

MEMO

TO: Clerk of the Supreme Court
supreme@courts.wa.gov

FROM: Kathleen Traci, CPG 11541

DATE: 02/25/2022

RE: NEEDED CHANGES TO GR 23/CPG BOARD COMMUNICATION

PROPOSED CHANGES TO GR 23.

I oppose the changes to the CPG Board Composition portion of GR 23. I would like to have the CPG Board be composed of more certified professionals like MYSELF, who know what it is to be a guardian and executor and understands the positions' daily challenges. I have 12 years of experience as a guardian/executor. In my past employment positions, I have always been treated as a professional.

It bothers me immensely that GR 23 recommends that the Certified Professional Guardian and Conservator Board limits the number of professional guardians/conservators to no more than 1/3 of the total Board members. This limitation of the number of guardians on the board reflects the widely held erroneous assumption that guardians are less than honest and need an outside authority (a Board composed of a majority non-guardians) to monitor and regulate their behavior. This demeans my profession and makes me feel less than a professional. If most of the board was made up of guardians and Zoom was an option for meeting attendance, many more Guardians/Executors would be willing to step up to serve on a board to represent their area of WA.

The State of WA uses best practices RCW's that provides guidelines for ethical behavior of the state's guardians and executors. In the past, the state has provided excellent guardian/executor training and currently the state requires continued education (CEU's) for re-certification. Currently WAPG, NGA, and Bridges provide these informative continuous education opportunities. I have also taken seminars from the other valid professional organizations, including the mediation association and WSBA Conferences. Most professions have regulatory bodies that are composed of 70 to 80% of their professionals. I would like the Board to be modeled after the Washington State Bar Association's Board:

The Board of Governors is the WSBA's governing body directed by the Washington Supreme Court to determine the general policies of the Bar and approve its budget annually. The Board consists of the president, president-elect, immediate past president, members elected from each of the state's congressional districts and three at-large members.

All members of the WSBA board are practicing and/or retired attorneys. One of the at-large members represents the interests and needs of newly licensed practicing attorneys. Additionally, attorneys on the WSBA Board represent different areas of the state of WA.

IMPROVED CPG BOARD COMMUNICATION PRACTICES:

In the past, the Board conducted some of its business in closed-door sessions, even when required by their regulations that these to be public sessions. Other judicial-related regulatory boards freely publish board and sub-committee minutes. Most decisions of the CPGC Board are debated in sub-committee meetings and none of the minutes of those discussions are shared with the state's guardians and executors. Based upon the Beauregard analysis, the CPG Board is a public agency that is subject to Open Meeting regulations and the section of GR 23 needs to be amended to reflect that fact.

This practice also degrades my professionalism as a Guardian and Executor. I would like to ensure that the Board will always have all substantive discussions in public on all matters except for discipline and applications. The board's minutes need to be published on the state court website (Guardians' Portal) to provide needed transparency.

Thank you.

Kathleen Traci
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Dear Clerk of the Supreme Court,

Attached is my memo regarding proposed changes to GR 23.

Thank you.

Kathleen Traci

WA Certified Professional Guardian #11541

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