

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING MINUTES

Richland, WA

May 2-3, 2024

Call to Order and Welcome ([link](#))

The meeting of the Board of Governors of the Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) was called to order by Acting President Sunitha Anjilvel on Thursday, May 2, at 9:05 a.m. Governors in attendance were:

Francis Adewale
Matthew Dresden
Mary Rathbone
Tom Ahearne
Kevin Fay
Kristina Larry
Brent Williams-Ruth
Todd Bloom
Nam Nguyen
Allison Widney
Jordan Couch
Kari Petrasek

Officers and Executive Staff in attendance were Acting President & President-Elect Sunitha Anjilvel, Immediate Past President Dan Clark, Executive Director Terra Nevitt, Chief Communications and Outreach Officer Sara Niegowski, Director of Finance Tiffany Lynch, Chief Disciplinary Counsel Doug Ende, Chief Regulatory Counsel Renata Garcia, Director of Advancement Kevin Plachy, Chief Equity & Justice Officer Diana Singleton, HR Director & Chief Culture Officer Glynnis Klinefelter Sio.

Also in attendance were Lisa Amatangel, Kim Risenmay, Parvin Price, Jennifer Ortega, Sarah Bove, Hunter Abell, Kyle Sciuchetti, Jennifer F. Apitz, Olayemi Odeseye, Shelly Bynum, Aziza Ozgoren, Stephen Crossland, Bobby Henry, Nancy Hawkins, Paris Eriksen, Carrie Sanford, Michael Cherry, and Christine Carpenter.

Member & Public Comments ([link](#))

Hunter Abell provided public comment, thanking the Board and staff for their swift and efficient response to his temporary leave of absence from the position of WSBA President.

Consent Calendar ([link](#))

Gov. Brent Williams-Ruth made a motion to approve the consent calendar. The motion passed unanimously.

President's Report ([link](#))

President Anjilvel provided a brief report.

Executive Director's Report ([link](#))

Director Terra Nevitt referred to her written report.

FY25 President-Elect Election ([link](#))

Executive Director Nevitt explained the election process. Candidate Francis Adewale made an opening statement and answered questions from board members. Ballots were collected by Executive Director Nevitt, and votes were counted with the assistance of Assistant Director of the Office of General Counsel Lisa Amatangel and Sarah Bove. President Anjilvel announced that Francis Adewale was elected as the FY25 President-Elect.

District 1 Governor Election ([link](#))

Executive Director Nevitt explained the election process. Candidate Parvin Price made an opening statement and was interviewed by the Board. Candidate Kim Risenmay made an opening statement and was interviewed by the Board. Ballots were collected by Executive Director Nevitt, and votes were counted with the assistance of Assistant Director of the Office of General Counsel Lisa Amatangel and Sarah Bove. President Anjilvel announced that Parvin Price was elected as District 1 Governor for FY25.

Executive Session ([link](#))

President Anjilvel moved the Board to executive session at 10:47 a.m. The Board returned to public session at 11:15 a.m.

Budget Reforecast ([link](#))

Treasurer Adewale presented the FY25 Budget Reforecast. Director of Finance Tiffany Lynch highlighted that the primary reason for the reforecast was related to facilities expenses and updates to major projections such as interest income and medical expenses. The motion to approve the budget reforecast passed unanimously.

Strategic Planning Process ([link](#))

Executive Director Nevitt presented a proposed strategic planning process, emphasizing the importance of a multi-year strategic plan and continuous planning to avoid gaps. The Board discussed the recommendation, including the need for the Board to monitor the implementation of the strategic planning process and ensure that the involvement of key stakeholders is meaningful and effective. Gov. Ahearn moved a motion to change the language from "consult" to "actual and meaningful involvement of" key stakeholders. Motion to approve Strategic Planning Process with the amended language passed unanimously. Gov. Allison Widney was not present for the vote.

Public Engagement Plan ([link](#))

Gov. Williams-Ruth and Chief Communications Officer Sara Niegowski presented the public engagement plan. The plan aims to re-envision outreach and communications by establishing an ambassador program. This program would formalize the role of the Board of Governors as ambassadors to the public, promoting confidence and trust in the legal system. The plan also includes developing a toolkit for WSBA volunteers to engage locally. Gov. Adewale moved a motion to approve public engagement plan. Motion passed unanimously.

Proposed Regulatory Rule Amendments ([link](#))

Proposed Changes to APRs, ELCs, and WSBA Bylaws RE Resident Agent Requirement

Chief Regulatory Counsel Renata Garcia and Associate Director for Regulatory Services Bobby Henry presented proposed amendments to the APR, ELC, and WSBA Bylaws, which would eliminate the requirement to designate a resident agent for the purpose of accepting service of process for WSBA members who do not have a physical street address in Washington. The Board discussed the historical context, member feedback, and the unique nature of this requirement in Washington. Discussion followed about the impact that this rule change would have on the ability of out-of-state members to vote in Board elections. Gov. Petrasek moved a motion to approve the proposed amendments to the APR and ELC, with the bylaw changes set for a first read. Motion passed unanimously.

Proposed Admission Fees

Additionally, the Board reviewed a proposal to increase admission fees, which have remained unchanged since 2009. The proposed increases aim to cover the costs of administering the bar exam and related admission functions. Gov. William-Ruth moved a motion to approve proposed admission fees. Motion passed unanimously.

APR 3 RE LLM Requirements

The Board also considered amendments to APR 3 to allow applicants with an LLM from a non-ABA approved school to qualify for the bar exam by obtaining additional required courses from another institution. This change aims to reduce barriers for applicants. Some members expressed concerns that the proposed amendments to APR 3 were not sufficiently expansive to lower barriers for internationally trained lawyers, and questioned the relevance of the LLM requirement and specific course mandates for eligibility to sit for the Washington bar exam. Gov. Williams-Ruth made a motion to approve amendments to APR 3 regarding LLM requirements for submission to the Supreme Court. Motion passed unanimously.

APR 3 RE Bar Licensure Task Force Recommendation RE Admission by Motion

Lastly, the Board discussed reducing the required years of experience for admission by motion in APR 3 from three to one year, with the experience to be gained at some point within the three years preceding application for admission. This change aligns with the Bar Licensure Task Force's recommendations to shorten the practice time required for lawyers admitted to practice law in other jurisdictions to qualify for admission by motion. Gov. Couch made a motion to approve the proposed amendments to APR 3 RE Bar Licensure Task Force Recommendation RE Admission by Motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Governor Roundtable ([link](#))

Gov. Williams-Ruth highlighted two significant events: the Q Law Annual Banquet and the Loren Miller Bar Annual Scholarship Banquet. Gov. Kari Petrusek raised the issue of adding pronouns to WSBA legal directory profiles. Gov. Mary Rathbone discussed barriers to access to justice due to inconsistent court communications and procedures. She emphasized the need for better education and supervision within the court system.

Day Two ([link](#))

President Anjilvel called day two of the board meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

Limited License Legal Technician (LLT) Board Report ([link](#))

Chair Steve Crossland, Sarah Bovey, and Christie Carpenter made a report from the Limited License Legal Technician (LLLT) Board. The presentation included an overview of the LLLT program, information about the impact of the work of LLLTs, and a look at similar programs being developed in other jurisdictions. Discussion followed about the program's history, objectives, and current status.

TAXICAB ([link](#))

Chair Kyle Sciuchetti and Task Force Member Steve Crossland presented on behalf of the TAXICAB. Key points included the policy's scope, staffing, budget process, and dispute resolution provisions. Executive Director Nevitt highlighted changes made since the last presentation and clarified the policy's intent to formalize current practices and address conflicts. Gov. Williams-Ruth moved to table the discussion to the July meeting to allow for further legal consultation. The motion passed 9 to 1.

Personal Committee Proposed Executive Director Succession Plan ([link](#))

Gov. Williams-Ruth presented the Personnel Committee proposed Executive Director Succession Plan. This policy aims to provide a comprehensive framework for the recruitment, evaluation, and transition of executive directors at the end of their contract. Gov. Couch moved the motion to approve proposed ED succession plan. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Feedback ([link](#))

Several governors provided feedback on the meeting's logistics, including room spacing, air conditioning, and restroom accessibility.

ADJOURNMENT ([link](#))

There being no further business, President Anjilvel adjourned the meeting at 12:07 p.m. on Friday, May 3, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Terra Nevitt

Terra Nevitt
WSBA Executive Director & Secretary