

OSB Board of Governors

STATUTORY CHARGE

The Oregon State Bar (OSB) is a public corporation and an instrumentality of the Judicial Department of the State of Oregon.¹ The OSB Board of Governors (BOG) governs the state bar and must “at all times direct its power to serve the public interest by:

- (a) Regulating the legal profession and improving the quality of legal services;
- (b) Supporting the judiciary and improving the administration of justice; and
- (c) Advancing a fair, inclusive and accessible justice system.”²

As a unified bar, the OSB may use mandatory member fees only for activities that are germane to the purposes for which the bar was established.³

MISSION

The mission of the OSB is to serve justice and the public interest by promoting respect for the rule of law, by improving the quality of legal services, and by increasing access to justice.

FUNCTIONS AND GOALS

The BOG has adopted the following goals for its three statutory functions:

FUNCTION #1 – REGULATE THE LEGAL PROFESSION AND IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LEGAL SERVICES

GOAL: Protect the public by ensuring competence and integrity and promoting professionalism in the legal profession.

FUNCTION #2 – SUPPORT THE JUDICIARY AND IMPROVE THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

GOAL: Protect and advance the quality, integrity, and impartiality of the judicial system.

FUNCTION #3 – ADVANCE A FAIR, INCLUSIVE, AND ACCESSIBLE JUSTICE SYSTEM

GOAL: Foster trust in, respect for, understanding of, and access to the justice system.

FIDUCIARY ROLE

In order to advance the mission and achieve its goals, the BOG must ensure that the OSB is effectively governed and managed, and that it has adequate resources to maintain the desired level of programs and activities.

¹ ORS 9.010.

² ORS 9.080.

³ In *Keller v. State Bar of California*, 499 US 1,111 SCt 2228 (1990), the US Supreme Court held that an integrated bar's use of compulsory dues to finance political and ideological activities violates the 1st Amendment rights of dissenting members when such expenditures are not "necessarily or reasonably incurred" for the purpose of regulating the legal profession or improving the quality of legal services.

BOG AREAS OF FOCUS FOR 2021

1. Identify board leadership development needs and implement training.
2. Adopt Diversity Action Plan for 2021-2023.
3. Continue review of the OSB governance model to ensure alignment with the bar's public service mission and to address structural inequities.
4. Continue bylaw review to ensure alignment with the bar's public service mission and compliance with governance best practices.
5. Continue section and legal publications program review.
6. Provide budget oversight
 - a. Evaluate potential forms of revenue for 2022 budget and beyond.
 - b. Consider changes to CSF claim cap limit and reserve.
7. Implement legislative priorities adopted for 2021.
8. Support court in addressing court backlog.
9. Support development and implementation of paraprofessional licensing program, writing for the bar program, and leadership institute.
10. Identify and adopt legislative priorities for 2022.