

Volunteer Opportunity: Disciplinary Board

Entity Type:

- Board
 Committee
 Council
 Other Bar Entity

The Disciplinary Board plays a crucial role in the lawyer discipline process. The Board carries out adjudicative functions and duties according to the Rules for Enforcement of Lawyer Conduct adopted by the Washington Supreme Court, and its recommendations and decisions are subject to review by the Court. The Board has 14 members. Members serve an important and challenging adjudicative role and preside over lawyer disciplinary proceedings. The full Board reviews appeals from hearing officer decisions and approves or rejects certain stipulations to discipline.

Created By:

- WSBA
 Supreme Court
 Court Rule

A third-year member serves as Chair, and a second-year member serves as Vice-Chair of the Disciplinary Board. The Disciplinary Board is split up into four Review Committees. Each Review Committee consists of three members, which review disciplinary investigation reports and appeals from dismissals of grievances. Most of the Board's work is highly confidential.

Term:

- One Year
 Two Years
 Three Years

Time commitment: The full Board meets monthly online or in a hybrid setting (online and at WSBA's Seattle office). Review Committee meetings are held online monthly. Appointment is for a 3-year term. Members are limited to one term by court rule.

Meetings:

- In-Person Only
 Virtual Only
 Hybrid

Service on the Board requires substantial time-commitment. Full Board meetings last 2 to 5 hours, and Review Committee meetings last approximately 3 hours. Board members must review extensive records before meetings; considerable reading and meeting preparation is required. Members are expected to attend all pre-scheduled Board and review committee meetings.

[Learn more about the disciplinary system in Washington.](#)

Eligibility:

License Type:

- Lawyer
 LLLT
 LPO

Requirements:

- Applicants must be active lawyers or members of the public.
- Lawyer applicants must have been active lawyers or judicial members of WSBA for at least five years and have no record of public discipline.
- Board members must be able to review meeting materials electronically.

License Status:

- Active
 Inactive
 Judicial
 Honorary
 Pro Bono

Preferred qualifications and skills: Applicants must be willing to devote time to reviewing and considering a significant amount of material and making decisions in a fair and impartial manner. Prior adjudicative experience can be helpful but is not required.

Benefits: Board service provides an excellent opportunity to gain adjudicative experience and make a difference in the profession. In their second and third years, members have opportunities to lead the Board as Chair/Vice Chair and as Chairs of the Review Committees.

Public Members:

- Yes
 No

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

Selection and appointment process: Interested candidates should apply through the WSBA website once the application period opens (usually in May each year). Lawyer applicants must submit a resume, a brief cover letter expressing interest in the Disciplinary Board, and a writing sample. Public members are required to submit a resume and a cover letter.

[Learn More](#)
[Apply](#)
[Questions?](#)

The [Disciplinary Selection Panel](#) vets candidates and its recommendations are forwarded to the WSBA Board of Governors and the Washington Supreme Court, which makes the final appointment.

Training: WSBA provides training for new volunteers. Once members are appointed, they are required to attend training (3-6 hours). Board members must also participate in short (1-2 hours) regular training sessions during their term.

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