



Washington State Society of Healthcare Attorneys



Consistent with the mission and long-standing practice of the Washington State Society of Healthcare Attorneys (WSSHA), WSSHA is committed to fostering and promoting the sustained professional development of the health law bar in the State of Washington, both for experienced health care attorneys as well as attorneys who are just starting to work in this area of law.

As part of that commitment, WSSHA has collaborated actively with the law schools in Washington – University of Washington School of Law, Seattle University School of Law and Gonzaga University School of Law – in their development of strong health law curriculum(s) and practicum(s) for both JD and LLM studies. Likewise, WSSHA’s Spring Conference has been hosted at either of the Seattle-based law school facilities on a routine basis. WSSHA also has encouraged Washington State law school students interested in health law to attend all of WSSHA’s continuing education programs.

Independent of WSSHA, several WSSHA member organizations including health systems and law firms also have offered opportunities to Washington law school students focused on health care to gain “hands-on” learning and experience within professional settings, to help the students round out their formal educational experience, and hopefully to improve their placement opportunities in health law careers upon graduation from law school. Successful programs have been facilitated by MultiCare, Seattle Children’s Hospital, Quorum Review IRB, and others. WSSHA commends these organizations for sponsoring these internship and externship programs, and encourages other WSSHA member organizations to consider whether they might have similar opportunities for interested and qualified Washington law students.

To further encourage and applaud these initiatives, WSSHA will assist in the following ways:

- (1) WSSHA will host on its website a “posting site” both for members with available workplace opportunities for Washington law school students, and for Washington law school students seeking such opportunities.
- (2) WSSHA will also post at our website a link to information and guidelines provided by each of the Washington law schools concerning their practicum, externship and internship requirements. Also posted will be some practical suggestions developed by the law schools for organizations wishing to establish and maintain internship, externship or practicum programs.
- (3) Likewise, WSSHA will help to foster and facilitate the exchange of information between WSSHA member organizations seeking “practical” or “experiential” insights and recommendations and WSSHA member organizations with experience offering such programs.
- (4) WSSHA will also provide reminders and other information in support of health law student outreach at both our spring and fall meetings.
- (5) WSSHA will facilitate panel discussions and other less structured opportunities for Washington state health law students to interact directly with members of the Washington state health law profession to learn more about career opportunities.

We appreciate and encourage the support and assistance of our membership with this important WSSHA commitment.

