

WASHINGTON LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE



About WLI

The Washington Leadership Institute (“WLI”) is a leadership development program created in 2004 by the WSBA Board of Governors at the behest of then president Ronald R. Ward. It is a collaborative leadership program between the Washington State Bar Association and the University of Washington

School of Law (UW Law). The program operates under the direction of a Board of Advisors and provides monthly training sessions to participants (“Fellows”). The sessions include topics such as the “nuts and bolts” of law practice, leadership styles, the judiciary, and the legislative process. A WSBA Leadership Institute Fellow is afforded numerous opportunities to personally interact with legal, judicial, and political leaders.

Our Mission

The mission of the Washington Leadership Institute (WLI) is to recruit, train, & develop traditionally underrepresented attorneys for future leadership positions in the Washington

State Bar Association and legal community. The program strives to recruit Fellows for each class who reflect the full diversity of our state, which includes race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, disability, and geographic location

Program Benefits

The WLI provides the Fellows with numerous opportunities to personally interact with legal, judicial, and political leaders. The program offers a unique combination of benefits:

- The program is a no-cost endeavor for Fellows because all travel, lodging and meals, are covered
- No tuition fee
- CLE credits, enough to satisfy approximately 3 full years of MCLE requirements — at no cost
- Exposure to practice and industry leaders
- Training in the law, courts, and the Bar
- One-on-one interaction with judges
- Mentorship from well-known bar leaders

Curriculum

There are three components to the WLI Leadership Institute:

- **Sessions:** The program is composed of eight educational sessions which run from January through August of each year. Fellows devote approximately 60 hours to the WLI CLE curriculum.
- **Community Service Project:** Each class sets aside time to be involved with the preparation and execution of a WLI community service project. Fellows devote approximately 30 hours to the project.
- **One year of service:** Following graduation from the WLI, each Fellow is expected to serve on a WSBA or WSBA-related committee, section, minority, or specialty bar association

Notable Guest Speakers

There have been over a hundred speakers who have given their time and expertise to the program. Below are just a few of the attorneys and public servants who have spoken and taught at the Institute:

- **Chief Justice Mary Fairhurst**, Washington Supreme Court
- **Judge Richard Jones**, U.S. District Court
- **Lucy Helm**, General Counsel, Starbucks Coffee Company
- **Eric Liu**, Author and speech writer for former President Bill Clinton
- **Chief Judge Ricardo Martinez**, U.S. District Court
- **Fred Rivera**, Executive Vice President & General Counsel, Seattle Mariners
- **Jeffrey Robinson**, Schroeter Goldmark and Bender & ACLU Center for Justice Director
- **Kellye Y. Testy**, President and CEO, Law School Admission Council (LSAC)



Who Can Apply?

Attorneys who have been admitted to practice law in a U.S. jurisdiction for at least three years and not more than ten years are eligible to apply.

All applicants must:

Be an active member of the WSBA

- Be nominated by his/her employer, or if self-employed, by a lawyer with at least 10 years of practice or a judge.
- Attend and participate in all eight sessions in order to graduate from the program.

For More Information

DAWN BELL, WLI COORDINATOR

University of Washington School of Law
William H. Gates Hall
Box 353020
Seattle, WA 98195-3020
206.543.2586
belld3@uw.edu

2019 Fellows

Roberta Armstrong
Jazmyn Clark
Leandra Craft
Sandy García
Sergio A. Garcidueñas-Sease
Jeneé E. Jahn

Adrien G. Leavitt
Chiedza Nziramasanga
Diego A. Rondón Ichikawa
Christopher M. Sanders
Deb Wechselblatt
Huma Zarif

Advisory Board

WLI FOUNDER

Ronald R. Ward

CO CHAIRS

Hon. Mary I. Yu
James Williams

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS

Dean Mario L. Barnes

Jeffery Beaver

Hon. Bobbe Bridge (Ret.)

Nicholas Brown

Dean Annette Clark

Jillian M. Cutler

Chief Justice Mary Fairhurst

Justice Steven González

Nancy L. Isserlis

Zabrina Jenkins

Jean Kang

Victor Lara

Karen Lee

Hon. Lorraine Lee

Chief Judge Ricardo S.
Martinez

Diane M. Meyers

Hon. Raquel

Montoya-Lewis

Kevin O'Rourke

Frederick (Fred) B. Rivera

Dean Jacob H. Rooksby

Craig A. Sims

Kellye Y. Testy

Stephan M. Thomas

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON SCHOOL OF LAW

William H. Gates Hall

Box 353020

Seattle, WA 98195-3020

Tel: 206.543.2586 / Fax 206.616.1365

www.law.uw.edu/academics/continuing-education/wli

