

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

Washington Young Lawyers Committee

Washington Young Lawyers Committee Meeting | Virtual via Zoom

Monday, February 22, 2025, | 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

[Via Zoom](#) | Meeting ID: 899 4611 1517 | Passcode 608920 | Call In 888-788-0099

AGENDA:

- 1) **Welcome & Introductions; Approval of January Meeting Minutes** – Mason
- 2) **WSBA Updates** –Chelle, Jordan
 - a) BOG Meeting Updates
 - b) WSBA Updates
- 3) **FY26 Budget Planning Discussion** – Chelle
- 4) **Bar Exam Social Updates** – Chelle
- 5) **Meeting Date Preference for BOG & WYLC Meeting** – Mason
- 6) **Law Student Engagement Subcommittee Discussion** – Alex
- 7) **Formal Mentorship Program Discussion** – Mason
- 8) **Project Team Updates and Regional Reports** – All
 - a) **Financial Focus CLE** – Elyse
- 9) **New ideas for Next Meeting** – All
- 10) **Adjournment** – Mason

2024 - 2025 WYLC Meeting Schedule

November 16, 2024	Meeting: 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	WSBA Office, Seattle Wa & Hybrid
December 16, 2024	Meeting: 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.	Virtual via Zoom
January 13, 2025	Meeting: 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.	Virtual via Zoom

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Washington Young Lawyers Committee Meeting I Zoom Monday, January 13, 2025, | 12:02 p.m. – 12:59 p.m. Meeting Minutes

WYLC Members Present In-Person or Phone: Mason Ji, Aaron Haynes, Alexander Reaganson, Chawisa Laicharoenwat, Matthew Rommelmann, Steven Brown, Janta Steele, Mackenzie Lloyd, Hanna Harrison, Adin Johnson, Stephan Yhann

WYLC Members Absent: Michelle Hesse (excused), Sydney Sherman (unexcused), Michelle Mendoza (excused), Bethany Nolan (unexcused), Thomas Garvey (unexcused), Makenzie Spinks (unexcused)

Board of Governors Liaisons: Jordan Couch (joined 12:36 p.m.)

WSBA Staff: Julianne Unite – Member Services and Engagement Manager, Chelle Gegax – WSBA Member Services and Engagement Specialist, Vanessa Sweeney – WSBA Member Services and Engagement Program Coordinator

Welcome & Introductions; Approval of December Meeting Minutes – Mason

WYLC Chair, Mason Ji, opened the meeting at 12:02 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance. On motion by WYLC Member Alexander Reaganson, seconded by WYLC Member Janta Steele, the committee unanimously (10-0-0) to approve the December WYLC Meeting minutes.

WSBA Updates – Chelle, Julianne, Jordan

BOG Meeting Updates

Mason welcomed Julianne Unite, WSBA Member Services and Engagement Manager, back after a six-month hiatus. Julianne introduced herself to new committee members and shared updates about the upcoming January 17-18 Board of Governors (BOG) meeting at the WSBA offices in Seattle. Julianne highlighted agenda items including the Executive Director's report featuring annual updates from all WSBA entities, including the WYLC. Julianne continued, the BOG is interviewing candidates for the vacant At-large Governor/ DEI seat. The Board will be having lunch with the King County Bar Association in honor of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. Julianne reminded the group that past meeting materials are available on the BOG website for reference. Julianne also highlighted that nominations for the annual APEX (Acknowledging Professional Excellence) Awards, including Outstanding Young Lawyer, are open until February 28. The APEX awards recognize legal luminaries, and people must be nominated. Julianne reminded the committee that licensing is due February 1, 2025. The annual financial audit occurs between October and December, and WSBA's finance director questioned the WYLC FY24 spending as the budget was underutilized. It's important for the WYLC to use its funds to avoid potential budget reductions in the future.

Janta asked about topics of interest for the upcoming BOG meeting. Julianne highlighted the legal technology taskforce and adapting to AI, the interviews for the open BOG seat, and a volunteer engagement report from Paris Eriksen, WSBA's Volunteer Engagement Manager. The BOG meeting materials contain substantial information for review.

WSBA Updates

Bar Exam Social Updates – Chelle

WSBA Member Services and Engagement Specialist Chelle Gegax shared an update on the February 26 After-Bar Exam Social that will take place in partnership with the Tacoma Pierce County Bar Association, in Tacoma at Seven Seas Brewery. Chelle encourages anyone nearby or willing to travel are encouraged to attend. Chelle will send an RSVP out shortly to track interest. Alex asked about interactions with law schools. Chelle stated she has not yet heard from them but will follow up this week, aiming to connect and establish partnerships. Alex asked to let him know about Gonzaga as he can assist in tracking people. Mason inquired about the need for additional sponsors as King County Bar Association (KCBA) has offered. Chelle clarified that sponsorships are covered. KCBA ended up sponsoring for all alcohol for the After-Bar Social last July. Tacoma will handle sponsorship for this event, as they missed the July event. KCBA is welcome to attend, but further funding is unnecessary. Chelle added there are other opportunities for KCBA, including a potential partnership for the MentorLink Mixer. Chelle will follow up with Mason offline.

SWAG and Logo Discussion – All

Chelle shared an image of the finalized logo. The swag orders will be here in time for February's After Bar Exam Social event. Stephan asked if we have plans to order personalized name tags, and Chelle confirmed that name tags are in the works. As a sidenote, Chelle gave a shoutout to those who filled out fill out region reports (starting on page 8 of the meeting materials). Each regional position on the committee is expected to complete a form. For assistance or questions, please reach out to Chelle.

Project Team Updates and Regional Reports – All

Public Service Leadership Award – Alex

WYLC Member Alexander Reaganson stated there is a plan in place and they will get started in late March or early April. If anyone would like to be involved, let Alex know.

STAR Committee Updates – Chelle

Chelle shared that the STAR Council is planning several upcoming events. The first is the annual online job fair on April 4, hosted in partnership with Gonzaga University. This event will focus on recruiting for rural employers, internships and various job positions. In June, the STAR Council is planning the two-day STAR Summit, scheduled for June 27. The Summit includes a full-day CLE, and will take place at either Central Washington University or Heritage University.

Julianne added that the STAR Council will be focusing on two additional projects this year. One is the rural grant for interns, offered to 1Ls, 2Ls, 3Ls planning to work in rural areas. Up to ten \$5000 grants will be offered, with the program planned to launch soon with a deadline in April. This is the second year of the initiative. Updates will be available on STAR Council website in April. The second project is the Rural Day of Service, with the date yet to be determined. This event will feature a legal clinic hosted in a rural community, where volunteer attorneys will offer free legal services to the public. The practice area is yet to be determined, and the plan involves partnering with a Qualified Legal Service Provider (QLSP). The budget allows for up to two clinics this fiscal year.. This program, which STAR has been planning for many years, aims to directly assist the public. We will also work with the WYLC to help spread the word. For those interested in attending a STAR Council meeting, the link to the monthly meetings is on the website. The next meeting is scheduled for January 22nd.

Recruitment and Outreach – Chelle

Chelle shared that collaboration with WSBA Volunteer Engagement Manager Paris Eriksen is currently underway to initiate targeted recruitment outreach for the WYLC Olympia region position.

Financial Focus CLE - Chawisa

WYLC Member Chawisa Laicharoenwat shared that there are no new updates. Chawisa and WYLC Member Makenzie Spinks will soon begin discussing potential topics.

Bylaw amendments - Mason

Mason stated he is continuing to work on the amendment and to keep an eye out for a draft in the next week or so.

MentorLink Mixer Update – Chelle

Chelle shared an update on the upcoming MentorLink Mixer. The topic for the event is ‘You Passed the Bar, Now What?’ and is scheduled for February 25th. Chelle will connect with Mason offline about KCBA partnership for the event.

Mentorship Inquiry – Chelle

Mason discussed an inquiry received from an established attorney, interested in mentoring younger lawyers, and potential partnering with the WYLC. For reference, a copy of the inquiry is on page 12 of the meeting materials. Chelle noted keeping this person in mind for WYLC partnership and perhaps CLEs that WYLC pulls together. Chelle encouraged some open discussion time. Mason asked if anyone has any thoughts for senior attorneys for mentorship. Janta shared an online mentoring event experience hosted by the Pro Bono Section, which matched attorneys interested in particular areas of pro bono, with mingling designated in Zoom breakout rooms. Mason commented that this sounds similar to MentorLink Mixer, and that maybe the senior attorney can join the February Mixer event as a mentor. Janta suggested that utilizing an email template to send to each of our memberships, and perhaps some sections or other committees to recruit mentors and mentees. Chelle replied that there is an existing template for mentorship recruiting that she can circulate.

Julianne noted that more can be done with matching. We have some sections that administer matching program, and they keep track of the relationships. Something to think about for a longer standing program, with the WYLC overseeing matching, and tracking it. Janta added it would be good to get law students on the agenda for ideas on how to engage with them. Alex noted that they're usually WSBA or ABA reps, which are typically through student bar associations, and those roles are likely changing soon as elections typically occur in April. WYLC Member Adin Clark added that his alma mater, Willamette School of Law in Oregon, has a mentorship matching program. He believes Lewis and Clark and the University of Oregon also have a similar program. Adin noted further it may be challenging if there are existing programs already operating in the law schools as it may feel that we are duplicating efforts. Mason asked if a more formalized mentorship program is something to consider presenting to the BOG, and perhaps we start by reaching out to law schools to gauge interest. Janta asked, in addition to reaching out to student reps, are there contacts for staff at the schools? Chelle stated that we do have some contacts, although ideally, we want to start with the law school representatives. Mason said he is happy to take the lead for reaching out to the University of Washington and Seattle University. Alex offered to help with reaching out to Gonzaga University. Mason stated he will provide an update to the committee next time we meet. WYLC Member Aaron Haynes offered to reach out to his alma mater, University of Oregon, and wondered if it makes sense to reach out to other Oregon schools. Mason replied there's no harm in doing so, and asked what others think about reaching out to Oregon schools. Aaron added that there is infrastructure there, but it's primarily via alumni connection. Mason thinks it's a great idea to make the connection, and Aaron stated he will reach out.

Mason noted that WYLC Member/ BOG Liaison Jordan Couch arrived at the meeting and offered Jordan time to provide BOG updates. Jordan shared that the BOG met last week on strategic planning with a focus on sense of belonging. One thing mentioned, oftentimes formalized mentor programs don't work well as forced connections doesn't always work. Janta asked if it make sense to have events at law schools. Jordan replied that yes boards are interested in investing in new lawyers. Janta stated that the mixer sounds like a good opportunity to connect people.

Alex asked about establishing a formal workgroup or subcommittee and make law student engagement an official project with regular reporting. Chelle agreed. Mason offered to take this on and will explore this type of formal mentorship program.

Jordan added the BOG is looking to edit RPC 1.16 to combat money laundering in America. Janta asked whether there is an update on Diversity Equity and Inclusion. Jordan replied he is uncertain what their update will be. Jordan concluded, if committee members have comments to be made at a BOG meeting, send to Jordan and he will read comments on your behalf.

New Ideas for Next Meeting – All

Following the meeting plan to hold quarterly hybrid meetings, the next WYLC meeting will be February 22nd at the WSBA offices in Seattle, as Olympia area space was unavailable. The February meeting agenda will include reviewing the memorandum of understanding with the Iowa Young Lawyers Division that has expired. The committee will need to determine whether to renew it. Jordan shared that the Law School Transparency Project is related and recommends reaching out to Iowa to see if this is something they are going to continue. The Law School Transparency Project

came about when there was a push for the ABA to increase requirements on law school reporting. Mason supports outreach to the Iowa Young Lawyers Division. Documentation will be included in the February meeting materials and will be distributed via the listserv one week prior to the meeting to allow time for committee members to review.

Janta asked if we need a formal motion to start a subcommittee. Julianne confirmed that a formal motion is not needed. This topic will be added to the February WYLC meeting agenda and the committee can formalize it then. In the meantime, Mason will start reaching out, let Mason know if you want to join him. Alex stated he can cover Gonzaga. Janta added she is available to help.

Adjournment – Mason

Mason adjourned the meeting at 12:59 p.m.

DRAFT

Responses Overview Active

Responses

1

Average Time

04:07

Duration

833

Days

1. Member Name:

1

Responses

Latest Responses

"Chawisa Laicharoenwat"

2. Do you have any updates since the last meeting?



3. If yes, please provide your update below:

1

Responses

Latest Responses

"I've put together a list of potential topics for Financial CLE: 1. Insurance Basics for ..."

4. If no, please provide a brief explanation as to why not:

0 responses submitted

0

Responses

