

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING MINUTES

Spokane, WA
March 7-8, 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 President Hunter Abell on Thursday March 07 at 9:07 AM. Governors in attendance were:

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

Officers and Executive Staff in attendance were President Hunter Abell, Immediate-Past President Dan Clark, Executive Director Terra Nevitt, Chief Communications and Outreach Officer Sara Niegowski, Chief Regulatory Counsel Renata Garcia, Director of Finance Tiffany Lynch, General Counsel Julie Shankland, Director of Advancement Kevin Plachy, and Deputy Executive Director Dua Abudiab.

Also in attendance were: Adam Heyman, Adrien Leavitt, Alexander Bernstein, Alyssa Warner, Amanda Kirk, Amy Atterbury, Amy Conners, Andrew Block, Andres Mendez, Anita Khandelwal, Ann Christian, April Tate, Benjamin Swanson, Bobby Henry, Bonnie Middleton-Sterken, Brandon Davis, Brian Shinn, Brittany Porter, Britagne Johnson, Bryanna Collier, Bryson Gilge, Carly Jenkins, Catherine Schur, Chad Enright, Charlie Dow, Chelle Gegax, Chris Comley, Chris Kemp, Chris Seubert, Christie Emrich, Christie Hedman, Cindy Black, Clare Riva, Colby DeVilbiss, Colin Bradshaw, Colin Byrne, Daniel Beekman, Daniel Berner, David Bray, David Montes, Dawson Osborn, Elise Bejvan, Ellie Knowles, Emily Arneson, Emily Willard, Eric Johnson, Geoff Hulse, George Yeannakis, Haley Brunner, Hana Yamahiro, Hearther Carroll, Hunter Abell, Jackie Laureance, Jackson Moreland, James Boyer, James Coatsworth, Jameson Dumo, Jason Schwarz, Jean

(Hannah) McCrum, Jenny Durkan, Jennifer Bartlett, Jennifer Olegario, Jeri Chavez, Jolene Cranley, Jordan Boege, Julie van Arcken, Juliana Roe, Julianne Unite, Justice Sheryl Gordon McCloud, Katelyn Vena, Katherine Walton, Kathleen Williams, Katie Haslett, Kerry Murray, Kevin Toth, Kirsten Lacko, Kristi Seppi, Larry Jefferson, Laura Yelish, Lei Young, Liz Mustin, Mabel Stone, Maddie Morrison, Malisa Vanyo, Mark Neary, Margeaux Green, Mary Robnett, Mattie McNeil, Maxwood Marion-Soublie, Meg Lacey, Melissa Bailey, Melissa Miller, Meredith Reynolds D'Auteuil, Michael Chin, Michael Schueler, Mike Chait, Mike Greene, Mike Kellogg, Molly Campera, Molly Gilbert, Monique Cohen, Nancy Hawkins, Nancy Isserlis, Paris Eriksen, Raina Wagner, Rex Nolte, Rob Mangone, Roopali Dhingra, Russell Brown, Rusty McGuire, Ryan Golden, Saleena Salango, Sam Sueoka, Sarah Lawson, Sarah Tietz, Shannon Kelley, Shelly Bynum, Shreya Shah, Sophia Byrd McSherry, Sophia Posnock, Steve Adams, Steve Crossland, Steven Lewis, Theodore Hastings, Tiffany Beltran, Travis Mann, Travis Stearns, Victoria Blumhorst, Will Casey.

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

Jacob Rooksby, Dean of Gonzaga University School of Law, welcomed the Board of Governors to the meeting and thanked the WSBA for coming to campus.

Nancy Hawkins requested the BOG conduct a pro/con analysis of BOG meetings occurring outside the Seattle area.

Consent Calendar ([link](#))

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

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

The President's report highlighted the year's ongoing theme related to public engagement through articles, news, and direct interactions. Since the last meeting, the President spoke to undergraduate students at Washington State University's Foley Center with Mr. McGuire, who is actively involved in related efforts. They also engaged with students at Eastern Washington University and have an upcoming event scheduled at Whitworth.

Additionally, the President and Gov. Petrasek recently addressed the Everett Rotary Club, discussing "The Role of Attorneys in an Age of Doubt." These efforts are part of a broader series of interactions with legal practitioners across the state, including engagements with local county bar associations.

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

Executive Director Nevitt provided an update about Board of Governor elections and announced that the Washington Supreme Court adopted the majority of the Bar Licensure Task Force's recommendations, including alternatives to the bar exam and the adoption of the NextGen Bar Exam.

Budget Retreat ([link](#))

Treasurer Adewale and Director of Finance Tiffany Lynch presented information about the WSBA's current and future financial outlooks and outlined the 2025 budget process. A straw poll was taken regarding including

funding for the innovation and license fee stability funds in the budget, with a final vote of 8 in favor and 3 opposed.

[Proposed Comments from Court Rules & Procedures Committee to Proposed Amendments to CR 28 and CR 30 \(link\)](#)

Chair Mike Chait from the Court Rules and Procedures Committee presented the proposed comments, including the process and reasoning behind the comments, which oppose the proposed amendments. Gov. Fay made a motion to allow the Committee to send the comment to the Court. The motion passed unanimously.

[Proposed Amendments to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Charter \(link\)](#)

Cochairs Sunitha Anjilvel and Raina Wagner presented the amendments, which are administrative in nature. Gov. Petrasek made a motion to approve the amendments, seconded by Gov. Williams-Ruth. The motion passed unanimously.

[Legal Technology Task Force \(link\)](#)

Director of Advancement Kevin Plachy provided background on the creation of the task force. Gov. Adewale made a motion to approve the task force charter, seconded by Gov. Anjilvel. The motion passed unanimously. Gov. Williams-Ruth made a motion to approve Jenny Durkan as the task force chair, seconded by Gov. Anjilvel. The motion passed 9 to 1.

[Gonzaga Law Student Panel \(link\)](#)

Four law students participated in a discussion about their concerns and expectations as they enter the legal profession.

[Executive Session \(link\)](#)

President Abell moved the Board to executive session at 2:39 p.m.

[Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council Request \(link\)](#)

Gov. Anjilvel moved to authorize the DEI Council to make a written inquiry for information from the City of Seattle's Joint Enforcement Team and the Liquor Control Board regarding their January visits to LGBTQ2S+ bars. The motion died for lack of a second.

[Day Two \(link\)](#)

President Abell called day two to order at 9:04 a.m.

[Council on Public Defense Proposed Revised Standards for Indigent Defense and Caseload Limits \(link\)](#)

Justice Gordon McCloud provided context for the Council on Public Defense's work to study public-defense standards. Council on Public Defense Chair Jason Schwarz presented the recommendations for new standards for indigent defense and caseloads. Gov. Couch made a motion to approve the Council on Public Defense's new proposed Indigent Defense Standards as WSBA standards, seconded by Gov. Nam. The motion passed 12 to 1. Gov. Widney was not present.

[County Bar Association Panel \(link\)](#)

Panelists from various county bar associations provided updates and feedback on local activities and how the WSBA could support them.

[Public Engagement Plan \(link\)](#)

The discussion on the Public Engagement Plan was postponed until the May 2024 meeting.

[Governor Roundtable \(link\)](#)

President Abell provided an opportunity for governors to share their thoughts. Gov. Rathbone acknowledged International Day of the Woman and thanked all women in the legal profession. Gov. Adewale suggested making the bar news available to law students without charge upon request. Executive Director Nevitt mentioned the current distribution of the magazine to law schools and agreed to look into the fiscal impact of Gov. Adewale's suggestion. Gov. Petrasek discussed the distribution of bar magazines at law schools and thanked President Abell for visiting her county. Gov. Clark proposed annual meetings with law clerks and echoed Gov. Adewale's sentiments. Gov. Bloom praised the Public Defender Forum's turnout and expressed gratitude for the defense of his position by Gov. Ahearne. Gov. Couch thanked everyone for their support and well-wishes on the birth of his child.

[Meeting Feedback \(link\)](#)

President Abell invited constructive comments to improve future meetings. Gov. Dresden expressed appreciation for the opportunity to visit Gonzaga University's campus and the importance of building relationships with the law school community. President Abell acknowledged the audio issues encountered during the meeting and confirmed with Rex Nolte that a solution to improve audio quality for future meetings had been identified. No further feedback was provided, and the meeting was adjourned early to allow for safe travel.

[Adjournment \(link\)](#)

President Abell adjourned the meeting at 4:00pm, noting the next meeting scheduled for May 2, 2024, in Richland, Washington.

Respectfully submitted,

Terra Nevitt

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WSBA Executive Director & Secretary