

FILED

JAN - 5 2017

WASHINGTON STATE
SUPREME COURT

THE SUPREME COURT OF WASHINGTON

IN THE MATTER OF THE WSBA BOARD OF)
GOVERNOR'S APPROVAL OF LAWYER)
LICENSE FEES FOR 2018, 2019 AND 2020, AND)
THE LICENSE FEE ROLLBACK PETITION)
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ORDER

NO. 25700-B-571

On September 29, 2016, the Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) Board of Governors approved lawyer license fees for the years 2018 through 2020 as follows: \$449 in 2018, \$453 in 2019, and \$458 in 2020. The WSBA Bylaws provide that, within 90 days of a final decision of the Board of Governors, any active member may file a referendum to reverse or modify that decision. A license fee rollback petition was timely filed by active members of the WSBA with the Executive Director of the WSBA. The petition seeks to reject the 2018-2020 fees approved by the Board of Governors and require that the fee amount for a given year not be increased by a greater percentage than the consumer price index (CPI) increased during the calendar year ending 12 months previous to the effective date of the increase.¹ Under GR 12.1(22), the amount of any license fee is subject to review by the Supreme Court for

¹ The petition states: "The fee amount for a given year shall not be increased by a greater percentage than the consumer price index (CPI) shall have increased during the calendar year ending 12 months previous to the effective date of the increase. The consumer price index shall be as defined as the Seattle Area CPI for all Urban Consumers (CPI-U), issued by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics."

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IN THE MATTER OF THE WSBA BOARD OF GOVERNOR'S APPROVAL
OF LAWYER LICENSE FEES FOR 2018, 2019 AND 2020, AND THE LICENSE
FEE ROLLBACK PETITION
Order – Page Two

reasonableness and may be modified by order of the Court if the Court determines that the fee is not reasonable. After consideration of the Board's lawyer license fees approved for 2018, 2019, and 2020, and the license fee rollback petition, the Court, by majority, enters the following order pursuant to GR 12.1(22):

Now, therefore, it is hereby

ORDERED:

- (a) That the lawyer license fees approved by the WSBA Board of Governors for the years 2018, 2019, and 2020 are reasonable.
- (b) That the lawyer license fees proposed by the license fee rollback petition, if the petition were to pass, would not be reasonable both as to the level of fees that it proposes and as to the requirement that future license fee increases be tied to the consumer price index.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, this 5th day of January, 2017.

For the Court

Madsen, C. J.
CHIEF JUSTICE