

Committee on Professional Ethics

Volunteer Position Description

The Committee on Professional Ethics issues advisory opinions that address recurring or emerging ethics issues facing WSBA members and has a key role in reviewing and suggesting amendments to the Rules of Professional Conduct (RPC).

Position overview: Members work on ethics issues that cover a broader context and draft advisory opinions that provide in-depth guidance on the RPC as applied to a wide variety of practice areas. Much of the work is done in small subcommittees that typically meet (mostly by phone) in between the regular meetings. At committee meetings, members engage in roundtable discussions and provide feedback to subcommittees.

In-person attendance is preferred; meetings are held at WSBA's Seattle office. Remote participation via Zoom is also available.

Three positions are open starting October, 2021. Appointment is for a 3-year term. Members may apply for one additional 3-year term.

Time commitment: Meetings are 6 times a year, and usually last 2 to 3 hours but can go as long as 5 hours (very rare). Lunch is provided at in-person meetings.

Requirements: Applicants must be an active WSBA member or a law professor.

Preferred qualifications and skills: This position is a good fit for someone who is interested in ethics issues, has a keen understanding of the RPC and the Model Rules, enjoys discussing legal ethics, and is able to research and draft reports, memos, and prepare draft rules. We are seeking candidates who have knowledge and experience in legal ethics and legal writing and research, and a depth of experience in various practice areas.

Benefits: Members will develop a deeper understanding of the RPC, learn about emerging trends and changes in ethical practice, gain experience leading subcommittees, have an opportunity to author advisory opinions that guide and benefit the bar membership, and suggest and vet amendments to the RPC.

Reimbursement policy: This is an unpaid volunteer position. Reasonable travel expenses may be reimbursed per the WSBA Expense Reimbursement Policy.

Selection and appointment process: Applications are reviewed by a team including the chair, staff liaison and BOG liaison. Recommendations are made to the Board of Governors Nominations Committee, which makes the appointments.

For further information: See www.wsba.org/Legal-Community/Committees-Boards-and-Other-Groups/professional-ethics.

How to apply: See instructions at www.wsba.org/joincommittee. Questions about the application? Email barleaders@wsba.org.