



Washington State Bar Association

COUNCIL ON PUBLIC DEFENSE
JULY 25, 2025 - 9:30AM – 11:00AM
MINUTES

CPD Voting Members: Maialisa Vanyo (Chair), Molly Gilbert, Paul Holland, Chris Swaby (Vice-Chair), Maya Titova, Victoria Blumhorst, Christie Hedman, David Montes, Abraham Ritter, Jason Schwarz (Immediate Past Chair), Louis Frantz, Jonathan Nomamiukor, Justice Sheryl Gordon McCloud, Michael Scheuler, Judge Susan Fisch, Karen Denise Wilson, Brandy Gevers

CPD Emeritus members (non-voting members): Ann Christian, Bob Boruchowitz, Kathleen Kyle

WSBA Staff: Andrea Agrella Clemente, Diana Singleton

Guests: Daisy O'Sullivan, Mirisa Torres, Geoff Hulse, Scott Ketterling, Liz Mustin, Sophia Byrd McSherry, Lei Young, Jonathan Patnode, Starck Follis, Patrick O'Connor

Absent: Judge Dee Sonntag, Eileen Farley, Joslyn Cook, Larry Jefferson, Arian Noma, Judge Marla Polin, Jonathan Quittner

Vacancies:

Meeting Minutes: The minutes were approved without edits.

Standards Changes -- Appendix B: Jason Schwarz presented on updated language on the proposed case weighting system. There was additional language for case weighting that was suggested. There were also some changes in the laws since the last discussion, such as the amount of time allocated for each kind of case has changed. Changes were also made to the municipal cases; these can be found at the top of page 6 of the meeting materials. The standards changes will be voted on during the next meeting.

BOG Discussion: Aligning WSBA Standards with Court's Order: Maialisa Vanyo asked the group if they would like to change their position to delay implementation to wait for the court order. Previously, the Council had held that they did not want to wait. This sentiment remained consistent during this meeting. Jason Schwarz is available to present an update in September to the Board of Governors per their request.

Defender Initiative: Bob Boruchowitz presented on the event. There were approximately 50 hybrid participants. Presentations included legislators and the executive director of the county associations. Justice Gordon McCloud also presented.

3-Year Study: Jason Schwarz communicated with Executive Director Terra Nevitt regarding the WSBA's willingness to help coordinate a study to measure outcomes of the new standards.

Office of Public Defense Legislative Updates: Sophia Byrd McSherry gave an update on the low turnout for applications for the RCW 10.101 grant. There are efforts to push 12 new paid fellowships for 2L students to the legislature.

Announcements: Maialisa Vanyo had several announcements, including reminding the Council that there is no August meeting. Washington State Association of Counties lawsuits have been revived. Victoria Blumhorst has applied to become the upcoming chair-elect. There are two remaining slots on the Council that Chris Swaby will be interviewing for. Maya Titova will be attending the Access to Justice Conference on behalf of the CPD. If you would like to attend, please reach out to Bonnie.

Ann Christian shared that Clark County is voting next week on whether or not to go forward with the new 1/10 of 1% sales and use tax for criminal justice. They are cautiously optimistic.

The meeting adjourned at 10:52 a.m.