Members must be able to access and review meeting materials electronically.

Preferred qualifications and skills: Attention to detail and willingness to devote time to reviewing materials thoroughly prior to meetings. The Board welcomes WSBA members and public members with a wide range of experience. Claims for reimbursement frequently involve failure to provide services and/or theft of client funds in criminal, immigration, family and personal injury matters.

Benefits: The Board provides direct assistance to persons in need of it, and the work is interesting and rewarding. Members with Board experience have the opportunity to apply to serve as Chair.

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

Selection and appointment process: Applications are reviewed by a nominations team including the chair, staff liaison and BOG liaison. Recommendations are made to the Board of Governors Nominations Committee, which makes the appointments.

For further information: See www.wsba.org/Legal-Community/Committees-Boards-and-Other-Groups/client-protection-fund.

How to apply: See instructions at www.wsba.org/joincommittee. Questions about the application? Email barleaders@wsba.org.