



September 8, 2017

Washington State Bar Association
1325 4th Ave #600
Seattle, WA 98101

When our firm initially expressed our intent to form a Cannabis Law Section within the Washington State Bar Association, we were unsure how receptive the legal community would be to the idea. First, we reached out to WSBA to inquire about whether the bar association would be open to this idea, and we were met with a very positive response. We then utilized the resources provided online by the WSBA as a guide to put together our letter of intent, bylaws, and budget for the section.

Next, we began the process of collecting the requisite signatures by reaching out to people in our personal networks. Many of these individuals then offered to share our letter of intent and petition with others that they knew. We also attended CLEs for topics that overlap with cannabis law and discussed the possibility of a Cannabis Law Section with other attorneys. During this process we were fortunate to connect with an attorney who had successfully helped with the creation of another section at the WSBA and she offered support for our endeavor. She then reviewed our bylaws and budget and gave us feedback based on her past experience. Following this review, along with reviews by a few others, we submitted our materials to the WSBA to officially begin the process of creating a Cannabis Law Section.

The primary purpose of this section is to connect practitioners in the State of Washington who are interested in learning more about the area of cannabis law. The Cannabis Law Section would not only be a repository of information to guide practitioners through this highly technical area of law, but also a network of highly skilled attorneys working together to interpret the rules and regulations in order to create best practice guidelines for the industry.

Cannabis Law touches on several other areas of the law, from environmental to land use to administrative law, but it does not wholly fit into any of the existing sections within the WSBA. The Cannabis Law Section would be the among the first of its kind. To our knowledge, only one other state bar association has created or endorsed a cannabis law section or practice group. The WSBA would be at the forefront of this nascent, but fast-growing industry, and as other state bar associations contemplate creating sections or practice groups in this industry, they will look to Washington's Cannabis Law Section for guidance.

Thank you for your consideration,

Joshua Ashby
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