INTRODUCTION TO THE 2026 EDITION

The four volumes of Methods of Practice provide an introduction to and overview of the entire Washington Practice Series, bringing its comprehensive resources together in a unified format. It provides references to suggested resources for additional research and it includes several resource guides in table format to allow rapid searching for topics of interest. Expert authors Cheryl C. Mitchell and Ferd H. Mitchell have prepared thorough overviews and summaries, including the research guides, to enhance and streamline your research and optimize your use of the Washington Practice Series.

The following new materials by Washington Practice authors are included in Methods of Practice for this 2026 edition:

- Two examples have been noted as illustrations of the ways in which typical revisions have been made throughout the General Rules (GR) to replace language deemed to be biased and non-inclusive with neutral terminology as described in Rules Practice, Vol 2 of Washington Practice (see Methods of Practice §§ 3:8 and 4:8). Similar changes have been made in other court rules.
- New Rule GR 41 has been added to describe where and how jury selection may take place by using remote technology as described in Rules Practice, Vol 2 of Washington Practice. (See Methods of Practice § 3:49)
- 2024 amendments to APR 4 approved alternative pathways to lawyer licensure in Washington to include an alternative NextGen bar exam and three experiential learning alternatives to the bar exam as described in Rules Practice, Vol 2 of Washington Practice. (See Methods of Practice § 5:6)
- RAP 9.14 was adopted in 2024 as described regarding access by appellate counsel to trial court records and exhibits in Rules Practice, Vol 2A of Washington Practice. (See Methods of Practice § 12:47).
- RAP 12.4 regarding motions for reconsideration (of a decision terminating review prohibiting reconsideration) by a single judge was amended in 2024 as described in Rules Practice, Vol 3 of Washington Practice. (See Methods of Practice § 12:67).
- The Civil Rules for Superior Court (CR) were amended to allow proceedings and hearings by remote means as discussed in Rules Practice, Vol 3A of Washington Practice. (See Methods of Practice § § 14:12 and 14:37).
- As noted in GALR 1 and throughout amendments to the GALR, these rules basically apply to all Superior Court cases

in which the court appoints a Guardian Ad Litem to represent the best interest of a child or the Respondent in a guardianship, conservatorship, or protective arrangements proceeding. (See Methods of Practice § 16:14).

- Some of the issues relating to court evidence based on Artificial Intelligence (AI) have been described, with consideration of the role of Rule 901 (regarding the authorization, identification, and admission of exhibits) in resolving issues raised by AI evidence; refer to Evidence Law and Practice, Vol 5C of Washington Practice § 901.22A. (A search for these materials may be initiated at Methods of Practice § 37:4).
- An introduction is provided to the new Washington Common Interest Ownership Act RCW Ch. 64.90 that is to become effective January 1, 2028 and will govern common interest communities (as described in Real Estate Property Law, Vol 17 of Washington Practice). (See Methods of Practice § 72:17).
- Further discussion has been added regarding statutory changes involving "middle housing" and "co-living housing" as described in Real Estate Property Law, Vol. 17 of Washington Practice. (See Methods of Practice § 72:19).
- Introductory and illustrative materials regarding the application of generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) such as ChatGPT to Elder Law and Health Law is described in Washington Elder Law (Part 1) and Health Law (Part 2), Vols. 26-26A of Washington Practice. (See Methods of Practice Chs. 76-76A).
- A new Chapter on the "Duties of Insurance Agents and Brokers" is included in Washington Insurance Law and Litigation, Vol. 35 of Washington Practice. (See Methods of Practice Ch. 86).
- A new Subchapter "Issues Arising from Contracts to Repair Relying on Homeowners Insurance Coverage" has been added to Washington Construction Law Manual, Vol 33 of Washington Practice. (See Methods of Practice Ch 84).