
HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4008

State of Washington 69th Legislature 2026 Regular Session

By Representatives Richards, Abell, Schmidt, Simmons, Graham, and Pollet

Prefiled 12/11/25. Read first time 01/12/26. Referred to Committee on Civil Rights & Judiciary.

1 TO THE WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION, THE UNIVERSITY OF
2 WASHINGTON SCHOOL OF LAW, GONZAGA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, SEATTLE
3 UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, EACH COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE OF THIS
4 STATE, EACH COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENSE OFFICE OF THIS STATE, THE
5 WASHINGTON STATE OFFICE OF PUBLIC DEFENSE, THE WASHINGTON SUPREME
6 COURT, THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS, THE WASHINGTON STATE
7 OFFICE OF CIVIL LEGAL AID, THE WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
8 LICENSURE PATHWAYS STEERING COMMITTEE, AND THE AMERICAN BAR
9 ASSOCIATION:

10 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
11 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled,
12 respectfully represent and petition as follows:

13 WHEREAS, Legal education and practice opportunity programs
14 provide law students with valuable hands-on legal experience under
15 the supervision of licensed attorneys; and

16 WHEREAS, There is an increasing need for well-trained, practice-
17 ready law school graduates to support the efficient administration of
18 justice, particularly in prosecution and public defense offices; and

19 WHEREAS, Prosecuting attorney offices and public defense
20 attorneys play a vital role in the criminal justice system and are in
21 constant need of qualified legal professionals to assist in managing
22 heavy caseloads; and

1 WHEREAS, Encouraging and expanding access to legal education and
2 practice opportunity programs would provide law students with
3 structured and immersive opportunities to develop essential
4 litigation, research, and advocacy skills; and

5 WHEREAS, The legal profession as a whole benefits from increasing
6 awareness of legal education and practice opportunity programs and
7 ensuring students are adequately informed and prepared to pursue such
8 program internships;

9 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the
10 Washington state bar association, the law schools of the state of
11 Washington, each county prosecutor's office of this state, each
12 county public defense office of this state, the Washington state
13 office of public defense, the Washington supreme court, the
14 administrative office of the courts, the Washington state office of
15 civil legal aid, the Washington state bar association licensure
16 pathways steering committee, and the American bar association, work
17 together to encourage and support legal education and practice
18 opportunity programs, including:

- 19 (1) The rule 6 law clerk program;
- 20 (2) The rule 9 licensed legal intern program;
- 21 (3) The small town and rural council;
- 22 (4) The rural defense public partnership program;
- 23 (5) The central Washington hybrid hub program; and
- 24 (6) All other relevant legal education and practice opportunity
25 programs offered by or promoted through the Washington state bar
26 association.

27 Your Memorialists further respectfully pray that the recipients
28 of this memorial work together to educate current and prospective law
29 students regarding these programs, encourage application for and
30 pursuit of such program internships, and provide students with the
31 opportunity to work part time or full time throughout the final year
32 of their legal education.

33 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
34 transmitted by the Secretary of State to the Washington state bar
35 association, the University of Washington school of law, Gonzaga
36 University school of law, Seattle University school of law, each
37 county prosecutor's office of this state, each county public defense
38 office of this state, the Washington state office of public defense,
39 the Washington supreme court, the administrative office of the

1 courts, the Washington state office of civil legal aid, the
2 Washington state bar association licensure pathways steering
3 committee, and the American bar association.

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