



CHARTER

Justice Gap Solutions Scoping Work Group

Adopted: January 16, 2026.

I. Authority

This Work Group is established under the authority of the WSBA Board of Governors (BOG) and the Washington State Access to Justice Board, pursuant to WSBA Bylaws Section IX(B)(2), which authorizes the creation of work groups to address specific issues of importance to the legal community and the public and the ATJ Board Operational Rules Section IV(B) Special Initiatives and Task Forces which establishes task forces with limited life spans to work on specific initiatives.

II. Purpose

The Justice Gap Solutions Scoping Work Group is a joint initiative of the WSBA and the Access to Justice Board. Its purpose is to review existing data, research, and feedback gathered about communities in Washington that have historically been underserved and marginalized with respect to their legal needs and to use an equity lens to evaluate innovative solutions including those that have been implemented elsewhere. Based on this review, the group will recommend to the WSBA and to the Access to Justice Board which solutions should be pursued in Washington, how they should be prioritized, and what roles the WSBA and ATJ Board should play in implementation. The Work Group is not charged with designing or implementing solutions but rather helping the WSBA and the ATJ Board identify how to prioritize its resources and its role in advancing solutions.

III. Activities

The Justice Gap Solutions Scoping Work Group is charged with the following activities, which do not necessarily need to be taken up in the order listed.

1. Conducting a comprehensive review of existing data, reports, and research on communities in Washington whose legal needs are going unmet. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - moderate- and low-income individuals,
 - people in rural communities,
 - people without lawful immigration status,
 - people with disabilities,
 - members of the LGBTQIA+ community, and
 - Black, Indigenous, and additional People of Color

To the greatest extent possible, the work group should consult with individuals or groups with lived experience of the challenges faced by the groups identified and/or review data and information that is based on the lived experience of people in these communities.

2. Conducting a comprehensive review of current efforts to consider solutions that align with or leverage existing licenses, regulatory frameworks, programs and entities in Washington including:
 - alternative pathways to licensure,
 - the Entity Regulation Pilot Project,
 - the APR 6 Law Clerk Program, and
 - limited licenses to practice law including the APR 8(c) indigent representation exception, the APR 9 limited license intern, the APR 12 limited practice officer license, and the APR 28 limited license legal (LLLT) technician license.

3. Conducting a comprehensive review of existing strategic guidance adopted by the ATJ Board, the WSBA and other partners to consider solutions that align with these roadmaps including:
 - The Access to Justice Board Strategic Plan,
 - The WSBA FY26-29 Strategic Plan,
 - The WSBA Equity & Justice Plan,
 - The WSBA Tech Task Force Final Report,
 - The Access to Justice Technology Principles, and
 - The WSBA Indigent Defense Standards.

4. Consulting with entities and individuals that have knowledge and experience relevant to the task of the work group including:
 - the Practice of Law Board,
 - the LLLT Board,
 - the STAR Council,
 - the Low Bono Section,
 - legal Educators, including representatives from Washington’s three Law Schools and the APR 6 Law Clerk Board,
 - representatives of the CLEAR Hotline at the Northwest Justice Project,
 - the Office of Public Defense, and
 - other jurisdictions that have implemented innovative solutions.

5. Examining innovative solutions implemented in other jurisdictions, such as:
 - Community Justice Workers,
 - licensed paraprofessionals, and
 - Other non-traditional legal service delivery models

6. Recommending to the ATJ Board and the WSBA Board of Governors:
 - to what extent existing solutions should be utilized or enhanced,
 - whether new solutions should be pursued in Washington and why,
 - how these solutions should be prioritized,
 - the appropriate mechanisms for implementation, including the roles of WSBA and the ATJ Board, and
 - potential roles and partnerships with other system partners, including, but not limited to, the Administrative Office of the Court, the Washington Supreme Court, the Washington

State Superior Court Judges Association and the District and Municipal Court Judges Association, court management associations, public defense and civil legal aid providers, law schools, the APR 6 Law Clerk Board, the LLLT Board, the Practice of Law Board, the Small Town and Rural Practice Council, and other nonprofit and community-based institutions that intersect with the delivery of legal services.

IV. Timeline & Deliverables

The Work Group will complete its work within four (4) months from its first meeting. This includes:

1. A written report summarizing findings from the literature review
2. A prioritized list of recommended solutions
3. A proposed implementation framework, including:
 - a. suggested roles for WSBA and the ATJ Board,
 - b. considerations for regulatory, operational, and equity impacts, and
 - c. identification of stakeholders.

The work group will report jointly to the WSBA Board of Governors and the Access to Justice Board. Interim updates may be provided upon request.

This work group is being convened to operate with focus, urgency, and a clearly defined objective. It is designed as a time-bound, high-impact initiative, requiring a concentrated effort over a four-month period. Members will be asked to prioritize this work during that time, which may include frequent meetings and/or longer retreat-style sessions, and a strong commitment to achieving the group's goals within the designated timeline.

V. Decision-Making

The group will make decisions by consensus wherever possible. The group will reach consensus on an issue when it agrees on a proposal and each member can honestly say:

- I believe that other participants understand my point of view.
- I believe I understand other participants' points of view.
- Whether or not I prefer this agreement, I support it because it was arrived at openly and fairly and it is the best solution for us at this time.

For areas in which no consensus is achieved, the Co-Chairs will summarize the perspectives underlying the various options for consideration by the Board of Governors and the Access to Justice Board.

VI. Membership

The Work Group shall be co-chaired by:

- One member of the Access to Justice Board, appointed by the Access to Justice Board

- One member of the WSBA Board of Governors, appointed by the WSBA President

Additional voting members include:

- One additional member of the WSBA Board of Governors, appointed by the WSBA President
- One additional member of the ATJ Board, appointed by the ATJ Board
- One member of the Pro Bono Council, appointed by the Pro Bono Council
- One representative from the civil legal aid community, appointed by the ATJ Board
- One representative from the criminal legal aid community, appointed by the Council on Public Defense
- One representative from the Office of Civil Legal Aid, appointed by the Office of Civil Legal Aid
- Two community members with expertise in the legal needs of underserved communities, appointed by the ATJ Board
- Three representatives of the judiciary (including court staff), appointed by the Board for Judicial Administration
- Terra Nevitt, WSBA Executive Director
- Renata Garcia, WSBA Chief Regulatory Counsel
- Diana Singleton, WSBA Chief Equity & Justice Officer

In making these appointments, entities are strongly encouraged to identify representatives with lived experience of the communities in Washington whose legal needs are going unmet.

The WSBA Executive Director will assign a staff liaison to support the Work Group with sufficient knowledge, skill and expertise to support co-chairs with developing a work plan and facilitating the Work Group's process and discussions.