

# 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:

- 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

## A Collaboration of:



## 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

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## 2024 Fellows

Kelly Burns

Jocelyn Cooney

Catherine Houser

Iga Fikayo Keme

Dallas Martinez

Noe Merfeld

Andrés E. Muñoz

Tyler Quillin

Paolo Sy

Julie A. Turley

Jeremy Walker

## Co-Chairs & Board Members

Ronald R. Ward, WLI Founder

Erika Evans, Co-Chairs

Craig Sims, Co-Chairs

\*Toni Rembe Dean and Professor of Law Tamara F. Lawson

\*Dean Jacob H. Rooksby

\*Dean Anthony Varona

\*WSBA President Hunter Abell

Jeffrey A. Beaver

Justice Bobbe Bridge (Ret.)

Prof. Annette Clark

Jillian M. Cutler

Cynthia F. Delostrinos

Chief Justice Steven González

Nancy L. Isserlis

Zabrina Jenkins

Judge Lorraine Lee

Rajeev Majumdar

Chief Judge Ricardo S. Martinez

Justice Raquel Montoya-Lewis

Nam Nguyen

Raymond Delos Reyes

Kevin O'Rourke

Frederick (Fred) B. Rivera

Hon. S. Kate Vaughan

\*James Williams

\*Hon. Mary Yu

\* *Ex-Officio member*

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