

UPL #	Date of Complaint	Complainant Occupation	Respondent Occupation	UPL Complaint	Brief Summary	Referred
25-01	1/30/2025	Individual	Individual	Legal services	Grievant and Respondent are inmates. Grievant alleges that Respondent is providing legal assistance and misrepresenting himself as a lawyer by using his membership in the National Lawyers Guild (which is a public interest organization that does not require admission as a lawyer to be a member--like the ABA).	Yes
25-02	1/30/2025	Individual	Individual	Legal services	Respondent is an inmate who admits he assists other inmates with legal procedure and filling out documents.	Yes
25-03	2/4/2025	Attorney	Individual	Legal documents	Grievant is an attorney and is alleging that Respondent is not an attorney but is acting as one for someone appearing in criminal court. Respondent's response indicate he was acting as an investigative journalist, not as an attorney. He claims that the person appearing in court hired brief writers to assist with the case. The metadata lists Respondent as the author of some of the briefs.	No
25-04	2/21/2025	Attorney	Voluntarily Resigned Attorney	Legal documents	Grievant is alleging that voluntarily resigned lawyer Respondent is practicing law by filing motions with the court. The case was still open and the filings were regarding fees still owed to Respondent.	Yes
25-05	2/24/2025	Attorney	Individual	Legal advice	Respondent has a personal relationship with a former board member of Chelan Pride. Board member accused the Board of misappropriating funds and is trying to get those funds moved. Respondent is speaking on behalf of Board member and referring to him as a client.	No
25-06	3/7/2025	Attorney	Individual	Legal documents	Respondent was retained by the opposing party and is giving legal advice as well as filling out forms. Respondent accepted payment for services	Yes
25-07	3/12/2025	Individual	Paralegal	Legal advice, legal documents	Grievant hired Respondent's Law firm that employs Respondent. Respondent assisted Grievant in preparing legal documents and gave legal advice.	No
25-08	3/20/2025	Individual	individual	Legal documents	Respondent sent subpoenas to Grievant and his employer.	No
25-09	4/21/2025	Individual	Attorney Resigned in Lieu	Legal Documents, appeared in court, negotiated legal rights, offered to provide legal services	Respondent drafted and submitted interrogatories and appeared in court with a friend.	Yes
25-10	4/24/2025	Attorney	Paralegal	Legal advice, legal documents, appeared in court, negotiated legal rights, offered to provide legal services	Respondent filed a lawsuit and dismissed it the next day so he could use the case number to forge court documents. He claims to be an attorney with a fake ABA card	Yes
25-11	5/8/2025	Individual	Out of State Attorney	gave legal advice, legal documents	Family law. Grievant's wife is Respondent's sister. After a domestic violence situation, Respondent came to Washington from Idaho to bring her sister to Idaho. After that, Respondent's sister filed for divorce. Grievant is claiming Respondent helped with the legal documents. Respondent stated that she did not help her sister with legal documents.	No
25-12	5/31/2025	Individual	Individual	Gave legal advice, legal documents, negotiated legal rights, offered to provide legal services	Respondent was drafting documents related to real property like promissory notes	Yes
25-13	6/6/2025	Individual	Individual	gave legal advice, legal documents, negotiated legal rights	Respondent is assisting with a court proceeding and drafting documents. The proceeding is in Idaho.	Yes
25-14	6/12/2025	Attorney	Paralegal	gave legal advice, legal documents, legal services	Practicing family law without a license. Claims to be an attorney on social media. Received money for legal services.	Yes
25-15	6/9/2025	Individual	law office?	Gave legal advice, legal documents, negotiated legal rights, offered to provide legal services	Respondent accepted money to provide legal services but Complainant alleges no one at the office is an attorney.	Yes
25-16	6/22/2025	Attorney	Law office?	Other	Complainant's client received a collections notice from a fake company demanding money.	Yes
25-17	6/25/2025	Individual	Individual	gave legal advice, legal documents, offered to provide legal services	Complainant alleges that Respondent offers to complete Declaration amendments for condo and homeowner associations	Yes
25-18	7/16/2025	Individual	Individual	gave legal advice, appeared in court	Respondent is a law student and Complainant feels Respondent is using legalese to bully people and drafts legal documents	Yes

25-19	7/17/2025	Individual	Individual	Negotiated legal rights for another person	Complainant alleges Respondent is posing as an attorney for the Northwest Justice Project. Respondent may be using an alias.	Yes
25-20	7/21/2025	Individual	Individual	legal documents, negotiated legal rights	Complainant is receiving threatening communications from Respondent who is pretending to be a lawyer for Complainant's previous client.	Yes
25-21	8/14/2025	Individual	Individual	legal advice, legal documents, negotiated legal rights	Respondent is a legal assistant working in the capacity of a legal assistant as opposition to Complainant. Complainant is alleging Respondent is acting as an attorney.	No
25-22	8/18/2025	Attorney	Individual	legal advice, legal documents, negotiated legal rights, provide legal services	Complainant is an attorney filing the complaint on behalf of their client. Respondent filed a fraudulent lien against Complainant's client's property. The work that was done could only be performed by an attorney.	Yes
25-23	9/2/2025	Individual	Police Department	violated civil rights	Complainant alleges that his ex wife accused him of crimes and contacted the police. The police investigated and dropped the charges. Complainant wants the police held accountable.	No
25-24	9/2/2025	Attorney	Individual	legal advice	Complainant is defense counsel on a civil matter. Alleges opposing counsel is licensed to practice law Hawaii but not in Washington.	Yes
25-25	9/5/2025	Attorney	Out-of-state attorney	legal advice, legal documents, negotiated legal rights, offered legal services	Complainant alleges that Respondent is working as general counsel for a bank but is not licensed to practice law in the state of Washington.	Yes
25-26	9/17/2025	Individual	Paralegal	legal advice	Respondent offers legal advice and charges \$50. Respondent records some of these conversations and posts them to social media. Respondent tries to claim "this is not legal advice" while giving legal advice.	Yes
25-27	10/2/2025	Attorney	Out-of-state attorney	legal advice, legal documents	Respondent sent legal documents to Complainant's client but is not authorized to practice law in Washington	Yes
25-28	10/10/2025	Individual	Individual	legal advice, legal documents	The Complainant alleges that the Respondent, who is the Complainant's husband's girlfriend, has been completing legal paperwork and attending court proceedings related to a Domestic Violence Protection Order (DVPO), as well as preparing dissolution of marriage documents. The complainant further states that a judge has previously warned the respondent not to assist with legal documentation.	No
25-29	10/13/2025	Attorney	Individual	legal documents, provide legal services	Complainant's client paid Respondent \$2600 to assist with immigration paperwork. Respondent is not an attorney, and the forms that were filed were incorrect. The money was never returned.	Yes
25-30	10/17/2025	Individual	Individual	legal advice, legal documents, legal services	Respondent is not a licensed attorney and Complainant alleges that Respondent is filing documents with the court and even attempted to appear in court.	Yes
25-31	10/20/2025	Paralegal	Paralegal	legal advice, legal documents, legal rights	Complainant worked with Respondent at a law firm. Complainant alleges that Respondent was given duties and responsibilities that constituted the practice of law with no attorney oversight. Respondent was in charge of a team of attorneys.	Yes
25-32	10/22/2025	Individual	Individual	legal advice, legal documents	Complainant alleges that Respondent claimed to be a licensed attorney from New York and offered legal assistance during two court cases. Complainant paid Respondent \$1,000. Respondent allegedly drafted and filed legal documents. Respondent is not licensed in WA.	Yes
25-33	10/31/2025	Individual	Attorney	legal advice, legal documents	Complainant alleges that Respondent was not authorized to practice law but was doing so anyway. Respondent was a Rule 9 Legal Intern and is now a licensed attorney.	No

25-35	11/12/2025	Attorney	Paralegal	legal advice, legal documents, negotiated legal rights, provided legal services	Complainant alleges Respondent is a paralegal and is representing individuals for their UM claims. Respondent has signed the letter of representation and is not working with an attorney.	Yes
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# WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

## WSBA ENTITY ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2025: October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025

*The mission of the Washington State Bar Association is to serve the public and the members of the Bar, to ensure integrity of the legal profession, and to champion justice.*

**Instructions:** In accordance with the WSBA Bylaws, Committees, Other Bar Entities (excluding Regulatory Boards<sup>i</sup>), Councils, and Sections must submit an annual report to the Executive Director. The information below should reflect the activities and outcomes from the fiscal year October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025. Information in the annual report will be provided to the Executive Director and Board of Governors, and may be published for other purposes, such as *Bar News*, volunteer recruitment messaging, and other WSBA activity-based reporting.

It is recommended that completion of the annual report be a collaborative effort with members of your entity, the BOG liaison, and staff liaison.

**Submission Deadline is Friday, October 17:** please submit by emailing [barleaders@wsba.org](mailto:barleaders@wsba.org) or requesting that your staff liaison submit the report internally.

<b>Name of Entity:</b>	Practice of Law Board
<b>Chair:</b>	Lesli Ashley
<b>Vice Chair:</b>	Melissa Kover
<b>Staff Liaison:</b> <i>(include name, job title, and department if known)</i>	Bobby Henry, Associate Director for Regulatory Services Department
<b>Board of Governors Liaison:</b>	Kevin Fay
<b>Purpose of Entity:</b> <i>May be stated in Bylaws, Charter, Court Rule, etc.</i>	
The Practice of Law Board (POLB) derives its authority from rule 25 of the General Rules. As a Washington Supreme Court board, members are appointed by the Court. A roster of members is attached. The functions of the POLB are to: educate the public about how to receive competent legal assistance, recommend to the Court new avenues for persons not currently authorized to practice law to provide legal and law-related services, and review and refer complaints alleging the unauthorized practice of law. GR 25(b).	
<b>Strategy to Fulfill Purpose:</b>	
The POLB meets once a month to carry out its functions. Agendas and minutes are posted on the <a href="#">POLB page</a> of the WSBA website. In addition, the POLB has several subcommittees which meet as	

<p>needed to gather information, develop programs, or review materials and applications in order to make recommendations to the Board as decision-maker. A list of subcommittees is attached.</p>	
<p><b>How does the entity’s purpose help further the mission of the WSBA “to serve the public and the members of the Bar, to ensure integrity of the legal profession, and to champion justice”?</b></p>	
<p>The POLB’s functions directly relate to the WSBA mission. The POLB educates the public about legal services. The POLB refers complaints alleging unauthorized practice of law to appropriate law enforcement agencies to ensure the integrity of the legal profession. The POLB recommends new avenues for delivering legal services to increase the public’s access to justice.</p>	
<p><b>2024-2025 Accomplishments:</b></p>	
<p>The majority of the POLB’s efforts for fiscal year 2025 related to the development, recommendation, and ultimate approval by the Court of the Entity Regulation Pilot Project. In addition, POLB members worked with WSBA staff to implement and successfully launch the Pilot Project at the start of fiscal year 2026 (on October 21, 2025).</p>	
<p>The POLB will take an active role in the regulation of the Pilot Project. Because of the new regulatory role, staffing for the POLB moved from the Office of General Counsel to the Regulatory Services Department.</p>	
<p>The POLB delegated review and referral of complaints alleging the unauthorized practice of law to WSBA staff. The POLB reviews all actions taken by staff at each board meeting.</p>	
<p>Click or tap here to enter text.</p>	
<p>Click or tap here to enter text.</p>	
<p><b>Next Fiscal Year: 2025-2026 Top SMART Goals &amp; Priorities:</b>  <i>SMART Goals can be an effective framework for the creation of goal; they detail the work you and your team hope to accomplish and help to foster and communicate clear expectations.</i></p> <p><i>SMART Goals are: Specific, Measurable, Relevant and Time-Bound</i></p> <p><i><a href="#">Use the WSBA SMART Goals Worksheet</a> to detail the groups 2024-2025 goals. After using the worksheet to describe your goals, summarize the top three SMART Goals in 2-3 sentences below.</i></p>	
<p><b>1</b></p>	<p>The POLB has formed an Education Committee to look at various projects to educate the public about access to legal services. One project is to create a website or webpage for the public for centralized and enhanced access to educational materials. Another goal is to improve the usability of the legal directory, making it easier for the public to navigate and find relevant legal resources. The focus is not only on locating a lawyer but also on helping individuals evaluate legal professionals and understand what to expect when working with one.</p>
<p><b>2</b></p>	<p>The POLB has formed a UPL Committee. The goal for this committee, which has not yet started its work, is to gather data from a variety of sources about complaints relating to the unauthorized practice of law and,</p>

	based on an analysis of that data, develop an understanding of the status of the unauthorized practice of law (UPL), develop a plan for addressing UPL, and educate the public about authorized and regulated legal services.
<b>3</b>	The POLB formed a Entity Regulation Application Committee. The goal for this committee is to develop a rubric for assessing applications for the Pilot Project. The committee will develop a process for reviewing and assessing applications in order to make a recommendation to the full Board. The committee will also assist the POLB in any potential future updates to the application and the application process.
<b>Looking Ahead:</b> <i>Please share any long-term goals and/or priorities your entity seeks to address, beyond the next fiscal year.</i>	
<b>1</b>	The work of the education and UPL committees is likely to extend beyond fiscal year 2026.
<b>2</b>	The POLB will continue to work with WSBA staff on gathering and analyzing data from the Entity Regulation Pilot Project to further the goals of making an informed decision about future regulatory reform.
<b>3</b>	Click or tap here to enter text.
<b>Please describe how this entity is addressing diversity, equity, and inclusion:</b> <i>How have you elicited input from a variety of perspectives in decision-making? What techniques do you use to promote a culture of inclusion within the board or committee? How do you seek to elicit inclusive decision-making amongst your group? What more would you like to see done in this area to better support the needs of your entity?</i>	
The POLB recruits members of diverse backgrounds both demographic and professional experience. The POLB actively seeks the input from all its members during board and committee meetings.	
<b>Please share feedback regarding the support and engagement provided by WSBA.</b> <i>For example:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Quality of WSBA staff support/services, including technology solutions</i></li> <li>• <i>Involvement with Board of Governors, including assigned BOG liaison</i></li> <li>• <i>Ideas you have on ways WSBA can continue to strengthen/support your entity.</i></li> </ul>	
The POLB has a positive, collaborative relationship with WSBA Staff, the BOG liaison, and the ATJ Board liaison. BOX, Teams, and Zoom have all been helpful to board members for access to materials and conducting meetings.	
<b>Entity Detail &amp; Demographics Report:</b> <b><i>To Be Completed by WSBA Manager of Volunteer Engagement</i></b>	
<b>Size of Entity:</b> <i>(Include voting and non-voting members)</i>	Click or tap here to enter text.

<b>Number of Vacancies for FY26:</b> <i>The number of OPEN positions with terms beginning October 1, 2025 (FY26) if any.</i>	Click or tap here to enter text.
<b>Number of Applicants for FY26:</b> <i>Applications were submitted in the Spring-Summer of 2025 for terms beginning October 1, 2025 (FY26)</i>	Click or tap here to enter text.
<b>Budgeted Direct Expenses:</b> <i>As of September 30, 2025.</i>	Click or tap here to enter text.
<b>Total FTE Support:</b>	Click or tap here to enter text.
<b>Indirect Expenses:</b> <i>As of September 30, 2025.</i>	Click or tap here to enter text.

**FY25 Demographics:**

The WSBA promotes diversity, equality, and cultural competence in the courts, legal profession, and the bar, and is committed to ensuring that its committees, boards, and panels reflect the diversity of its membership.

Aside from the factors marked (\*), demographic information was provided voluntarily and individuals had the option to not respond to any or all of the factors below.

<b>Disability</b>	No	%
	Chose Not to Respond	%
<b>District*</b>	0	%
	1	%
	2	%
	3	%
	4	%
	5	%
	6	%
	7N	%
	7S	%
	8	%
<b>Ethnicity</b>	9	%
	10	%
	White or European Descent	%
	Middle Eastern Descent	%
<b>Gender</b>	Multi Racial or Bi Racial	%
	Chose Not to Respond	%
	Female	%
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	Male	%
	Chose Not to Respond	%
	Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Pansexual, or Queer	%
	Heterosexual	%
	No	%

Chose Not to Respond	%
<i>The Yes/No response for the Sexual Orientation category is data from a previous demographic question 'Do you open identify as a sexual minority to include the following: gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender?' This question was on the volunteer application when some of the current members submitted their application and therefore, is still included.</i>	

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<sup>1</sup> Supreme Court Boards (Access to Justice Board, Disciplinary Board, LLLT Board, Limited Practice Board, MCLE Board and Practice of Law Board) provide annual reports to the WSBA to support its responsibility under [GR 12.3](#), to provide oversight, and monitor compliance with applicable rules and orders. Boards have the option to use the WSBA template.

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## PRESS, OUTREACH, & UPDATES:

November 19, 2025

### PRESS (PDF in BOX)

- ❖ 2025-11-13 Private equity at the gate
- ❖ 2025-11-12 McDermott Exploring Selling Stake To Private Equity - Law360
- ❖ 2025-11-06 Private Equity Legal Alliance to Accelerate Law Firms' Access to Private Investment
- ❖ 2025-10-28 Former Seyfarth immigration team joins Vialto Law
- ❖ 2025-10-20 Door opens for entities to provide legal services without lawyers in WA
- ❖ 2025-10-15 Heavyweight Investors Line Up for Law Firm Ownership Ventures
- ❖ 2025-10-11 Private equity overcomes California hurdle to expansion in US legal market

### ENTITY REGULATION PILOT PROJECT

- ❖ Applications Received: 1
- ❖ Authorized Entities: 0

### UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

- ❖ December 17, 2025, Practice of Law Board Meeting, Zoom