

# WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

## WSBA SECTION ANNUAL REPORT

**FY 2024: October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024**

*The mission of the Washington State Bar Association is to serve the public and the members of the Bar, to ensure integrity of the legal profession, and to champion justice.*

**Instructions:** In accordance with the WSBA Bylaws, Committees, Other Bar Entities (excluding Regulatory Boards<sup>j</sup>), Councils, and Sections must submit an annual report to the Executive Director. The information below should reflect the activities and outcomes from the fiscal year October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024. Information in the annual report will be provided to the Executive Director and Board of Governors, and may be published for other purposes, such as *Bar News*, volunteer recruitment messaging, and other WSBA activity-based reporting.

It is recommended that completion of the annual report be a collaborative effort with members of your entity, the BOG liaison, and staff liaison.

**Submission Deadline is Friday, October 11:** please submit by emailing to Carolyn MacGregor ([carolynm@wsba.org](mailto:carolynm@wsba.org)).

<b>Name of Section:</b>	Low Bono Section
<b>Chair or Co-Chairs:</b>	Lesli Ashley
<b>Staff Liaison:</b> (include name, job title, and department if known)	Carolyn MacGregor, Sections Program Specialist, Advancement Department
<b>Board of Governors Liaison:</b>	Kevin Fay
<b>Purpose:</b> <i>May be stated in Bylaws, Charter, Court Rule, etc.</i>	
<p>The underlying purpose of “low bono” is to increase the availability of legal representation and legal services to clients of moderate means. Clients of moderate means are individuals who have a need or a want for legal representation or legal services, but who cannot qualify or pro bono legal assistance and who typically cannot afford the cost of traditional law firm representation or legal services. These individuals comprise the majority of those seeking resolution of, or planning for, legal issues and legal matters. The Low Bono Section is a community of lawyers, LLLTs, other legal professionals, and law students committed to identifying solutions, creating systems, and developing projects to increase the overall availability and affordability of legal representation and legal services.</p>	
<b>Strategy to Fulfill Purpose:</b>	

<p>See Bylaws 2.1 Developing and providing resources for members, regardless of field or area of practice, who are dedicated and committed to providing low bono legal services, defined as legal and law-related services provided with the intent to increase accessibility of legal services for people of moderate financial means. 2.2 Providing a forum and opportunity for education, training, and sharing of forms, practice tips, client counseling techniques, alternative forms of conflict resolution, and other resources to and among members of the Section. 2.3 Developing “best practices” and “alternative practices” for providing competent, current, efficient, and economical professional services while being mindful of the clients’ moderate means</p>	
<p><b>How does the section’s purpose help further the mission of the WSBA “to serve the public and the members of the Bar, to ensure integrity of the legal profession, and to champion justice”?</b></p>	
<p>The Low Bono Section provides a forum and opportunity for education, training, sharing of forms, practice tips, client counseling techniques, and alternative techniques for conflict resolution. The section provides its members with free mentorship opportunities, discounted admission to low-bono-oriented CLEs, networking and referral opportunities with other low bono professionals, leadership development opportunities, and more.</p>	
<p><b>Top 2023 -2024 Section Accomplishments:</b></p>	
<p>Developed and conducted 4 Mini-CLE</p>	
<p>Participated in review of 15 legislative bills effecting members or constituents of section</p>	
<p>Expanded social media sites and actively posted about the section and its events</p>	
<p>Increased membership levels</p>	
<p><b>Next Fiscal Year: 2024-2025 Top SMART Goals &amp; Priorities:</b>  <i>Tip: SMART Goals are: Specific Measurable, Relevant and Time-Bound</i>  <a href="#">Use this worksheet</a> (under ‘Leadership’) to develop your SMART goals and then summarize below in 1-2 sentences.</p>	
1	<p><b>Increase Membership by 15%: Specifically target legal professionals through focused outreach campaigns and partnership events. Track progress quarterly to ensure membership growth by the end of the fiscal year</b></p>
2	<p><b>Host 6 Mini-CLEs: Expand educational offerings by conducting six low-bono-oriented Mini-CLEs throughout the fiscal year. Measure success through attendance rates and post-event feedback surveys.</b></p>
3	<p><b>Expand Legislative Advocacy: Actively participate in the review of legislative bills affecting the low bono community. Ensure timely feedback and contributions to legislative discussions by setting quarterly review targets.</b></p>
4	<p><b>Increase Membership engagement and interaction for the purpose of developing a Low Bono community educated about available resources.</b></p>
<p><b>Looking Ahead:</b> <i>Please share any long-term goals and/or priorities that your entity aims to address.</i></p>	

<b>1</b>	<b>Host an Annual Low Bono Summit:</b> The Low Bono Section will organize and host an annual summit within the next 2-3 years. This event will bring together low bono practitioners, mediators, and other legal professionals for a full day conference that includes CLEs, networking opportunities, and collaborative workshops aimed at improving affordable legal services.
<b>2</b>	<b>Launch a Scholarship Fund for students interested in Low Bono:</b> To support legal professionals offering low bono services, the Low Bono Section will create a scholarship or grant fund within 5 years. This fund will provide financial assistance to students committed to serving moderate-income clients, with the goal of supporting at least 3 professionals annually.
<b>3</b>	<b>Advocate for Legislative Change:</b> Over the next 2-5 years, the Low Bono Section will actively engage in legislative advocacy, working to influence policy changes that benefit low bono practitioners and their clients. The section aims to participate in the review of at least 25 legislative bills impacting access to justice and affordable legal services.
<p><b>Please describe how this entity is addressing diversity, equity, and inclusion:</b>  <i>How have you elicited input from a variety of perspectives in decision-making? What have you done to promote a culture of inclusion within the board or committee? What has your committee/board done to promote equitable conditions for members from historically underrepresented backgrounds to enter, stay, thrive and eventually lead in the profession? Other?</i></p>	
<p><b>Our Executive Committee remains committed to fostering participation from a diverse group of individuals. All meetings are accessible remotely, with meeting details published in advance to ensure broad participation. To accommodate members with varying schedules, including those with small children, Executive Committee meetings are held later in the day, typically on the second Wednesday of each month. We also continue to host virtual and in-person socials after these meetings, inviting all Section Members to attend both the meetings and the post-meeting gatherings. Additionally, the Executive Committee plans to hold more in-person meetings in 2025 to enhance face-to-face interactions and create stronger networking opportunities.</b></p>	
<p><b>Please share feedback regarding the support and engagement provided by WSBA.</b>  <i>For example:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Quality of WSBA staff support/services, including technology solutions</i></li> <li>• <i>Involvement with Board of Governors, including assigned BOG liaison</i></li> <li>• <i>Ideas you have on ways WSBA can continue to strengthen/support your entity.</i></li> </ul>	
<p><b>The section receives excellent support from WSBA staff.</b></p>	
<p><b>Please quantify your section's 2023-2024 member benefits:</b>  <i>For example:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>\$3000 Scholarships, donations, grants awarded;</i></li> <li>• <i>4 mini-CLEs produced</i></li> </ul>	

## Sections

0	Co-sponsored half-day, full-day and/or multi-day CLE seminars with WSBA	
0	Co-sponsored half-day, full-day and/or multi-day CLE seminars with <i>non</i> -WSBA entity.	
0	Receptions/forums hosted or co-hosted	
0	\$ amount given through donations/scholarships/grants.	
0	Newsletters/publications produced	
4	Mini-CLEs produced	
0	New Lawyer Outreach events/benefits	
0	Recognitions/Awards given	
8	Other (please describe): Social media carousel posts and engagement with section members	
<p align="center"><b>SECTION DATA</b>  <i>To Be Completed by WSBA Sections Team</i></p>		
Section Membership Information:	90	Membership Size: <i>(As of September 30, 2024)</i>
	\$8,695	FY24 Revenue (\$): For Sections Only: <i>As of September 30, 2024</i>
	\$4,677      \$448	Budgeted and Direct Expenses: <i>Does not include the Per-Member-Charge. For Direct Expenses, draft estimate as of December 3, 2024.</i>
Section Executive Committee Information:	9	Size of Executive Committee: <i>(include and specify voting and non-voting positions)</i>
	8	Number of Vacancies for FY25: <i>The number of positions with terms beginning October 1, 2024 (FY25).</i>
	5	Number of Applicants for FY25: <i>Applications submitted in the Spring-Summer of 2024 for terms beginning October 1, 2024 (FY25)</i>

## Sections

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<sup>i</sup> Supreme Court Boards (Access to Justice Board, Disciplinary Board, LLLT Board, Limited Practice Board, MCLE Board and Practice of Law Board) provide annual reports to WSBA to support its responsibility under [GR 12.3](#), to provide oversight and monitor compliance with applicable rules and orders. Boards have the option to use the WSBA template or to share their annual reports to the Washington Supreme Court.