



## Emergency Declarations and Legal Questions

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2026

Approved for 4.0 CLE credits  
(3.0 Law & Legal Procedure + 1.0 Other)  
\$159 - Standard  
\$139 - New Members\*

Washington State Bar Association  
1325 Fourth Ave., Suite 600 | Seattle, WA 98101

WEBCAST  
ONLY

### DESCRIPTION

Disasters seem to be increasing. Emergency responses and recovery efforts require coordination amongst multiple levels of government. Emergency proclamations can insert unique legal considerations into the mix. During this seminar, representatives from state and local government will share insight into these dynamic situations with a discussion of statutory authority, case law, and a review of some recent incidents.

#### FACULTY

**Joe Panesko** - Washington State Office of the Attorney General, Olympia

**Jason Faust** - Washington State Office of the Attorney General, Olympia

**Christopher Wright** - Washington State Office of the Attorney General, Olympia

**Chief Leonard Johnson** - McLane Black Lake Fire Department, Olympia

### SCHEDULE

**12:40 p.m. > Webcast Log-In Opens**

**12:55 p.m. > Welcome and Introductions**

- **Joe Panesko and Jason Faust** - Washington State Office of the Attorney General, Olympia

**1:00 p.m. > Government Authority in Times of Emergency**

**60 minutes, 1.0 credits L&LP**

This presentation will outline statutory authority for governmental emergency response efforts at the state level and local level, and look at the handful of Washington cases that have delved into those questions.

- **Joe Panesko** - Washington State Office of the Attorney General, Olympia

**2:00 p.m. > Natural Resources Emergency Response to Wildfire**

**60 minutes, 1.0 credits L&LP**

An overview of state wildfire response and the law. Discussion will include agency suppression efforts and the ongoing legal issues involved in state emergency wildfire preparedness

- **Jason Faust** - Washington State Office of the Attorney General, Olympia

**3:00 p.m. > BREAK**

**3:15 p.m. > The Law of Public Health Emergencies**

**60 minutes, 1.0 credits L&LP**

The session will cover the current framework of authority for public health emergency response, recent statutory and caselaw updates, as well as recent examples of the application of these authorities.

- **Christopher Wright** - Washington State Office of the Attorney General, Olympia

**4:15 p.m. > Emergency Declaration and Incident Responders**

**60 minutes, 1.0 credits Other - Nexus Subject**

During an emergency, local government officials and incident responders work within the confines of two authorities, local government authority recognized under WA statute and the emergency declaration, with prescription for actions and resource allocation specific to the incident. Typically, the emergency declaration follows action already executed by first responders. In this presentation, Fire Chief Johnson will examine the implications of this offset in time frames.

- **Chief Leonard Johnson** - McLane Black Lake Fire Department, Olympia,

**5:15 p.m. > Adjourn • Complete Online Evaluations**

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Wednesday, April 8, 2026 • #26120 WEB

## REGISTRATION

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Please omit my name from the networking list made available to exhibitors and/or attendees.

## PRICING INFORMATION

**#26120 WEB, attend via webcast, 4/8/26**

- \$159 - Standard/Non-Section Members
- \$139 - New Members\*

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