

**WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
LAW CLERK BOARD**

Public Minutes
December 6, 2024

Law Clerk Board Members in Attendance

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Emily Rose, Chair | <input type="checkbox"/> Alexa Ritchie |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tracy Finnegan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Christell Casey |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michelle Myers | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sarah Propst |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Meyers | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Annemarie Weiss |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leone Reinbold | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gary Epperley |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Benjamin Phillabaum | |

Staff and others in attendance for some or all the meeting

Bobby Henry, Associate Director, Regulatory Services; and Katherine Skinner, Law Clerk Program Lead were also in attendance.

Public Session

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The October 4, 2024, public meeting minutes were approved.

Outreach and Updates

Katherine asked if the Law Clerk Board (Board) had feedback from attending the regulatory school. Annemarie expressed positive feedback on the resource, noting it was surprisingly insightful, offering useful information, and enjoyed the coffee talk as a valuable aspect.

Emily shared an update on her meeting with the Board of Governors and other law school deans.

Katherine provided a draft of the law clerk graduate survey. There were suggestions to add two additional questions:

- Did you feel the law clerk program provided you sufficient education to pass the bar exam? If not, why?
- Did you feel you were sufficiently supported by the law clerk board to pass the bar exam? If not, why?

Law Clerk Board Policies

Katherine proposed the creation of a workgroup to review the current Board policies, adding new policies as needed. John, Sarah, and Christell volunteered.



3L Bar Exam Eligibility

The Board reviewed the draft policy. The question was raised about what "educationally prepared" means. It was suggested that the language should be revised to clarify that candidates need to confirm they have completed the program requirements.

Section D: It was discussed that instead of requiring two months off, only one month should be required—specifically, the month of the exam. Concerns were raised about how to handle reimbursements or pro-rating for any months taken off.

The Board discussed what to do if a law clerk is close to the six-year maximum. Bobby clarified that those near six years would not qualify for early exam approval, as the six-year limit could not be extended.

The proposal will be brought back to the Law Clerk Board for future iterations.

Executive Session

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The October 4, 2024, confidential meeting minutes were approved.

Requests

The Board approved one request for a leave of absence.

The Board approved one fourth year proposal:

- Intellectual Property

The Board denied two book requests to add to the jurisprudence reading list because it was not substantially related to the law:

- Alpha: Eddie Gallagher and the War for the Soul of the Navy SEALs
- Snow Falling on Cedars

The Board approved four book requests to add to the jurisprudence reading list:

- Medicine, Power, and the Law: Exploring a Pipeline to Injustice
- First: Sandra Day O'Connor
- Justice, Justice Thou Shalt Pursue
- Lovely One



Applications

The Board approved fifteen applications for enrollment in the Law Clerk Program beginning when the final confirmation letter is sent.

Evaluations

- The Board conducted three first-year evaluations and approved continuation in the program upon successful completion of all remaining first year coursework and book reports.
- The Board conducted two fourth-year evaluations and approved completion of the program upon successful completion of all remaining fourth-year coursework and book reports.

Respectfully Submitted,
Katherine Skinner, Law Clerk Program Lead

