



# PRACTICE *of* LAW BOARD

Established by Washington Supreme Court  
Administered by the WSBA

Lesli Ashley, Chair

**Meeting Minutes**  
**May 21, 2025**  
**Virtual Meeting**  
**1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

**Practice of Law Board Members in Attendance:**

- ☒ Lesli Ashley, Chair
- ☒ John Dirgo Deweese
- ☐ Rory Hardy
- ☒ Melissa Kover
- ☒ Ellen Reed

- ☒ Ronald Satterthwaite
- ☐ Craig Shank
- ☒ Drew Simshaw
- ☐ Murugeshwari Subramanian
- ☒ Michael Terasaki
- ☐ Aaron Vanderpol

**Liaisons in Attendance:**

- ☒ Bobby Henry, WSBA Staff Liaison
- ☒ Kristina Larry, BOG Liaison

**Other WSBA Staff in Attendance:**

- ☒ Renata de Carvalho Garcia, Chief Regulatory Counsel
- ☒ Anne Trent, RSD Paralegal
- ☐ Cathy Biestek, Managing Regulatory Counsel
- ☐ Terra Nevitt, Executive Director

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## **PUBLIC SESSION**

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 1:08 p.m. by Chair Lesli Ashley.

### **Meeting Minutes for Approval**

- April 16, 2025, meeting minutes were approved.
- April 30, 2025, meeting minutes were approved.

### **POLB Committees**

Michael will chair the education committee.

Lesli and Ronald will participate on the UPL committee.

Melissa will join the recruitment committee.

### **Innovation for Providing Legal Services**

**Entity Regulation Pilot Project Update:** Bobby Henry provided an update on the progress to implement the pilot project. The communication subcommittee is working on a general information sheet for marketing purposes. The data collection subcommittee held its initial meeting. The application and policy subcommittees made good progress toward addressing issues and the application is nearing completion. The application will be reviewed and finalized at the meeting on June 18, 2025.

**Entity Regulation Pilot Project Fees:** Application fees and annual fees for the Entity Regulation Pilot Project were approved by the WSBA Budget and Audit Committee. Some concerns were raised about the name and definition

of the discount. One concern was that the discount could be claimed by an entity identifying as ATJ-focused, potentially making it universally applicable. Another concern was that entities without an ATJ focus might assume they were excluded from participation. Questions were also raised about whether larger entities might create smaller, ATJ-focused entities to qualify for the discounted fees.

The definition considered by the WSBA Budget and Audit Committee was: An “Access-Focused Entity” is an entity with a primary focus of providing legal and law-related services to low income or low- and moderate-income individuals or households. To address the concerns raised, the Board decided to amend the definition and recommends the following: An “ATJ Mission-Focused Entity” is an entity with a stated primary mission of providing legal and law-related services to low income or low- and moderate-income individuals or households.

#### **Educating the Public about Competent Legal Assistance**

Michael will try to have more information for the meeting on June 18, 2025.

#### **Coordinating Unauthorized Practice of Law (UPL) Complaints**

The UPL committee proposed a new procedure for handling UPL complaints. Under the new procedure, WSBA staff will review each complaint and decide whether to take no action or refer the complaint to the proper authorities. The WSBA will no longer be requesting a response. WSBA staff will track the UPL complaints so that the data can be used to inform the education committee and board on new educational initiatives for the public. The Board voted and approved the proposal.

#### **Recruitment FY 2026**

The Board needs six positions filled, and one of those positions needs to be a member of the public. Ellen and Craig are eligible to reapply. Michael and Ellen reached out to the 3 law schools for potential applicants. Melissa will try to get information to newsletters.

#### **Executive Session**

The Board reviewed complaints regarding the unauthorized practice of law and took the following action:

- Two complaints were closed with no referral to an enforcement agency
- Three complaints were referred to the appropriate enforcement agencies

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:11 p.m.