

Foster, Denise

From: Tom Brotherton [tbrotherton@co.jefferson.wa.us]
Sent: Thursday, March 28, 2013 2:07 PM
To: Foster, Denise
Subject: Comment to proposed change to GR 12.1(b)(22)

This proposed amendment appears to be the Board of Governors reaction to the WSBA membership's referendum vote to lower licensing fees.

While the court rules specify many of the activities the WSBA conducts, the rules leave the level of activity and commitment of resources under the WSBA's direction. This is necessary if the WSBA is to remain responsive to changes in need, to modify approaches to achieve goals, and to abandon ineffective efforts.

Indeed, GR 12-1(a)(10) requires WSBA to "Operate a well-managed and financially sound association..." A well managed association must marshal its available resources, prioritize its tasks, and use those resources efficiently to accomplish its goals. The resources available to the WSBA are its member fees, its member's volunteered time, and its member's volunteered skills.

Some mandatory tasks are set forth in GR 12.1, but the level of effort it should put on each of them is not, nor should it be. The WSBA membership has to decide what level of effort is appropriate for each task because they are the only one's capable of accomplishing them.

The Supreme Court should not assume responsibility for setting WSBA fees because the rules are much too slow to change and setting them in conflict with members wishes, whether too high or too low will disengage members from WSBA goals. The long-term disillusionment will far surpass the Board's hoped-for short term increase in funds.

Thomas Brotherton
Deputy Prosecuting Attorney
Jefferson County Prosecutor
PO Box 1220
Port Townsend, WA 98368
360.385.9180