



Candidates for WSDA Elected Positions

The following members are running for WSDA elected positions. Elections will occur at the 2026 WSDA House of Delegates, held Sept. 17-19 in Spokane.

Available Positions

- **President-elect** (1 position)
- **Board of Directors** (4 positions)
- **ADA Delegate** (3 positions)

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Candidate for WSDA President-elect



Dr. Emily Hobart

Candidate for WSDA President-elect

Candidate Statement

My name is Emily Hobart—General dentist, married girl mom of two, runner, trivia enthusiast, and total organized dentistry nerd. I serve as the Dental Director at didg^wálič Wellness Center, which is a tribal FQHC in Anacortes where we care for patients in treatment for substance use disorder. Although I now represent the public health practice modality, I have experience in private practice, corporate practice, teaching, corrections, and consulting. The past four years on the Board of Directors have been so meaningful to me, and I am amazed at what this engaged group of dentists and staff has been able to accomplish in such a short time. We launched major initiatives that reduce barriers to membership and support sustainable, non-dues revenue like the ADA membership pilot, L&I Advantage (formerly Retro), and ComplyBetter. With the Legislative, Wellness, and Student Loan Task Forces, we helped advance our dental benefits bill with unanimous support and advocated for our members' mental health and financial well-being with specific, accessible resources. I am passionate about serving the diverse needs of our members with key partners to better care for our patients and communities. Advocacy. Support. Excellence. It's what we do. But at the heart of it all is the unity and camaraderie that organized dentistry brings. We have your back! My goal is for every dentist to feel that way. I would be absolutely honored to help steer this ship into the future, working hard for you, your staff members, and your patients. Thank you!

Current Positions

- WSDA Board of Directors, 2022-Present (4 Years)
- WSDA Continuing Education Committee, 2019-Present (7 Years) - Chair, 2024-2025

- WSDA Delegate, 2017-Present (Except 2023, 7 Years)
- WSDA Wellness Task Force, 2024-Present (2 Years) - Chair, 2025-Present
- WSDA Legislative Task Force, 2024-Present (2 Years)

Former Positions

- ADA Delegate, 2020-2024 (Except 2023, 4 Years)
- MBDDS Immediate Past-/President/-Elect/Secretary-Treasurer, 2017-2021 (4 Years)
- WSDA Apple Health Work Group, 2023-2025 (2 Years)
- WSDA Leadership Institute, 2018 (1 Year)
- WSDA Student Loan Task Force, 2025-2026 (1 Year)
- ASDA District 10 Trustee, 2014-2015 (1 Year)

Professional Affiliations

- Fellow of the Academy of General Dentistry (FAGD)
- Fellow of the American College of Dentists (ACD)
- Fellow of the International College of Dentists (ICD)
- Fellow of the Pierre Fauchard Academy (PFA)
- American Association of Dental Consultants (AADC)

Education

- Doctor of Dental Medicine, Midwestern University - Arizona, 2015
- Bachelor of Arts (Chemistry & French), University of Arizona, 2010

Other

- WSDA Leadership Development & Opportunities Task Force, 2020-2021 (1 Year)
- WSDA Nominations Committee, 2020 (1 Year)
- AGD New Dentist Committee, 2016-2018 (2 Years)
- ADA Council on Dental Benefit Programs Student Liaison, 2014-2015 (1 Year)

Candidates for WSDA Board of Directors



Dr. Lisa Buttaro

Candidate for WSDA Board of Directors

Candidate Statement

Thank you for the honor and privilege of serving you on the WSDA BOD these last five years. I am running for reelection because I believe that I have more to give and more that needs to be done. This is a critical time in our profession. Our member dentists and our patients are suffering. As a small business owner, I understand and feel first-hand the effects of reduced insurance reimbursements and severe workforce shortages. I have been able to serve organized dentistry and our profession over the last 30 years. I have grown and learned immensely through my work at the PCDS, PCDF, WSDA BOD, WSDA HOD, and the ADA HOD. Mentoring opportunities with dental students, new dentists, and participants in the WSDA Leadership Institute have been particularly valuable. The amazing group of leaders that I currently collaborate with, learn from and problem solve alongside, keep me energized to serve. We are stronger together. I ask for your vote to allow me to continue the work that I have started. I am confident that I have the experience, passion, and motivation necessary to continue the fight for our patients, member dentists, and our profession. We are worth it!

Current Positions

- WSDA Board of Directors, 5 years
- Pierce County Dental Foundation Board, 8 years
- WSDA House of Delegates, 15 years
- ADA Delegate, 5 years
- WSDA Leadership Institute, Mentor - 2 years

Former Positions

- PCDS Board of Trustees and President, 10 years
- US Army Dental Corps, Officer - 11 years
- WSDA HOD, Reference Committee Chair - 1 year
- WAGD MasterTrack , 5 years

Professional Affiliations

- International College of Dentists
- Pierre Fauchard Academy
- American College of Dentists
- Omicron Kappa Upsilon
- ADA, WSDA and Pierce County Dental Society

Education

- Rutgers University, BS 1992
- University of Maryland School of Dentistry, DDS 1996
- US Army Dental Corps, AEGD 1 yr residency 1997
- Academy General Dentistry, MAGD 2012

Other

- Volunteer Dentist: SKC Clinic, MTI, Homeless Connect, Bates, Union Gospel Mission
- DDWA Member Nominating Panel, 4 years
- NCAA Division I: scholarship athlete; coach



Dr. Kevin Hudson

Candidate for WSDA Board of Directors

Candidate Statement

I am seeking a second term on the Washington State Dental Association Board of Directors because our profession faces serious challenges—and I am committed to confronting them directly, decisively, and with the full weight of my experience. For more than 26 years, I have served organized dentistry with purpose, including as the Faculty Advisor of the newly formed PNWU Chapter of the ASDA. As the only Board candidate with long-term military & private practice experience, and full academic faculty appointment living and working on the east side of the Cascades, I bring a crucial and often underrepresented perspective on the realities facing dentists in Washington’s rural and underserved regions. My career in healthcare has always been rooted in action. From my beginnings as a Certified Nursing Assistant, to my years as a Navy dentist and Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeon—serving aboard the USS Nimitz and leading from the front as the OMFS Department Head at Naval Hospital Bremerton—I have continually stepped forward where service was needed most. This year, I transitioned from full-time private practice, retiring as an owner, to full-time academic practice, teaching at Pacific Northwest University’s College of Osteopathic Medicine and School of Dental Medicine. This role has deepened my commitment to strengthening the future of our profession by mentoring the next generation of dentists and physicians. Washington dentists are under unprecedented strain: stagnant reimbursement, rising operational costs, workforce shortages, and continuous threats to the doctor–patient relationship. These issues require strong advocacy, clear vision, and unwavering resolve. I am ready to continue this work. I ask for your vote and your partnership as we fight for the future of dentistry in Washington.

Current Positions

- Washington State Dental Association Board of Directors
- Washington State Dental Association Foundation for Dental Futures

- Washington State Dental Association Governance Committee

Former Positions

- President - Yakima Valley Dental Society (2022-2023)
- Secretary/Treasurer - Yakima Valley Dental Society (2021-2022)

Professional Affiliations

- American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons
- American College of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons
- American College of Dentists
- Diplomate, American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
- American Dental Education Association

Education

- Certificate in Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery 2010 Naval Medical Center Southwest
- DDS 2003 Creighton University
- BS in Nursing 1996 Lewis-Clark State College
- AS in Nursing 1995 Lewis-Clark State College

Other

- 9 Star Foundation, Board of Directors, 2012 – Present
- Yakima County Search & Rescue
- Central Washington Mountain Rescue



Dr. Melanie Lang

Candidate for WSDA Board of Directors

Candidate Statement

I am running for reelection to the Washington State Dental Association Board. I bring a unique background to serve our constituents having practiced on both the east and west sides of the state as a private practice business owner and presently in academics with the University of Washington OMS residency program. From a leadership perspective, I have been involved locally serving on the Spokane District Dental Society Executive Council and more recently the Seattle King County Dental Society Executive Council. At the state level, I served on the Washington State Society of OMS Executive Council and was past president and served as a delegate to both the WSDA and Washington State Medical Association. At the district level, I serve on the Western Society of OMS Executive Council and am currently the immediate past president. At the national level, I was our district representative to the ADA Council on Access, Prevention and Interprofessional Relations. I also served as a consultant to the American Association of OMS Committee on Hospital and Interprofessional Affairs, AAOMS consultant to the ADA and American Hospital Association representative to the ADA. Regardless of our location or practice type, as dental professionals we collectively face many challenges including increasing costs with decreasing reimbursement, increasing regulatory oversight, third party interference, rising educational debt and qualified professional staff recruitment and retention. The WSDA allows us to have a unified voice to represent our patients and profession. Thank you for your continued support in considering my candidacy for the WSDA Board.

Current Positions

- WSDA Board 2022-Present
- SKCDS Executive Council 2023-2026
- SKCDS Delegate to WSDA HOD 2021-2026
- Western Society of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery Executive Council 2016-Present

- Western Society OMS Immediate Past President 2025-Present

Former Positions

- Spokane District Dental Society Executive Council 2002-2006
- Washington State Society of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery President 2004-2005
- ADA Council on Access Prevention and Interprofessional Relations 2007-2011
- American Hospital Association Representative to the ADA 2013-2021
- Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care Board and Surveyor 2012-2015

Professional Affiliations

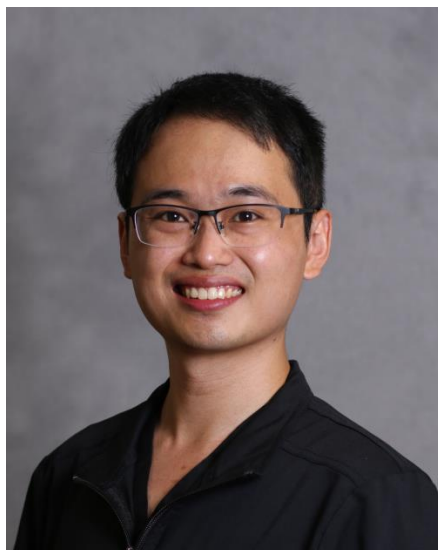
- Washington State Dental Association
- American Association of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons
- Western Society of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons
- Washington State Society of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons
- Washington State Medical Association

Education

- AS Health Sciences, Union College 1986
- DDS, University of Nebraska 1991
- GPR, University of Washington 1992
- MD, University of Florida 1996
- Certificate in Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, University of Florida 1999

Other

- Washington State Society of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons Executive Council 2001-06
- WSDA Leadership Institute Mentor 2022-Present
- ADA Consultant to Council on Scientific Affairs 2017-2023
- SKCDS Leadership Committee 2022-Present
- Spokane County Medical Association Delegate to WSMA HOD 2010-2012



Dr. Peixi Liao

Candidate for WSDA Board of Directors

Candidate Statement

I am honored to be considered for service as ADA Delegate and WSDA Board of Directors. Throughout my career as a prosthodontist, educator, researcher, and private practice owner, I have been committed to advancing organized dentistry through leadership, innovation, and collaboration. My experiences span academic institutions, organized dental societies, and clinical practice, providing me with a broad perspective on the challenges and opportunities facing our profession. As an Associate Professor at the University of Washington School of Dentistry and owner of Ever Bright Digital Dental Center, I work daily to bridge evidence-based education with patient-centered care. My leadership roles—including President of the IADR Prosthodontics Group, former Chair of the ADEA Prosthodontics Section, Secretary and Treasurer of the AADOCR Boston Section, and committee service with the Massachusetts Dental Society and ADA Standards Consensus Body on Artificial Intelligence—have strengthened my ability to build consensus, manage resources responsibly, and advocate for the profession. If elected, I will work to promote innovation while protecting the core values of organized dentistry. I am passionate about supporting practicing dentists, expanding mentorship opportunities for students and early-career professionals, encouraging ethical adoption of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, and ensuring that the voices of Washington dentists are effectively represented at both the state and national levels. I believe that thoughtful leadership, transparent communication, and collaboration across specialties will strengthen our profession and improve oral health for the communities we serve.

Current Positions

- University of Washington, School of Dentistry, Associate Professor, 2025-now
- President of International Association for Dental Research Prosthodontics Group, 2023-now
- Committee Member of ISO ADA Standards Consensus Body 12 on Artificial Intelligence & Knowledge Management 2024-now

- Owner of Ever Bright Digital Dental Center, 2025-now
- Affiliate Faculty Boston University Rafik B. Hariri Institute for Computing and Computational Science & Engineering, 2020-now

Former Positions

- Chair of American Dental Education Association Prosthodontics Section, 2019-2025
- Boston University, School of Dentistry, Associate Professor, 2018-2025
- Vice Chair of Massachusetts Dental Society Business Development Committee, 2018-2024
- Member of Research Committee in American Academy of Fixed Prosthodontics, 2019-2025
- Member of Massachusetts Dental Society Artificial Intelligence Task Force, 2023-2025

Professional Affiliations

- American Dental Education Association (ADEA)
- International Association for Dental Research (IADR)
- American College of Prosthodontists (ACP)
- Fellow of International College of Dentists (ICD)
- Fellow of American College of Dentists (ACD)

Education

- DScD/CAGS, Boston University Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine, 2018
- BDS, Guanghua School of Stomatology, Sun Yat-sen University, 2012

Other

- Member of Massachusetts Dental Society Dental Education Committee 2023-2025
- Member of Massachusetts Dental Society Ethics Committee 2020-2023
- Founder and CEO of Vision Dentistry, 2018-2025
- Secretary and Treasurer of AADOCR Boston Section, 2023-2024
- Member of American College of Prosthodontists Research Committee, 2023-2025



Dr. Stephen Pong

Candidate for WSDA Board of Directors

Candidate Statement

I am running for a position on the WSDA Board of Directors because I care about the current state of our profession, and its continued viability. It should not just be our sense of philanthropy that drives us to serve, but an obligation and duty to recommit back into the profession which gives us our livelihood, our identity, and our raison d'être. I am sure we all share some combination of similar professional and personal experiences. I am trying to survive as a small practice owner. I am a locum dentist at a nonprofit. I am married, with 3 teenage boys and one in college. I wrestle between financially planning for my inevitable exit from the profession, all while trying to exist in the present and have a life now. I recognize the importance of allocating time to serve. I am sure we're all contending with these life-stage issues in some form and in real time. It is with that sense of immediacy that compels me to seek a position on the WSDA Board so that we may collaboratively provide some professional guidance and respite, while ushering Dentistry in Washington State towards a more positive trajectory. It would be my honor to serve if you'll have me.

Current Positions

- SKCDS Executive Committee Board Member – 5yrs
- WSDA Wellness Taskforce - 1yr

Former Positions

- SKCDS Delegate at WSDA House of Delegates – 6yrs
- SKCDS DEI Committee Chair - 2yrs

Professional Affiliations

- SKCDS, WSDA, ADA tripartite member
- Academy of General Dentistry
- Northwest Chinese Dental Association Member

Education

- DDS - University of Southern California – 2004
- BA - University of California, Irvine – 2000
- BSc - University of British Columbia - 1994



Dr. Marshall Titus

Candidate for WSDA Board of Directors

Candidate Statement

My name is Marshall Titus, and I am seeking your support for a second term on the WSDA Board of Directors and for election as an ADA Delegate. Serving on the WSDA Board has been both an honor and a rewarding experience. During my first term, I worked collaboratively with fellow board members, actively contributed where needed, and had the privilege of chairing the Student Loan Task Force. Through the efforts of our team, we developed a valuable online resource that helps WSDA members better navigate student loan repayment and forgiveness options. I am proud of what we have accomplished together and remain committed to advancing the interests of our members and the profession. I would be grateful for the opportunity to continue serving on the Board and building on the progress we have made. I am also seeking election as an ADA Delegate. In this role, I would bring my experience, leadership, and commitment to advocacy to represent WSDA and District 11 at the ADA House of Delegates. My service on the WSDA Board has provided me with valuable insight into the issues facing organized dentistry, and I believe that perspective will allow me to be an effective voice for Washington dentists at the national level. Thank you for your consideration and support. I would be honored to earn your vote.

Current Positions

- WSDA BOD, 2 years
- ADEX (WREB/CDCA/CITA) Examiner, 20 years

Former Positions

- DQAC Commissioner, 8 years
- CODA Commissioner, 3 years
- CODA PreDoc Review Committee

Professional Affiliations

- American College of Dentistry
- International College of Dentistry

Education

- Howard University College of Dentistry, DDS 1986
- University of San Francisco, BS 1980

Other

- PSIA/AASI, Level 2 Snowboard Instructor, 15 years

Candidates for ADA Delegate



Dr. John Gibbons

Candidate for ADA Delegate

Candidate Statement

Currently, the ADA is facing significant challenges, including fiscal missteps and declining membership. The ADA House of Delegates is the governing body of the Association, and now more than ever, we need strong leadership to help restore the ADA to its rightful role as the voice of our profession. In contrast, the WSDA is a shining example of what can be achieved when an organization builds a strong fiscal foundation. Its financial stewardship has enabled a reduction in dues, which has contributed to increased membership and engagement. With your input and support, I will work as one of your representatives to the ADA House of Delegates to keep the ADA's vision—optimal oral health for all—and its mission of helping dentists succeed while advancing the public's health at the forefront of our efforts. Many of our members face significant challenges, including high student debt, low reimbursement rates, and workforce shortages. The ADA can and should be a strong advocate in addressing these issues at both the state and national levels. As a WSDA representative to the ADA House of Delegates, I will bring the lessons I have learned while serving on the WSDA Board of Directors and apply them at the national level. I will work collaboratively with my fellow delegates to strengthen the ADA and restore it as the premier voice of our profession. I would be honored to earn your support.

Current Positions

- American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD), Chair, PAC Steering Committee, 2025-2026
- WSDA, Legislative Task Force, 2017- present
- WSDA, Dental Benefits Committee, 2023- present
- WSDA, Dental Wellness Task Force, 2024- present
- PNWU School Of Dental Medicine, Dean's Leadership Council, 2024-present

Former Positions

- WSDA, President, 2022-2023
- AAPD, Western District Trustee, 2015-2018
- Western Society of Pediatric Dentistry (WSPD), President, 2014-2015
- Washington State Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (WSAPD), President, 2009-2019
- ADA, House of Delegates, Alternate 2016, Delegate 2022-2024

Professional Affiliations

- ADA/WSDA
- AAPD
- WSPD
- WSAPD
- American College of Dentist

Education

- Certificate in Pediatric Dentistry, Oregon Health Science University, 1985
- DMD, Washington University School of Dental Medicine, 1983
- BS in Zoology, BYU
- Executive Leadership Certificate, Northwestern Kellogg School of Management, 2018
- Executive Leadership Certificate, Wharton Executive Education, 2023

Other

- Olympic College, President's Steering Committee. 2023-present
- Olympic College Foundation, Board of Directors, 2026
- Olympic College, Dental Hygiene and Assisting Committee, 2024-present
- University of Washington, Pediatric Dental, Affiliated Instructor
- Poulsbo- North Kitsap Rotary, Member, 2024-present



Dr. Bernard Larson

Candidate for ADA Delegate

Candidate Statement

I am asking for an additional term as your ADA delegate because we now have an opportunity to significantly change the direction of the ADA. Last year's House voted to discard the much-touted new governance model after giving it a brief try; this following the Board of Trustees' decision to terminate the executive director. Currently it is not particularly clear what governance scheme the ADA is going to follow. I would suggest that it is important to have members with historical background to avoid repeating the past. I have 11 years' experience participating in the House and have made meaningful connections with delegates from across the country. Personal relationships are important in getting resolutions passed in the ADA House. Our 11th District is always at the forefront with new ideas. In their most recent House of Delegates survey, the ADA hierarchy was paying attention, and asked members how they feel about some of those same concepts. Sensible changes may be closer than ever before, and I would enjoy helping bring those to fruition. I have the experience navigating the ADA House, which is essential to the success of our delegation in protecting dentists and patients in our care. The chance to continue to mentor the next generation of leaders as they learn the intricacies of the ADA House of Delegates is a responsibility I enjoy. I am here to effectively represent you and am always open to your input. Thank you for your past support. I would appreciate your vote.

Current Positions

- ADA Delegate, 2016-present
- AAPD Government Affairs Committee, member, 2013-present
- WSDA Legislative Task Force, member, 2017-present

Former Positions

- WDIA Board, Member, 9 years

- Position 2 Mount Baker District Dental Society, Delegate, 10 years Former
- Position 3 WSDA, Board 5 yrs, President Elect, President, Immediate Past President, 3 years
- DentPac Board, 6 years (Chair 4 years)
- WA State Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, President, 2006-2007

Professional Affiliations

- American Dental Association
- American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
- American College of Dentists
- Pierre Fauchard Academy
- International College of Dentists

Education

- Specialty Residency, George Washington University / Children's National Medical Center, 1994
- AEGD, Evans Army Hospital, Fort Carson, 1987
- DDS, Marquette University School of Dentistry, 1986
- BS, Marquette University, 1982

Other

- ADA, Action Team Leader, WA 2nd district, 26 years
- University of Washington, Affiliate Faculty, Dept. of Pediatric Dentistry, 23 years
- Children's Museum of Skagit County, Board Director, 22 years
- Boy Scouts of America, Asst. Scoutmaster, 9 years
- Northwestern Kellogg Executive Leadership Institute, 4 years



Dr. Peixi Liao

Candidate for ADA Delegate

Candidate Statement

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- Member of American College of Prosthodontists Research Committee, 2023-2025



Dr. Josanne (Jan) O'Dell

Candidate for ADA Delegate

Candidate Statement

Dr. Josanne (Jan) O'Dell has spent her career of over 30 years dedicated to the care of her patients, contributing to community, organized dentistry and educating the future generations of dental professionals. After teaching part-time at both USC and UCLA, she retired from private practice and entered full-time academics. First as Associate Professor at the University of Tennessee, where she was involved with the development of the surgical curriculum for the advanced training of residents as well as being the course director for the undergraduate endodontic department. She then became the Department Chair of the Endodontic Department at the University of Mississippi before retiring and relocating to Washington, where most recently became a professor at the new PNWU, SoD, while she continues to practice part-time. Her commitment to her specialty, the community, and her patients reflect her continued passion for dentistry and her desire to share her knowledge and experience with students. Dr. O'Dell is a member of ADA, WSDA, PCDS, CDA, AAE, ABE, COD & ACLM. She spends her spare time with her husband and family, quilting, making furniture, and volunteering.

Current Positions

- ADA test construction committee, committee member - 3+ years
- AAE Educational Affairs Committee, committee member - 3+ years
- PNWU Curriculum Development position 1 year
- American College of Legal Medicine, president elect - 5+ years

Former Positions

- CODA Site Visitor, 5+ years
- CODA Review Committee Member, 3+ years

Professional Affiliations

- ADA
- American Association of Endodontics (AAE)
- American Board of Endodontics (ABE)
- College of Diplomates (CoD)
- American College of Legal Medicine (ACLM)

Education

- University of Colorado, School of Dental Medicine, 1990, DDS
- VA Med Center, 1991, General Practice Residency Certificate
- University of Southern California, School of Dentistry, 1995, Endo Certificate
- Loma Linda University, 2010 Implant Fellowship Certificate
- Trinity College of Law, 2014, JD



Dr. Stephen Pong

Candidate for ADA Delegate

Candidate Statement

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Current Positions

- SKCDS Executive Committee Board Member – 5yrs
- WSDA Wellness Taskforce - 1yr

Former Positions

- SKCDS Delegate at WSDA House of Delegates – 6yrs
- SKCDS DEI Committee Chair - 2yrs

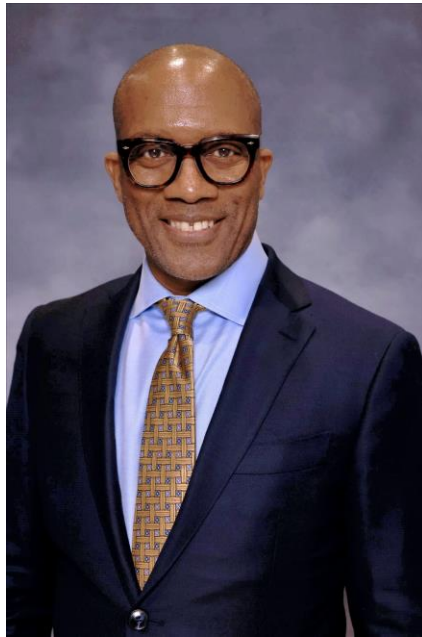
Professional Affiliations

- SKCDS, WSDA, ADA tripartite member

- Academy of General Dentistry
- Northwest Chinese Dental Association Member

Education

- DDS - University of Southern California – 2004
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Dr. Marshall Titus

Candidate for ADA Delegate

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Current Positions

- WSDA BOD, 2 years
- ADEX (WREB/CDCA/CITA) Examiner, 20 years

Former Positions

- DQAC Commissioner, 8 years

- CODA Commissioner, 3 years
- CODA PreDoc Review Committee

Professional Affiliations

- American College of Dentistry
- International College of Dentistry

Education

- Howard University College of Dentistry, DDS 1986
- University of San Francisco, BS 1980

Other

- PSIA/AASI, Level 2 Snowboard Instructor, 15 years