



# Washington State Office of Administrative Hearings

Independent | Very Accessible | Expert

**Mission:** We independently resolve administrative disputes through accessible, fair, prompt processes and issue sound decisions.  *Holding independent, fair hearings since 1982*

## Vision:

We offer a convenient, easy to navigate system to request and receive fair, impartial hearings on appeals of government actions. Washingtonians and government agencies trust OAH as the best neutral adjudicative forum to resolve administrative disputes.

## History:

The Legislature created OAH in 1981, adopting the recommendation of the Washington State Bar Association Administrative Law Task Force to “*improve the appearance of fairness*” in the administrative hearing process.

The Legislature also intended administrative hearings to be easily accessible for the public: *“Hearings shall be conducted with the greatest degree of informality consistent with fairness and the nature of the proceeding.”*

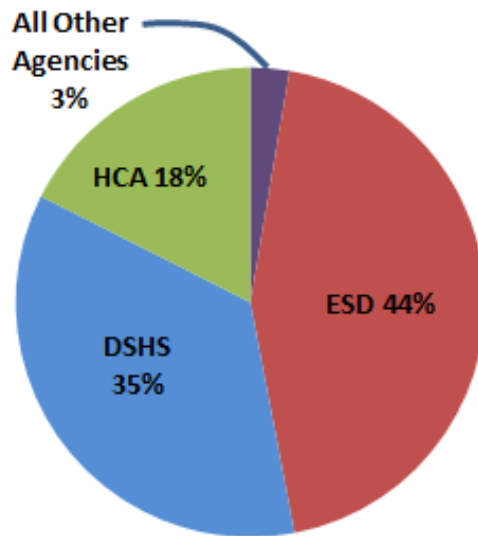
RCW 34.12.010

[WWW.OAH.WA.GOV](http://WWW.OAH.WA.GOV)

## Why we hold hearings:

So that citizens and businesses who disagree with decisions made by state and some local government agencies have the opportunity to be heard. The Administrative Law Judge presiding over the hearing issues a written order deciding whether to affirm, modify or reverse the agency decision.

## Number of Cases Received in FY 2017 – 40,218



Top 10 by Referring Agency	Cases
Employment Security Department	17,827
Department of Social and Health Services	14,265
Health Care Authority	7,055
Labor and Industries	324
Superintendent of Public Instruction	230
Liquor and Cannabis Board	218
Department of Early Learning	121
Department of Licensing	31
Department of Financial Institutions	23
Washington State University	19

**Who hearings involve:** People of Washington, Employment Security Department - Department of Social and Health Services - Health Care Authority - Department of Licensing - Gambling Commission - Washington State Patrol - Liquor and Cannabis Control Board - Office of the Insurance Commissioner - Executive Ethics Board - Department of Labor and Industries - Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction - Washington State Department of Transportation Toll Adjudications - State Human Rights Commission - Department of Financial Institutions - Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises - Department of Early Learning – Department of Retirement Systems – Local Government Agencies.

## OAH Workforce:

- 102 Administrative Law Judges
- 72 Field Office Support and HQ Administrative Staff

