

Alternative Pathways to Becoming a Lawyer Committee

WSBA Metrics

The WSBA APR 6 Program has \$5,000 per year in direct costs. Direct costs are items such as travel expenses for the law clerk board members and supplies such as certificates for those who complete the program.

The WSBA APR 6 Program has \$112,000 in indirect costs. Indirect costs are items such as staff salary, benefits and overhead, e.g. portion of rent, utilities, etc.

We asked whether the APR 6 Program hired new staff or whether it was part of existing FTE.

The law clerk program has essentially been in existence since the beginning of law practice in Washington. As the program has grown in participants, additional staff resources have been devoted to the program. We have a primary staff person responsible for the administration of the program, but we do not devote a full FTE. Our official statistics are as of 1984, which is what we call the modern version of the law clerk program.

Re attrition rates?

It is unusual for someone to be denied entry into the program. Those that are denied do not meet the essential requirements set forth in the rules and regulations or there could be a serious character and fitness issue. We do not have numbers readily available, but it is a rare occurrence.

More frequently, we have law clerks withdraw from the program for various reasons. Some of the common reasons for withdrawal are that the tutor no longer wants to or can participate, the clerk decides it is too much of a time commitment or does not have the self-discipline, usual life events get in the way like health and family issues. Again, numbers are not readily available but a good estimate would be about 30-40% fail to complete the program.

What percentage of APR clerks who make it through the Program pass the Washington bar exam on the first try? On the second? Are there any law clerks who didn't pass the exam?

Since 1984, approximately 60-65% of law clerks pass the bar exam on the first attempt. Approximately 90% eventually pass the bar exam. And approximately 2-3% of those who complete the program never take the bar exam.

Re demographics of APR 6 law clerk applicants or lawyers who become lawyers through the APR 6 program?

We do not ask for demographic data of applicants or clerks.

How many APR 6 lawyers are a percentag of the entire WSBA bar?

More than ½ of one percent but less than 1 percent of the current lawyer membership completed the law clerk program.