

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

TO: WSBA Board of Governors

CC: Terra Nevitt, Executive Director

FROM: Kari Petrasek, Chair, Member Status Workgroup
Renata Garcia, Chief Regulatory Counsel

DATE: *****, 2024

RE: Recommendations and Proposed Amendments to WSBA Bylaws from the Member Status Workgroup

DISCUSSION/FIRST READ: A discussion of recommendations from the Member Status Workgroup and a first read of proposed amendments to the WSBA Bylaws to implement the recommended changes to member license statuses.

Over the last several years, WSBA members have raised concerns about the license status options available to them when leaving the practice of law. Primarily, the concerns have focused on voluntary resignation as the final status for someone who no longer wants to be a member of the Bar. Some members believe it has negative connotations and suggest a retired status instead. Other members believe inactive status is too limiting in regards to participation in Bar activities, and still others believe 50 years is too many years to attain honorary status. In order to fully address these concerns, the Board of Governors formed the Member Status Workgroup “to evaluate license status options currently available to WSBA members who are leaving the legal profession and to propose revisions to current license status options...” The Member Status Workgroup charter is attached.

The Member Status Workgroup (“Workgroup”) presents its recommendations to address member concerns which include:

1. Giving members the option to have their voluntary resignation from the WSBA displayed on the legal directory as either voluntarily resigned or retired;
2. Decreasing the number of years on active or judicial status to qualify for honorary status from 50 to 40;
3. Allowing members to include years licensed as active or judicial in another jurisdiction to count toward the 40 years required for honorary status;
4. Allowing inactive and honorary members to volunteer on WSBA committees, boards, panels, councils, and task forces;
5. Allowing members who are age 65 or more, or who have been licensed for 40 years or more in any U.S. jurisdiction, to be on judicial status for pro tempore judicial positions;
6. Providing a hardship reduction of the active license fee for members who are age 65 or more, or who have been licensed for 40 years or more in any U.S. jurisdiction, and have a gross annual household income equal to or less than 400% of the federal poverty level.

The Workgroup believes these recommendations:

1. address the most common concerns of members retiring or otherwise leaving the practice of law;
2. have a small financial impact year-over-year on the WSBA budget despite a somewhat sizeable but acceptable one-time impact upon implementation;
3. create less confusion for members by essentially maintaining the current license status options;

4. protect the public and, as is currently the case, make clear only active or pro bono members may practice law.

Background

The issue of member license status options came to the Board of Governor's attention through largely anecdotal communications from members to governors, WSBA staff, and others. Members regularly seek information about the status options available to them when they retire or when they otherwise are leaving the practice of law. Members comments generally reflect that the current license status options do not adequately meet their needs or recognize their long careers or contributions to the legal profession or the state of Washington.

To better understand member concerns it is important to understand the current license status options available to members.

Current License Status Options

- **Active:** Generally, only active members are allowed to engage in the practice of law. In addition, only active members enjoy all the benefits and privileges of Bar membership. The one exception for engaging in the practice of law is for pro bono members who are allowed to practice law as a volunteer for a Qualified Legal Services Provider (QLSP) only. In addition to pro bono status, members may choose from inactive, judicial, or honorary statuses. The key privileges these statuses do not enjoy are volunteering on WSBA entities, serving on the Board of Governors, and voting in Bar matters. Inactive, judicial, and honorary members are not permitted to practice law. When a member no longer wishes to be a member of the WSBA they may voluntarily resign.¹
- **Inactive:** Briefly, inactive status is intended for members who are either taking a break from the practice of law with the intention to return to active status or they are no longer practicing in Washington but want to remain a member of the WSBA. Inactive members pay a \$200 annual license fee.
- **Honorary:** Honorary status is the same as inactive status except there is no license fee. Only members who have 50 years of active or judicial status as a WSBA member qualify for honorary status.
- **Judicial:** Judicial status is for members who hold a judicial position (as defined in the Bylaws). Pro tempore positions do not qualify. Members who hold a judicial position are not required to be on judicial status; they may choose to remain on active status which some do either because they are able to practice law in addition to the position they hold or they want to be able to volunteer or serve on WSBA entities or vote on WSBA matters. Judicial members pay a \$50 annual license fee.

A simplified summary of the current license status options is listed in the table below.

¹ Other statuses, which members cannot choose but may be imposed on their license under the APR or ELC, are: disability inactive, suspended, resigned in lieu of discipline, and disbarred. These statuses are outside the scope of the Workgroup.

CURRENT MEMBER LICENSE STATUS OPTIONS	ACTIVE	PRO BONO	JUDICIAL	INACTIVE	HONORARY	RESIGNED
License Fee	\$458 +CPF	\$200/\$0*	\$50	\$200	\$0	Not a Member
Eligibility Criteria, if any		Volunteer	Not Pro Tempore		50+ Active/Judicial	
MCLE Requirements	✓					
Licensed to Practice Law	✓	✓QLSP Only				
Ethics Line	✓	✓				
Bar News	✓	if requested	✓	if requested	if requested	
Join sections as a voting member	✓	when allowed		when allowed		
Join sections as a non-voting member	✓	when allowed	when allowed	when allowed	when allowed	
Serve on WSBA Committees, Boards, Panels, Councils and Task Forces	✓	Pro Bono Council				
Serve on Supreme Court Boards and Task Forces	✓	when allowed	when allowed			
Serve on the Board of Governors	✓					
Vote for governors and on referenda	✓					

Other Mandatory Bar Associations

The Workgroup gathered information about license status options available in other U.S. jurisdictions with mandatory bar associations. Most jurisdictions had a similar basic structure with statuses similar to active, inactive, pro bono, honorary and resigned. However, the eligibility for the different statuses, the amount of the license fees, and the names of the statuses vary greatly among jurisdictions. In the end, the Workgroup did not find the information from other jurisdictions particularly helpful. In light of the great variety in member statuses across U.S. mandatory bar associations, the Workgroup did, however, come to the conclusion that it should focus on what would best benefit WSBA members.

To best determine whether the current license status options available to members leaving the profession meet their needs, the Workgroup sought input from the WSBA membership via an online survey. Responses to the member survey clearly supported the creation of a “retired” license status. Over 60% of the 805 respondents indicated they would like an alternative to “voluntary resignation” that best describes and dignifies those who are exiting the profession after a long career. A subset of the respondents who advocated for a “retired” status wanted to be able to practice law while on a “retired” status. More specifically, about 20% of respondents indicated they would like the ability to retire while being able to engage in bar activities, provide pro bono services, and give legal advice to family and friends. The Workgroup also heard from several members that 50 years was too long for honorary status, retirement age lawyers should qualify for judicial status for pro tempore judicial positions, and, finally, there should be a senior member discount.

Evaluation of Options Rejected by Workgroup

The Workgroup identified significant risks, financial impacts, and other issues arising from the various ideas and suggestions when evaluating different options. Options the Workgroup considered but rejected are discussed briefly below.

Retired with Limited Practice. One of the first options the Workgroup considered was having some kind of retired status that would allow retired members to give legal advice to their family or friends. Giving legal advice is the practice of law even if the recipients are family or friends which means they deserve the same protections all other members of the public are entitled to. That might include maintaining competence by completing MCLE, maintaining professional liability insurance, or paying assessments to support the Client Protection Fund. In addition, the Workgroup believes that a member who wants or needs to practice law should be on active status and pay the active license fee for that privilege and to cover the necessary costs associated with operating a

mandatory bar association. In the end, the Workgroup decided most retired members would not be interested in maintaining continuing license requirements to provide limited legal advice to family and friends and that the risk to the public was too great.

Senior Member Discount. Another popular suggestion was to have a reduced license fee for senior members, based solely on age or years licensed. Some other jurisdictions have a reduced license fee for senior members; however, the qualifications to receive the reduction, the privileges the member is able to engage in, and the name of the status vary greatly across jurisdictions. For purposes of this evaluation, the Workgroup considered a reduced license fee for all active lawyers based on a certain age or years licensed. The financial impact of this option was considerable. As an example, there are currently about 2,926 lawyers aged 70+ or licensed 45+ years. If the license fee were reduced to \$200 for all of these members, the financial impact would be \$754,908 ($\$258 \times 2,926$). Again, the Workgroup strongly advocates that people with the privilege to practice law should pay the active license fee for that privilege and to cover the necessary costs associated with operating the Bar. Although the Workgroup rejected this option, the Workgroup believes a license fee reduction is appropriate in certain situations and that recognition of a long career in the law is also appropriate. See recommendations below for the hardship license fee reduction and changes to honorary status.

Evaluation of Recommendations

Retired Status Label. The primary impetus for this Workgroup was requests by members for a retired status. As noted above, some members shared that “voluntarily resigned” has a negative connotation or does not appropriately describe their situation when they retire from practice. When a member voluntarily resigns from the WSBA, the individual is no longer a member of the Bar. Although retired is appropriate in many cases when someone is retiring from a long career in the law, it might not be appropriate in cases where a member is moving out-of-state to practice elsewhere and they do not want to appear as retired because they are practicing elsewhere. It would be problematic to have two statuses that mean the same thing, especially considering status information is also provided to the Administrative Office of the Courts for entry into the various state court computer databases. Accordingly, the Workgroup believes the best option is to maintain voluntarily resigned as the official status but allow members to choose how they would like that status to be displayed on the online legal directory: Voluntarily Resigned or Retired. This is a fairly insignificant change administratively for the WSBA, but will have a large positive impact on its members. No expected financial impact as we do not expect members to resign simply because they can now display the status as retired.

Allow Volunteering by Inactive and Honorary Members. Another fairly insignificant change administratively for the WSBA but with a positive member impact is to allow members on inactive or honorary status to volunteer for WSBA committees, boards, panels, councils, and task forces. We heard from members who would like to stay active in Bar business and volunteer but do not want to pay the active license fee and comply with MCLE for the privilege. The Workgroup believes it would be valuable to have highly experienced professionals serve as volunteers on WSBA committees and boards. All volunteers need to submit applications for consideration thereby allowing WSBA entities to evaluate whether an inactive or honorary member would be a viable candidate based on its needs at that time. Any financial impact from this change would be fairly nominal. If, for example, ten active members who are not practicing decided to go to inactive because all they want to do is volunteer, then the impact would be \$2,580 ($\258×10).

Pro Tempore Judicial Status. Yet another fairly insignificant change administratively for the WSBA but with a positive member impact is to allow retirement age members to qualify for judicial status when holding a pro tempore judicial position. Currently, under the WSBA Bylaws, members cannot choose judicial status if their

judicial position is pro tempore. The recommendation is to allow pro tempore judicial positions to qualify when the member is age 65+ or licensed 40+ years. This has the added benefit of providing the courts in our state with more judicial officers to cover absences and vacancies. Members are more likely to do a part-time or even full-time pro tempore position if they can be on judicial status with a lower license fee and no MCLE requirements. It is hard to estimate how many members might take advantage of this or what the demand is for pro tempore judges. We know 132 active members currently age 65+ or licensed 40+ years were on judicial status prior to returning to active status. If, for example, 10% (or 13) of these members chose judicial status for pro tempore positions, the financial impact would be \$5,304 ($\408×13).

Honorary Status – From 50 Years to 40 Years to Be Eligible. There are some members who are of retirement age and who are in fact retired but still want to remain members. They also seek respect and appreciation for a long distinguished career in the law without maintaining continuing licensing requirements. Currently, WSBA members who have been on active or judicial status for 50 years or more are eligible for honorary status². As noted above, honorary status is the same as inactive status but there is no license fee. It essentially allows a longtime member to “retire” but remain a WSBA member for no fee. The Workgroup considered this option together with those who suggested a reduced license fee for senior members and decided it would be appropriate to let members choose honorary status after 40 years instead of 50 years. After all, most members after 40 years of practice will be in the 65-70 age range. This will recognize their years of service, maintain their membership, and allow them to stay involved with the Bar.

There are currently 427 inactive members who would qualify for honorary status if this recommendation were adopted. All of them would clearly change to honorary status. Therefore, the initial financial impact of this recommendation would be \$85,400 ($\200×427). Thereafter, we estimate approximately 30 members who would’ve otherwise chosen inactive status each year would qualify for honorary status. This is based on identifying that there are currently 329 members on inactive status who have 40-49 years of active or judicial status. Given it is a ten-year range, approximately 30 members would become eligible each year. This results in an annual financial impact of \$6,000 ($\200×30). One unknown financial impact we have for this recommendation is the number of active members who might be on active status solely to reach the current 50-year mark. The Workgroup believes it is a relatively small number.

Active License Fee Hardship Reduction. As discussed above, the Workgroup advocates for paying a license fee for the privilege to practice law. However, the Workgroup acknowledges there may be senior members who must continue to practice law to support their household and due to life circumstances are in need of assistance. The Workgroup believes it is appropriate to offer a hardship reduction of the active license fee to members who are age 65+ or licensed for 40+ years, and whose household adjusted gross income is equal to or less than 400% of the federal poverty level (currently \$60,240 for a household of one, or \$81,760 for a household of two). The Workgroup recommends the fee be reduced to that of the inactive license fee (currently \$200). In reaching these standards, the Workgroup looked to the hardship exemption for the active license fee (which can only be used twice per lifetime). The hardship exemption is based on income at or less than 200% of the federal poverty level. Because this is a reduction, not an exemption, it seems appropriate to raise the income threshold. In addition, according to 2022 data from the U.S. Census Bureau, the average income for people over the age of 65 in the U.S.,

² Note that the eligibility requirements for honorary status are different from the 50-year member award and luncheon. The 50-year member award is for all members licensed for 50 years regardless of status.

is \$50,290 per year.³ The Workgroup recommends the hardship reduction be available annually to all members who qualify.

In order to determine the estimated financial impact we again look to the hardship exemption for guidance. Approximately 90 members take advantage of the hardship exemption annually. Because the income threshold is double, we can estimate slightly more than double the number of members might then qualify; let's say 200. There are currently about 33,830 active members. Applying this ratio (200 of 33,830) to the 5,406 members who are age 65+ or licensed 40+ years, we get 32 members who might qualify for a hardship reduction. The estimated financial impact, therefore, is approximately \$8,256 ($\258×32) annually.

Include Years Licensed in Other Jurisdictions. Finally, the Workgroup recommends including years licensed in another U.S. jurisdiction when determining the number of years licensed, so long as they are not overlapping with years licensed in Washington. Accordingly, this would apply to the 40 years of active or judicial status to qualify for honorary status, the hardship license fee reduction, and the pro tempore judicial position. Members would be required to provide a certificate of good standing or other status history certificate from the jurisdiction to establish the years licensed there.

Conclusion

These recommendations primarily focus on options for members who have reached the end of their careers. Under the proposal, many active members retiring from practice would most likely be able to choose honorary status. There would be no need to choose a retired status because many will have reached the 40 years of active or judicial status. This would recognize members for their careers and dedication to the legal profession, allowing them to remain members until death at no cost to them. In addition, they would be able to volunteer and stay engaged if they so choose. For members who cannot or do not want to make it to the honorary threshold, they could choose inactive status and stay engaged or they could resign and choose to have it displayed to the public as retired. Senior members with judicial experience could more easily work as a judge pro tempore, and finally, for those senior members facing challenges, an active license fee reduction would be available. The significant changes to the statuses are highlighted in red in the table below.

³ United States Census Bureau. (2023, August 9). HINC-02. Age of Householder-Households, by Total Money Income, Type of Household, Race and Hispanic Origin of Householder. Retrieved from <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/income-poverty/cps-hinc/hinc-02.2022.html#list-tab-99567878>

CURRENT MEMBER LICENSE STATUS OPTIONS	ACTIVE	PRO BONO	JUDICIAL	INACTIVE	HONORARY	RESIGNED/ RETIRED
License Fee	\$458 +CPF	\$200/\$0*	\$50	\$200	\$0	Not a Member
Eligibility Criteria, if any		Volunteer	Include Pro Tempore for Seniors		40+ Active/Judicial	
MCLE Requirements	✓					
Licensed to Practice Law	✓	✓ QLSP Only				
Ethics Line	✓	✓				
Bar News	✓	if requested	✓	if requested	if requested	
Join sections as a voting member	✓	when allowed		when allowed		
Join sections as a non-voting member	✓	when allowed	when allowed	when allowed	when allowed	
Serve on WSBA Committees, Boards, Panels, Councils and Task Forces	✓	Pro Bono Council		✓	✓	
Serve on Supreme Court Boards and Task Forces	✓	when allowed	when allowed			
Serve on the Board of Governors	✓					
Vote for governors and on referenda	✓					
Active License Fee Hardship Reduction for Seniors	✓ \$200+CPF					

The Workgroup and WSBA staff look forward to the feedback from the governors and members on this issue.

Information for Fiscal Analysis

Provide information to help inform the Fiscal Analysis.

- *Is a similar project or program already in the WSBA budget?*
- *If implemented, what is your estimated budget for the project?*
- *If implemented, will this project require staff time?*
- *Is this a new technology? Have other similar technologies been explored?*
- *If implemented, will this project save the WSBA money?*
- *Would this project bring in any revenue?*

Information for Equity Analysis

Provide information to help inform the Equity Analysis:

- *What factors (institutions, existing policies, social conditions, etc.) associated with this issue might be affecting underrepresented or marginalized individuals or communities differently?*
- *What are some of the root causes of these inequities?*
- *Are there any compounding or intersecting dynamics of multiple social identities that are relevant (e.g., inequities for communities who are from LGBTQ communities of color)?*
- *Based on the data presented, how might the proposed action benefit or harm individuals or communities who are underrepresented or have been historically marginalized?*
- *What information is missing that needs to be gathered?*
- *How will the proposed action increase or decrease equity? Are there any potential unintended consequences?*
- *What strategies or ideas might make the proposed process and outcome more equitable and minimize harm to underrepresented or historically marginalized individuals and communities?*

- *How will the proposed action or process be implemented in a way that has ongoing accountability to communities most impacted? How will you know if you have been successful?*

WSBA RISK ANALYSIS: This section is to be completed by the Office of General Counsel, with input from the proposing entity or individual.

WSBA FISCAL ANALYSIS: This section is to be completed by the Finance Department, with input from the proposing entity or individual.

WSBA EQUITY ANALYSIS: This section is to be completed by the Equity and Justice Team, with input from the proposing entity or individual.

Attachments

Member Status Workgroup Charter

III. MEMBERSHIP

...

B. STATUS CLASSIFICATIONS

Membership status classifications have the qualifications, privileges, and restrictions specified.

1. Active

[No Changes]

2. Inactive

Inactive members must not practice law in Washington, nor engage in employment or duties that constitute the practice of law. Inactive members are not eligible to vote in Bar matters or hold office therein, ~~or serve on any committee or board~~, except an inactive member may vote and hold office in a Bar section if a section's bylaws permit.

a. Inactive members may:

- 1) Join Bar sections,
- 2) Continue their affiliation with the Bar;
- 3) Change their membership status to Active pursuant to these Bylaws and any applicable court rule;
- 4) Request a free subscription to the Bar's official publication; and
- 5) Receive member benefits available to Inactive members.

b. Types of Inactive membership:

- 1) Inactive Member: Inactive members must pay an annual license fee in an amount established by the BOG and approved by the Supreme Court. They are not required to earn or report MCLE credits while Inactive, but may choose to do so, and may be required to do so to return to Active membership. Inactive members may be appointed to serve on any committee, board, panel, council, task force, or other Bar entity, as deemed appropriate.
- 2) Disability: Disability inactive members are not required to pay a license fee, or earn or report MCLE credits while in this status, but they may choose to do so, and they may be required to earn and report MCLE credits to return to Active membership.
- 3) Honorary: All members who have been Active or Judicial, or a combination of Active and Judicial, members of the WSBA or the bar of any other United States jurisdiction for 50 40 years or more may elect to become Honorary members of the Bar. Honorary members are not required to pay a license fee. A member who otherwise qualifies for Honorary membership but wants to continue to practice law in any manner must be an Active member or, if applicable, a Pro Bono member. Honorary members may be appointed to serve on any committee, board, panel, council, task force, or other Bar entity as deemed appropriate.

3. Judicial

- a. A member may qualify to become a Judicial member if the member is one of the following:

- 1) A current judge, commissioner, or magistrate judge of the courts of record in the State of Washington, or the courts of the United States, including Bankruptcy courts;
 - 2) A current judge, commissioner, or magistrate in the district or municipal courts in the State of Washington, provided that such position requires the person to be a lawyer;
 - 3) A current senior status or recall judge in the courts of the United States;
 - 4) An administrative law judge, which is defined as either:
 - (a) Current federal judges created under Article I and Article II of the United States Constitution, excluding Bankruptcy court judges, or created by the Code of Federal Regulations, who by virtue of their position are prohibited by the United States Code and/or the Code of Federal Regulations from practicing law; or
 - (b) Full-time Washington State administrative law judges in positions created by either the Revised Code of Washington or the Washington Administrative Code; or
 - 5) A current Tribal Court judge in the State of Washington.
- b. Members not otherwise qualified for Judicial membership under (1) through (5) above and who serve full-time, part-time or ad hoc as pro tempore judges, commissioners or magistrates are not eligible for Judicial membership unless the member is at least age 65 or has been a member of the WSBA for at least 40 years.
 - c. Judicial members, whether serving as a judicial officer full-time or part-time, must not engage in the practice of law and must not engage in mediation or arbitration for remuneration outside of their judicial duties.
 - d. Judicial members:
 - 1) May practice law only where permitted by the then current Washington State Code of Judicial Conduct as applied to full-time judicial officers;
 - 2) May be appointed to serve on any task force, council or Institute of the Bar;
 - 3) May receive member benefits provided to Judicial members; and
 - 4) May be non-voting members in Bar sections, if allowed under the section's bylaws.
 - 5) Judicial members are not eligible to vote in Bar matters or to hold office therein.
 - e. Nothing in these Bylaws will be deemed to prohibit Judicial members from carrying out their judicial duties.
 - f. Judicial members who wish to preserve eligibility to transfer to another membership status upon leaving service as a judicial officer:
 - 1) must provide the member registry information required of other members each year unless otherwise specified herein, and provide the Bar with any changes to such information within 10 days of any change; and
 - 2) must annually pay any required license fee that may be established by the Bar, subject to approval by the Supreme Court, for this membership status. Notices, deadlines, and late fees will be consistent with those established for Active members.
 - g. Judicial members must inform the Bar within 10 days when they retire or when their employment situation has otherwise changed so as to cause them to be ineligible for Judicial membership, and must apply to change to another membership status or to resign.
 - 1) Failure to apply to change membership status or to resign within ten days of becoming ineligible for Judicial membership, when a Judicial member has annually maintained

eligibility to transfer to another membership status, is cause for administrative suspension of the member.

- 2) A Judicial member who has not annually complied with the requirements to maintain eligibility to transfer to another membership status and who is no longer eligible for Judicial membership who fails to change to another membership status will be deemed to have voluntarily resigned.
- h. Administrative law judges who are judicial members must continue to comply with APR 11 regarding MCLE. Either judicial continuing education credits or lawyer continuing legal education credits may be applied to the credit requirement for judicial members; if judicial continuing education credits are applied, the standards for determining accreditation for judicial continuing education courses will be accepted as establishing compliance.
- i. Legal, legislative, and policy positions and resolutions taken by the BOG are not taken on behalf of Judicial members, are not considered to be those of Judicial members, and are not binding on Judicial members.
- j. The Bar's disciplinary authority over Judicial members is governed exclusively by ELC 1.2 and RPC 8.5.

4. Pro Bono

[Unchanged.]

5. Suspended

[Unchanged.]

...

H. VOLUNTARY RESIGNATION

Voluntary resignation may apply in any situation in which a member does not want to continue practicing law in Washington for any reason (including retirement from practice) and for that reason does not want to continue membership in the Bar. A member may voluntarily resign from the Bar by submitting a written request for voluntary resignation to the Bar in such form and manner as the Bar may require. If there is a disciplinary investigation or proceeding then pending against the member, or if at the time the member submits the written request the member has knowledge that the filing of a grievance of substance against such member is imminent, resignation is permitted only under the provisions of the ELC, ELPOC, or ELL LTC. A member who resigns from the Bar cannot practice law in Washington in any manner. For official purposes the former member's status will be voluntarily resigned. The former member may choose to have either voluntarily resigned or retired as the status in the WSBA legal directory. A member seeking readmission after resignation must comply with these Bylaws.

...

I. ANNUAL LICENSE FEES AND ASSESSMENTS

...

7. License Fee Reduction Due to Hardship for Senior Members

In case of financial hardship, which must entail an annual household income equal to or less than 400% of the federal poverty level as determined based on the member's gross annual household income as reported on the most recent individual income tax return filed with the IRS for all household tax filers, the Executive Director may grant a reduction of the annual license fee by any Active member who is at least age 65 or has been admitted to practice law in Washington for at least 40 years. If granted, the annual license fee will be reduced to the amount of that of the inactive license fee. Hardship reduction requests can be submitted annually and a request must be submitted on or before February 1st of the year for which the reduction is requested. Hardship reductions are for one calendar year only. Denial of a reduction request is not appealable.

68. License Fee Referendum

CURRENT MEMBER LICENSE STATUS OPTIONS	ACTIVE	PRO BONO	JUDICIAL	INACTIVE	HONORARY	RESIGNED/ RETIRED
License Fee	\$458 +CPF	\$200/\$0*	\$50	\$200	\$0	Not a Member
Eligibility Criteria, if any		Volunteer	Include Pro Tempore for Seniors		40+ Active/Judicial	
MCLE Requirements	✓					
Licensed to Practice Law	✓	✓QLSP Only				
Ethics Line	✓	✓				
Bar News	✓	if requested	✓	if requested	if requested	
Join sections as a voting member	✓	when allowed		when allowed		
Join sections as a non-voting member	✓	when allowed	when allowed	when allowed	when allowed	
Serve on WSBA Committees, Boards, Panels, Councils and Task Forces	✓	Pro Bono Council		✓	✓	
Serve on Supreme Court Boards and Task Forces	✓	when allowed	when allowed			
Serve on the Board of Governors	✓					
Vote for governors and on referenda	✓					
Active License Fee Hardship Reduction for Seniors	✓\$200+CPF					

* The license fee will be waived for pro bono status members who completed at least 30 hours of pro bono service with one or more Qualified Legal Services Provider(s) in the prior year.

VOLUNTARY STATUSES UNDER THE APR OR WSBA BYLAWS							DISCIPLINE/DISABILITY STATUSES UNDER THE ELC			
	ACTIVE	PRO BONO	JUDICIAL	INACTIVE	HONORARY	VOLUNTARILY RESIGNED	DISABILITY INACTIVE	RESIGNED IN LIEU OF DISCIPLINE	SUSPENDED	DISBARRED
License Fee	\$458 +CPF	\$200/\$0*	\$50	\$200	\$0	Not a Member				
Eligibility and restrictions		Volunteer	Not Pro Tempore		50+ years in Active/Judicial		Unable to practice due to incapacity	Cannot be readmitted		Can be readmitted
MCLE requirements	✓									
Permission to practice law	Unrestricted	QLSP Only	As permitted under CJC							
Ethics Line	✓	✓								
Bar News	✓	upon request	✓	upon request	upon request					
Join sections as a voting member	✓	when allowed		when allowed	when allowed					
Join sections as a non-voting member	✓	when allowed	when allowed	when allowed	when allowed					
Serve on WSBA Committees, Boards, Panels, Councils and Task Forces	✓	Pro Bono Council								
Serve on Supreme Court Boards and Task Forces	✓	when allowed	when allowed							
Serve on the Board of Governors	✓									
Vote for governors and on referenda	✓									

* The license fee will be waived for pro bono status members who completed at least 30 hours of pro bono service with one or more Qualified Legal Services Provider(s) in the prior year.

Status or Status Equivalent in WA	States	Range of Conditions	How Status Referenced in Other States/Note	WA	WA Fee	WA
Inactive	29	Fee range = \$0 - 278				
Inactive Reduced Fee With Age/Membership Conditions	5	Fee range = \$0 - 147.50 Age 70-75 or 50 year membership				
Pro Bono - No Age/Membership Conditions	16	Fee range = \$0 - 215		X	\$200/\$0	
Pro Bono - With Age/Membership Conditions	5	Fee range = \$0 - 25 Age 65-70 or 25 years of practice Age 50 AND 10 years of practice (Louisiana)	Emeritus, Active Pro Bono, Retired, Inactive, Emeritus Inactive, Emeritus Pro Bono, Pro Bono Emeritus, Senior Retired Inactive Member. Louisiana-represent immediate family for free			
Judicial with a Fee	11	Fee range = \$98 - 347		X	\$50	
Judicial with No Fee	6					
Honorary with a Fee	5	Fee range = \$15 - 125 Age 65-70 or 35-50 years of practice/membership	Retired, Inactive, Senior Member			
Honorary with No Fee	14	Age 65-75 or 25-50 years of practice/membership Not practicing anywhere - for at least one state	Retired, Inactive Emeritus, Emeritus, Inactive Fee Waived	X		50 year active/judicial member
Voluntary Resignation	21		All options listed in this section. A few states do not appear to have anything similar to resigned.	X		
Withdrawn	2					
Retired (meaning not a member)	3					
Inactive Exempt	1					
Not a Status/Discount in WA						
Law Professor	3	Fee range = \$50-200				
Active - Reduced Fee	5	Fee range = \$70-499 Minimum age 70-75 or 50 year member Age 70 AND 25 year member				
Active - No Fee	5	50 year member or Age 70-75				