

Legislative Ethics Board

223 SID SNYDER AVE. SW, ROOM 215
OLYMPIA, WA 98501

PO BOX 40500
OLYMPIA, WA 98504-0500
360-786-7343
www.leg.wa.gov/leb

JENNIFER STRUS - COUNSEL
Jennifer.Strus@leg.wa.gov



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LEGISLATIVE ETHICS BOARD MINUTES October 15, 2025 Virtual Meeting

Present were: Larry Hoff, Chair; Laurie Dolan, Vice-Chair; Sen. Pedersen; Jessica Roberts; Rep. Hackney; Lynda Wilson; Rep. Steele; Sen. Gildon; Jennifer Strus, Board counsel; Jeannie Gorrell, Senate counsel; Ohad Lowy, House Counsel; Suchi Sharma, Senate Counsel; Jerry Cornfield, reporter.

The Chair called the executive session to order at 12:07 pm.

The executive session was adjourned at 1:10 pm.

The public portion of the meeting was called to order at 1:15 p.m.

The minutes for the September 8, 2025 Board meeting were approved.

There were no Employment Disclosure forms to review.

Board counsel raised the issue of the meaning of the phrase “letter of recommendation” contained in RCW 42.52.187(1). Ethics advisers have been asked whether that phrase includes a letter regarding granting clemency or granting asylum. The Board was of the opinion that the phrase should be interpreted broadly. Board counsel was directed to draft an Advisory Opinion on the Board’s interpretation of this phrase to be reviewed at the next Board meeting.

Board counsel also raised the issue of whether the word “persons” in section 12 of ESSB 5143 included posting about teams, like the Mariners or Seahawks. The Board discussed that statutory language referring to one person the word “individual” is used. When referring to multiple people or entities, generally the word “persons” is used. The definition of “person” in RCW 42.52.010(23) is broad and would seem to encompass entities or groups like sports teams.

The Board discussed whether a section in *Advisory Opinion* 1995 - No. 1 which had been retired in 2022 should be resurrected in some fashion. The opinion deals with a legislator who is also an attorney suing a state agency and the steps they must take to avoid ethical issues. The Board discussed how restrictive the old opinion was and suggested that a new Advisory Opinion be drafted to include some of the newer less restrictive provisions the Board has adopted since 1995.

It was confirmed that the date for the next Board meeting is December 8, 2025 at 10:00 am.

There was no public testimony.

The public portion of the meeting was adjourned at 2:02 pm.



Larry Hoff, Chair

Date: 12/8/25

**The entirety of the public portion of this meeting can be viewed on TVW at the attached link
<https://tvw.org/video/legislative-ethics-board-2025101118/?eventID=2025101118>**