

## 2nd Annual WSBA Small Town and Rural (STAR) Practice Summit:



### Justice in Every ZIP Code – Challenges, Opportunities and Solutions in Rural and Small-Town Practice

---

#### ORIGINAL PROGRAM DATE

June 27, 2025

---

#### AVAILABLE MEDIA TYPES

Video & Audio MP3

---

### REPORTING YOUR CREDIT

This on-demand seminar was originally presented as a live webcast on June 27, 2025, in Toppenish, WA. If you attended the live webcast and reported CLE credits, you cannot also report credits from watching or listening to this recording if repeated within your three-year reporting period.

### DESCRIPTION

The Small Town and Rural Practice Council of the Washington State Bar Association presents the 2nd Annual Washington State Small Town and Rural Practice Summit now available for the first time on-demand. Building on the momentum of last year's inaugural gathering, this year's summit will continue to shine a spotlight on advancing justice in every ZIP code across Washington. Bringing together judges, legal professionals, law students, and community leaders from across the state, the summit will explore the unique challenges and promising opportunities in rural and small-town practice.

Through presentations and panel discussions, attendees will explore a range of timely issues impacting rural legal communities and consider actionable strategies to strengthen rural legal services and expand access to justice. Topics will include pathways to the profession, immigration, AI and technology in small town practice, and ethical considerations for general practitioners. The Summit will feature Washington State Supreme Court Chief Justice Debra Stephens as a keynote speaker along with, prosecutors, public defenders, public interest attorneys, private practitioners, and law school leaders. Join us on-demand for this essential gathering of the rural justice community as we work together to build solutions and expand justice in every zip code!

### AGENDA

**1 Opening Remarks by Assistant United States Attorney Bree R. Black Horse [NOT FOR CREDIT]**

**2 Furthering Confidence in the Rule of Law and the Justice System**

Chief Justice Stephens will discuss the vital role of lawyers in shaping the legal system beyond their individual practices and the ethical and professional responsibility of legal practitioners to foster public confidence in the rule of law, advocate for legal reform, and contribute to the advancement of legal education. Q & A to follow.

*Washington State Supreme Court Chief Justice Debra Stephens - Washington State Supreme Court, Olympia, WA*

## 2nd Annual WSBA Small Town and Rural (STAR) Practice Summit: Justice in Every ZIP Code – Challenges, Opportunities and Solutions in Rural and Small-Town Practice *(agenda continued from previous page)*

---

### 3 The Three Cs of Ethics in Rural Practice

A discussion of the RPCs that cover competence, conflicts, and confidentiality as they relate to general practice in a rural community.

*Chris Crago - Lecturer and Supervising Attorney of the Federal Tax Law Clinic, Gonzaga University School of Law, Spokane, WA*

*Sandra Schilling - Professional Responsibility Counsel, Washington State Bar Association, Seattle, WA*

### 4 Leveraging Technology to Increase Access to Justice in Rural Communities

This panel will explore how technology and AI can be used to expand access to justice, increase service capacity, and overcome geographic barriers in rural communities, while also addressing the practical limitations of tech-based solutions.

*Adrián Palma - AI For Justice Strategist, Former Global Pro Bono Manager & Digital Strategist, Microsoft, Redmond, WA*

*Jacqueline Schafer - Founder and CEO, Clearbrief, Seattle, WA*

*Margeaux Green - Practice Management Advisor, Washington State Bar Association, Seattle, WA*

### 5 Expanding Pathways to the Legal Profession

The legal field is evolving, and so are the routes to becoming a lawyer. This panel discussion explores alternative pathways to practice beyond the traditional bar exam, including the Rule 6 Law Clerk Program and options for law graduates who choose not to take the bar. Panelists will examine how these diverse entry points can broaden participation in the legal profession, increase accessibility, and strengthen justice for underrepresented communities. An overview of the pilot for entity regulation will also be provided.

*Terra Nevitt - Executive Director, Washington State Bar Association, Seattle, WA*

*Renata Garcia - Chief Regulatory Counsel, Washington State Bar Association, Seattle, WA*

*Katherine Skinner - Law Clerk Program Lead, Washington State Bar Association, Seattle, WA*

*Gordon Edgar - Douglas County Prosecutor's Office, Waterville, WA*

### 6 Immigration Law in Rural WA—Challenges and Considerations

Immigration law presents unique challenges in rural communities, where access to legal services, social support systems, and infrastructure can be limited. This panel brings together experienced practitioners to discuss the realities of immigration practice in non-urban areas, addressing both legal and logistical issues faced by attorneys and their clients, and offering an innovative solution with a collaboration of law school, pro bono attorney, and community organization partnerships that can lead to lasting increases in local legal resources. Come and hear how this partnership arose in response to an urgent need but provides lessons that can be used in a variety of practice areas.

This nonpartisan session is designed for legal professionals, policymakers, and advocates seeking creative solutions for expanding access to legal services. Whether you're a seasoned attorney or new to this area of practice, this panel will offer concrete insights into developing collaborations to grow resources while upholding the principles of fairness and justice.

*Mirta Laura Contreras - Directing Attorney, Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, Granger, WA*

*Ally King - Externship Program Assistant, Seattle University School of Law, Seattle WA*

*Paul Rodgers - Rising 3L Seattle University School of Law, Granger Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, Seattle, WA*

*Dilnoza Chorjeva - Rising 2L Seattle University School of Law, Seattle WA*

*Alicia Kikuchi - Attorney, Alicia Kikuchi Law Firm, PLLC, Edmonds, WA*

*Kelsey Armstrong-Hann - Managing Attorney, Detained Programs, KIND, Seattle, WA*