

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

Washington Young Lawyers Committee

Washington Young Lawyers Committee Meeting | Virtual via Zoom

Monday, May 19, 2025, | 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

[Via Zoom](#) | Meeting ID: 899 4611 1517 | Passcode 608920 | Call In 888-788-0099

AGENDA:

- 1) **Welcome & Introductions; Approval of April Meeting Minutes** – Mason
- 2) **WSBA Updates** –Chelle, Jordan
 - a) BOG Meeting Updates
 - b) WSBA Updates
- 3) **Bylaw Amendment Update** – Mason
- 4) **Team Updates and Regional Reports** – All
 - a) **Financial Focus CLE** – Chawisa
 - b) **Social Media** – Ariel
 - c) **Legal Lunchbox CLE** - Hanna
 - d) **Mentorship Project Team** – Janta
 - e) **Public Service Leadership Award** – Alex/Chelle
- 5) **New ideas for Next Meeting** – All
- 6) **Adjournment** – Mason

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Washington Young Lawyers Committee

Washington Young Lawyers Committee Meeting | Virtual via Zoom Monday, April 21, 2025, | 12:02 p.m. – 12:53 p.m. Meeting Minutes

WYLC Members Present In-Person or Phone: Mason Ji, Steven Brown, Mackenzie Lloyd, Hanna Harrison, Chawisa Laicharoenwat, Matthew Rommelmann, Stephan Yhann, Michelle Mendoza, Bethany Nolan, Alexander Reaganson, Makenzie Spinks

WYLC Members Absent: Adin Johnson (excused), Sydney Sherman (unexcused), Janta Steele (unexcused), Thomas Garvey (unexcused), Michelle Hesse (excused), Aaron Haynes (unexcused)

Board of Governors Liaisons: Jordan Couch (departed 12:14 p.m.)

WSBA Staff: Chelle Gegax – WSBA Member Services and Engagement Specialist, Vanessa Sweeney – WSBA Member Services and Engagement Program Coordinator

Welcome & Introductions; Approval of March Meeting Minutes – Mason

WYLC Chair, Mason Ji, opened the meeting at 12:02 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance. On motion by WYLC Member Hanna Harrison, the WYLC unanimously approved the March WYLC meeting minutes.

WSBA Updates – Chelle, Jordan

BOG Meeting Updates – Jordan

WYLC Member/BOG Liaison Jordan Couch shared recent updates from the Board of Governors (BOG). The equity and inclusion plan is expected to be adopted at the upcoming May 2 meeting, and it will be implemented over the next 5 years. Jordan discussed proposed changes to the bar dues hardship exemption. The changes include increasing the income eligibility threshold from 200% to 270% of the federal poverty level and allowing members to request the exemption up to three times during their career instead of two. Jordan noted, related to the budget, bar dues are set two years in advance, and after remaining flat for the past eight years, dues will increase by \$10 this year. Looking ahead, there is a license fee philosophy proposal where the default is bar dues increase based on the cost-of-living, but still can discount bar dues. Jordan noted that the cost of expanding the hardship exemption would be approximately four dollars per member.

AI Use Policy for External Parties – Chelle

Member Services and Engagement Specialist, Chelle Gegax, shared that the WSBA has recently introduced a new AI Use Policy for External Parties. A detailed description can be found in the meeting materials packet. Chelle reviewed the policy, emphasizing the key points of AI tools used during meetings: external parties such as vendors, volunteers, or meeting attendees must inform the WSBA liaison in advance if planning to use AI in recording or notetaking or their presentation; failure to notify in advance will require notifying all participants at the start of a meeting; failure to notify will result in termination of the WSBA's participation; if an AI tool is a meeting participant requesting entry to a meeting, the liaison must verify the identity of the individual who enabled the tool; if there is no staff liaison assigned, the external party must still notify WSBA invitees of the AI recording in advance and must provide WSBA access to the recording; and staff liaisons on behalf of WSBA may consent to a meeting being recorded provided no sensitive or confidential WSBA information will be shared and recording meetings with confidential content is prohibited.

FY26 Committee Openings and Application Process – Chelle

Chelle shared that the FY26 recruitment period for volunteers for all committees across the WSBA is approaching, with applications opening May 1st, and a deadline of May 30th. The WYLC will have three positions for FY26 recruitment: Snohomish County, Southeast region, and Chair- Elect. Historically the chair-elect representative is filled with someone from within the committee. If any committee members are interested, let Chelle know or apply online via myWSBA. Applications will be reviewed in a June application review meeting. Chelle requested the committee to try to recruit for the open positions. WYLC Member and Chair-Elect Alex Reaganson reminded the committee that the Chair-Elect position is a three-year commitment as the position transitions from Chair-Elect to Chair, and lastly, Immediate Past Chair.

Bylaws Amendment Update – Mason

Mason shared an update on the bylaw amendment. As discussed at the March WYLC meeting, a definition was agreed upon and passed a version on for review by the BOG. The definition was submitted to the WSBA for internal review and the WSBA came back with comments around the need to sharpen the definition, with a particular concern around the language of the 5-year mark. Given the need to going back to the drawing board and determine additional research to develop a well-supported definition, the WYLC bylaw amendment will not be on for the May BOG meeting. The target is now the July BOG meeting. The bylaw subcommittee continues to work on this and anticipates circulating a definition by the May WYLC meeting for the committee to review. The subcommittee has plans in place to gather research and incorporate feedback and revise the materials that were sent to the BOG. These revisions will reflect the intent to include recognition of internal transfers and individuals who began in tribal court, acknowledging that working the proposed timeline. All materials must reflect these updates. As this has been in development over the past 5 years, the goal is to gain BOG approval for implementation this coming year.

BOG WYLC Meeting – Mason

Mason shared that the WYLC June meeting is currently scheduled for the 16th and proposed moving the date up to the beginning of June to allow time to shore up the bylaws definition and to prepare for the July BOG meeting which will be in-person/hybrid. It was decided that the meeting will be rescheduled from June 16 to June 2, 12:00-1:00pm. Alex added that all items must be finalized for the BOG meeting by Monday June 16th.

Project Team Updates and Regional Reports – All

Financial Focus CLE - Chawisa

WYLC Member Chawisa Laicharoenwat shared that there is name of a potential presenter, and after the presenter is confirmed, a date will be finalized.

Mentorship Project Team - Janta

No updates since last meeting.

Public Service Leadership Awards - Alex

Alex will finalize materials and send out nomination forms by May 1st. Nominations will remain open for 30 days, to allow for selections to be made at the June 2nd WYLC meeting. The Pro Bono and Public Service Committee will allow the utilization of their listserv again this year, with the hope to receive many nominations via this channel. Additionally, communications will be sent via the public interests' listserv hosted by Northwest Justice Project. There was a record number of nine nominations last year and it is hopeful that we see that again this year.

WYLC July Legal Lunchbox Collaboration – Chelle

Chelle described the Legal Lunchbox as a free hour-long CLE put on by the WSBA the last Tuesday of every month, which often pulls in an audience of 2000 people. Chelle stated that as the WYLC is hosting the July Legal Lunchbox, a topic and a volunteer to serve as lead on the project need to be identified today. The project lead role entails collaborating with WSBA Education Program Lead Rachel Matz on coordinating the topic and presenters, provide an introduction about the WYLC, and monitoring the chat. Chelle opened the floor to the opportunity to share topic ideas. Mason asked if a past topic can be repeated. Chelle stated that it depends on what is being redone. Mason suggested dovetailing the Financial Focus topic of Insurance Basics for Lawyers. Chelle will investigate and mentioned that the timing may be too close. Hanna suggested the topic of student loans and financial aid. Chawisa mentioned that student loans and financial aid for Financial Focus was done last year. Mason considered if this topic could 'rinse and repeat' for the Legal Lunchbox. Hanna added, as there is a shift from last year with the current administration there could be some new information to consider. WYLC Member Stephan Yhann agreed that this is a meaningful topic as there is a very high number of lawyers with outstanding student loans. Hanna volunteered to

take the lead. Chelle noted that Rachel helps heavily with finding speakers. Chawisa offered to send Hanna contact info for the people involved in last year's Financial Focus.

Mason invited Stephan to present to the committee on the topic of student loans. Stephan discussed that the Department of Education put out a notice seeking public comment, and a notice of intent to engage in negotiated rule making regarding student loans; in particular, the student aid and Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF). The guidance is odd as the notice says it will conform the program to mesh with the executive orders that the president has issued requiring the Department of Education align the definition of public service to exclude certain categories that work dealing with immigration that support crime. Stephan is looking to get a feel for the impact this will have on people who are engaged in public service and relying on the program. Stephan has heard it will devastate a lot of people, and that it will be virtually impossible for some to make monthly payments and that it may be better to default than to stick with the program. Stephen's proposal involves drafting a resolution for the committee to consider supporting public service as it's written. Stephen's efforts include collecting anecdotes from people while ensuring this doesn't come off as a partisan position and violate GR14. Alex offered to help with wordsmithing and can send a sample email to the listservs. Stephen will send a copy to Alex. Stephan noted that the deadline for comment is April 29. An alternate option is to go to Washington D.C. in-person, or virtual, to attend one of the public testimony sessions. Stephan expressed uncertainty on the whether the process involves BOG review and/or approval. Chelle will ask Julianne for clarification. Mason and WYLC Member Mackenzie Lloyd both offered to help as well. Stephan asked Chelle if there is an old resolution or a statement of support that the WYLC has passed in the past for reference.

Chelle circled back to the Financial Focus topic, and noted in chatting with Rachel on the side, suggesting holding the student loan topic as a second session on of the Financial Focus may be more suitable as the recording remains for one year, while the Legal Lunchbox recording remains for up to three years, and it is ideal for the topic to be relevant for as long as possible. Mason suggested for Rachel assist in proposing topic ideas and what may be most currently sought after. Chelle will circulate a poll with topics from Rachel with the intent to confirm a solidified topic next week.

Chelle noted that since Alex departed the meeting early, and there no longer is quorum, the meeting will need to end early. Mason noted all agenda items have been addressed.

New Ideas for Next Meeting – All

None.

Adjournment – Mason

Mason adjourned the meeting at 12:53 p.m.

View results

Respondent

12

Anonymous

04:17

Time to complete

1. Member Name:

Chawisa Laicharoenwat

2. Do you have any updates since the last meeting?

☒ Yes

☐ No

3. If yes, please provide your update below:

I reached out to potential speakers and one already agreed to do it, Shannon O'Dell will cover the malpractice insurance part. We're still waiting on one more speaker to confirm if she would be able to cover the disability and/or health insurance part.

4. If no, please provide a brief explanation as to why not:

