

# WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

July 30, 2020

**TO: WSBA Committees, Boards, Panels, Councils & Section Executive Committees**

**FROM: Terra Nevitt, Executive Director**

**SUBJECT: WSBA In-Person Meetings and Events**

Committed WSBA Leaders,

We have all been faced with the challenges, both personally and professionally, brought on by this unprecedented global pandemic. As plans to reopen continue to be in flux, and after conferring with President Majumdar, I'd like to update you with information about the Washington State Bar Association's (WSBA's) plan to resume in-person meetings and events, both at the WSBA offices in Seattle and around the state.

My priority is and will always be the health and safety of staff and WSBA community members. With this in mind, and following public health guidelines, please know **all in-person meetings and events will not be planned or held until all Washington counties are, at a minimum, in Phase 3 (allowing for non-essential travel) according to Washington State Coronavirus Response Phased Approach.** This encompasses meetings and events held either at the WSBA office or around the state, and regardless of whether there is in-person staffing support or not. When such time occurs, staff and volunteers must adhere to the requisite safety guidelines.

There are a few exceptions to the restriction on in-person meetings and events, including work mandated by Court Rule and work that *cannot* be transitioned virtually (such as the administration of the bar exam), or if the current modifications to the Open Public Meeting Act change.

Please connect with WSBA staff to discuss resources and support around virtual meetings and events. If you would like to plan for in-person meetings and/or events when all counties are in Phase 3, please contact your staff liaison as soon as possible.

I understand the value derived from in-person meetings and events. This is a significant shift in how the WSBA carries out its work and we are all adapting to a 'new normal' for the foreseeable future. I want to express my sincere gratitude for your commitment to the WSBA during these trying times. In a time when it is entirely reasonable for a volunteer to surrender their voluntary obligations, I have, on the contrary, seen an increase in volunteer engagement and member involvement. The work done by all WSBA volunteers is immeasurably important. WSBA staff are committed to furthering this work, while maintaining all reasonable considerations around the health and safety of the WSBA community and we greatly appreciate your understanding.

