

# WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

## Washington Young Lawyers Committee

**Washington Young Lawyers Committee Meeting | Virtual via Zoom**

Monday September 15, 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 August Meeting Minutes** – Mason
- 2) **WSBA Updates** –Chelle, Jordan
  - a) BOG Meeting Updates
  - b) WSBA Updates
- 3) **Outgoing Member Recognition** – Mason
- 4) **Incoming Chair Introduction** – Mason, Alex
- 5) **FY26 Chair Elect Discussion** – All
- 6) **Bylaw Amendment Update** – Chelle
- 7) **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
- 8) **New ideas for Next Meeting** – All
- 9) **Adjournment** – Mason

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## Washington Young Lawyers Committee Meeting Via Zoom Friday, August 18, 2025, | 12:03 – 12:48 p.m. Meeting Minutes

**WYLC Members Present:** Mason Ji, Alexander Reaganson, Stephan Yhann, Ariel Cook, Michelle Hesse, Matthew Rommelmann, Chawisa Laicharoenwat, Steven Brown (arrived 12:04), Mackenzie Lloyd, Makenzie Spinks, Hanna Harrison, Aaron Haynes

**WYLC Members Absent:** Adin Johnson (unexcused), Sydney Sherman (unexcused), Bethany Nolan (excused), Janta Steele (excused), Thomas Garvey (unexcused), Michelle Mendoza (unexcused)

**Board of Governors Liaison:** Jordan Couch (excused)

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

### Welcome & Introductions; Approval of July Meeting Minutes – Mason

WYLC Chair, Mason Ji, opened the meeting at 12:03 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance. On motion by WYLC Member Alexander Reaganson, seconded by WYLC Member Hanna Harrison, the WYLC approved the July WYLC Meeting minutes (11-0-0).

### WSBA Updates – Chelle, Jordan

WSBA Updates – Chelle

WSBA Member Services and Engagement Specialist Chelle Gegax reported that the orientation for Young Lawyer to Liaison to Sections program is in final preparations as it is coming up at end of September.

### Bylaws Amendment Update – Mason

Mason reported there were three WYLC members who traveled to the July Board of Governors (BOG) meeting. Mason, Alex, and WYLC Member Janta Steele presented the second read of the WYLC Proposed Bylaw Amendment to Young Lawyer Title and Definition, which was unanimously approved by the BOG. Asked Chelle about approval from supreme Court. Chelle noted next steps involve sending items to WYLC Executive Director Terra Nevitt today, followed by Supreme Court review. Approval is expected by January 1, 2026. Chelle added that the recording of the BOG meeting is available for viewing and encouraged WYLC members to watch the recording.

## Project Team Updates

### Financial Focus CLE – Chawisa

WYLC Member Chawisa Laicharoenwat confirmed the September 11 Financial Focus registration link is available and encouraged WYLC members to register and attend.

### Social Media – Ariel

WYLC Member Ariel Cook presented an update on recent social media activity, highlighting strong engagement following the BOG meeting. LinkedIn analytics reflected a 1200% increase in followers, with a viewing peak the day after the BOG meeting, indicating the related post was popular. Facebook engagement was also higher than usual. Ariel shared four new content ideas: WYLC Member Spotlight; New Member Spotlight, 1 Year Post-Bar Retrospective Survey; and an Advice Column. On motion by WYLC Member Stephan Yhann, seconded by Alexander, the WYLC unanimously approved including a discussion about these four ideas on the September WYLC meeting agenda. Ariel volunteered to gather materials in preparation. Alex suggested, in connection with NWSideBar, publishing an advice column on a bi-monthly schedule. Ariel asked the Committee for a volunteer to be the first feature member in the spotlight series. Stephan suggested WYLC Member and Immediate Past Chair Aaron Haynes whose term ends Sept. 30, be featured in recognition of his contributions, with Alex schedule for October to coincide with the beginning of the new fiscal year as Chair. WYLC Member Hanna Harrison suggested having a Google form posted to gather member information that can later be featured in a New Member Spotlight feature.

Chelle shared the link for the Financial Focus in the chat. Chawisa asked Ariel if a post can be made on social media channels to promote the seminar. Chelle will follow up with the WSBA Communications team to request a graphic that can be used on WYLC social media channels. Ariel noted creating the graphic for the recent Legal Lunchbox.

### Legal Lunchbox CLE – Hanna

Hanna reported that last month's Legal Lunchbox CLE with Tyler O'Brien was a success. Chelle noted there were 1500 attendees.

### Mentorship Project Team - Janta

Chelle reminded the group that this project is tabled until after the Bylaws Amendment process is completed. Committee members who would like to get involved in the mentorship project, please reach out to Chelle or Vanessa or Janta. Ariel noted that she was able to disseminate information with Seattle University, and Mason confirmed the University of Washington also is happy to disseminate WYLC related items to students. Chelle clarified that the law school liaisons are appointed by the schools themselves, not WSBA, and has already connected with the new student representatives. The new representatives will be invited to all upcoming WYLC meetings. Chelle noted that student engagement tends to drop off after orientation and asked for ideas on how to best engage and foster the relationship. Alex proposed hosting at least one in-person WYLC meeting at each of the three Washington law schools to help start bridging the gap between law schools and the WYLC. Chelle added that UW has expressed interest in hosting a panel discussion with both new and experienced attorneys. Alex suggested reaching

out to Pro Bono and Public Service to let them know of UW's interest and potentially collaborate. Mason offered to reach out to help coordination for the UW panel. WSBA General Counsel Laurie Powers was mentioned as a potential panelist, as Laurie was formerly with Gonzaga University.

### New Ideas for Next Meeting – All

Alex raised an idea related to the Public Leadership Service Award (PSLA) and the National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA). Alex noted that NITA has recently launched a new program that covers both registration and travel costs for OSLA recipients to attend training program. Alex proposed a potential WYLC initiative that would fund 2-3 scholarships to support travel costs for award recipients. While timing could be a challenge, this idea will be incorporated into future budget discussions.

Chelle reminded the group of a proposal from the July WYLC meeting to host a social event in Yakima in September, as it coincides with the Access to Justice Conference, which takes place September 18-19. Stephan offered to lead this effort and to contact the Yakima County Bar Association. Chelle noted it is important to connect with WYLC Member Michelle Mendoza who services on the Yakima County Bar Board and expressed interest in hosting an event in Yakima at the last meeting. Hanna, Mason, Stephan, and Alex expressed interest and availability to attend.

Stephan asked whether a meeting could be scheduled in the next week or two, due to a recent draft regulation related to the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF). There is a 30-day comment period, and Stephan believes there is a technical comment to be made. Stephan has drafted a set of draft survey questions designed to gauge how the proposed PSLF changes could impact new members. The questioned are originally aimed at law students, but could be easily adapted for first, second, third year lawyers. Stephan will resend the draft survey questions for consideration.

### Adjournment

Mason adjourned the meeting at 12:48 p.m.

# WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

## Washington Young Lawyers Committee DRAFT – Fiscal Year At-A-Glance Calendar

October 1, 2025 – September 30, 2026 (FY26)

### OCTOBER 2025

	<i>Celebrate Pro Bono Month</i>		
1	FY2026 Begins		
20	WYLC Meeting	12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Virtual
24-25	BOG Meeting		Leavenworth, WA

### NOVEMBER 2025

	<i>ABA Midyear Delegate and Scholarship Award Kickoff?</i>		
	<i>2025 PSLA Recipients featured in Bar News</i>		
6	MentorLink Mixer: New Members	4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	Virtual
14-15	BOG Meeting		WSBA Conference Center
15	WYLC Meeting	TBD	Virtual/WSBA Conference Center – Seattle
15	Lunch with BOG	TBD	WSBA Conference Center – Seattle

### DECEMBER 2025

	<i>ABA Affiliate Quarterly Reports due</i>		
31	<i>ABA Midyear Delegate and Scholarship Award Application deadline?</i>		
15	WYLC Meeting	12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Virtual

### JANUARY 2026

	<i>Celebrate national mentoring month</i>		
	<i>WYLC and Chair-elect application cycle opens</i>		
12	WYLC Meeting	12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Virtual
	<i>Select ABA Midyear delegate and scholarship recipients?</i>		
16-17	BOG Meeting		Virtual/WSBA Conference Center – Seattle

### FEBRUARY 2026

	<i>Identify FY2022 goals and projects for WYLC</i>		
	<i>ABA Annual Meeting Delegate and Scholarship Applications Open?</i>		
4-9	ABA Midyear Meeting		San Antonio, TX
22	WYLC Meeting	12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Virtual
TBD	MentorLink Mixer	TBD	Virtual

### MARCH 2026

	<i>BOG At-Large Young Lawyer Position Application Opens</i>		
	<i>Select new WYLC members incl. Chair-elect</i>		
	<i>ABA Affiliate Quarterly Reports Due</i>		
	<i>Budget requests from WYLC due.</i>		
1			
6-7	BOG Meeting		Virtual/ Great Wolf Lodge – Grand Mound, WA
16	WYLC Meeting	12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Virtual

### APRIL 2026

	<i>Public Service and Leadership Award Applications Open?</i>		
16 - 17	BOG Meeting		Davenport Hotel – Spokane
20	WYLC Meeting	12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Virtual

### MAY 2026

	<i>BOG At-Large Young Lawyer Election</i>		
	<i>Select Public Service Leadership Award Recipients</i>		
	<i>Select ABA Annual Meeting Delegate and Scholarship Award Recipients</i>		
1-2	BOG Meeting		Virtual/ Wenatchee Convention Center – Wenatchee, WA
18	WYLC Meeting	12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Virtual
TBD	MentorLink Mixer	TBD	Virtual

### JUNE 2026

	<i>New Committee appointments are made.</i>		
15	WYLC Meeting	12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Virtual

### JULY 2026

*Review & Finalize PSLA Selections*

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## Washington Young Lawyers Committee DRAFT – Fiscal Year At-A-Glance Calendar

October 1, 2025 – September 30, 2026 (FY26)

15 23-24	BOG Retreat BOG Meeting		Tulalip Resort Casino - Marysville, WA Virtual/Tulalip Resort Casino – Marysville, WA
20	WYLC Meeting	12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Virtual
<b>AUGUST 2026</b>			
	Annual Report Due		
TBD 17	ABA Annual Meeting WYLC Meeting	12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Chicago, IL Virtual
<b>SEPTEMBER 2026</b>			
	Identify FY22 project leads Financial Focus CLE?		
19	WYLC Meeting	10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Virtual/WSBA Conference Center – Seattle
19 23 - 24	WYLC Year-End Social BOG Meeting	TBD	TBD or Virtual Virtual/Davenport Grand Hotel – Spokane, WA
30	FY26 Ends/Expense Reports Due		

### Tentative In person Schedule –

Nov. '25: WSBA HQ

Jan/Feb '26: UW Law (Coordinate with WSBA Rep. and other appropriate folks)

April/May '26: Gonzaga

Summer BOG Meeting.