

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

SECTION ANNUAL REPORT – 2019

Deadline: Friday, December 6, 2019

Email Annual Report to: sections@wsba.org

Name of the Section:	<i>Alternative Dispute Resolution</i>	
Chair:	<i>Joanna Roth</i>	
Section Information: <i>*To be completed by WSBA*</i>	Membership Size: <i>(As of December 15, 2019)</i>	339
	Staff Lead:	Patrick Mead
	BOG Liaison:	Brain Tollefson
	FY19 revenue (\$): <i>As of September 30, 2019</i>	\$18,585.11
	FY19 direct expenses (\$): <i>(As of September 30, 2019; does not include the Per-Member-Charge)</i>	\$10,084.61
Purpose:	<p>Promoting the informed use and best practices of alternative dispute resolution processes by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ providing resources; ▪ educating members of the bar and the public; and ▪ addressing issues relating to the growth and development of alternative dispute resolution services in the State of Washington. 	
2019 Accomplishments and Work in Progress:	<p><u>Executive Committee</u> The Executive Committee met for its annual retreat November 15-16, 2019. We began by reviewing the goals and achievements for the past year, and created our priorities and goals for the 2019-2020 year.</p> <p><u>NW DR Conference Planning Committee</u> Each year, the WSBA ADR Section and University of Washington School of Law co-sponsor the Northwest Dispute Resolution</p>	

Conference. The 25th annual conference was held on March 28-29, 2019 on the UW Law School campus, and was attended by more than 300 attorneys and mediators. FY 2018-19 Section Vice Chair Mel Simburg made remarks at the evening reception in support of the Conference and the ADR Section.

As in prior years, members of the WSBA ADR Section provided leadership in planning and organizing this nationally recognized ADR conference. Four Executive Committee members serve on the conference planning committee. In addition, Executive Committee members were selected as presenters for the conference:

Craig Beles: A thought-provoking exploration of how bias and assumptions impact our professional and personal relationships; and A real-life case study exploring the precursors to unthinkable acts of incivility in the legal profession.

Roger Moss with colleagues: Ombuds, Coach, Mediator: Shapeshifting to Resolve Housing Conflicts Presenters: An immersive session in the dynamic, no rules, interdisciplinary, compassion-driven practices of Conflict Intervention Service, a groundbreaking program that prevents homelessness while showing participants how to create thriving tenant-landlord relationships.

Each year, the Section sponsors competitive scholarships to enable those with financial needs to attend the Conference at no cost.

Professional Development Committee

Executive Committee members participated in Open Sections Night in January. In March, the Section co-sponsored a CLE with the King County Bar Association at the WSBA offices on White Fragility: A Dialogue on How Mediators Can Better Handle Racial Issues. In October, the Section co-sponsored with KCBA a CLE on An Introduction to Liberating Structures - Unleashing the Power of Groups with a reception for 2019 mediation week.

Land Use & Environmental Mediation Committee

The Land Use & Environmental Mediation Committee continued to support the use of mediation in land use and environmental matters. The Committee worked with the Seattle Hearing Examiner to improve the use of mediation in Examiner cases, and it continues to provide information to the public on land use and environmental mediation on the Committee web page hosted by the WSBA.

Legislative Committee

The Legislative Committee actively monitors legislation and rules relating to the practice of ADR in Washington. We also promote

legislation and rules on policies endorsed by the ADR Section Executive Committee. During the past year we have continued to look at early mandatory mediation through legislation and rules, working with stakeholders, legislators, judges and practitioners at both a state and county level. We have continued to look at legislation requiring early mediation in family law cases concerning parenting. We looked at legislation in Washington modeled on the uniform family law arbitration act. We participated in the discussion within the WSBA Committee on Professional Ethics regarding their proposed Advisory Opinion to replace Advisory Opinion 2223 on the drafting of agreements by attorney-mediators.

Media & Communications Committee
 The Media & Communications Committee supported the Section’s mission by helping to publicize Section events and upcoming activities of interest to Section Members. Additionally, the webmaster added new Ning social platform members to grow the reach of the Section.

<p>Please quantify your section’s current member benefits:</p> <p><i>For example:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$3000 Scholarships, donations, grants awarded; • 4 mini-CLEs produced 	Quantity	Member Benefit
	\$4,500	Scholarships, donations, grants awarded
		Law school outreach events/benefits hosted
	2	Legislative bills reviewed/drafted
		Newsletters produced
	1	Mini-CLEs produced; participated in encore presentation of 2018 Arbitration CLE
	1	Co-sponsored half/day to multi-day CLEs with WSBA <i>Co-sponsored the 2-day 25th Annual Northwest Dispute Resolution Conference</i>
	1	Receptions/forums hosted; Offered a call-in event to discuss proposed Family Law Arbitration Act.
		Awards given
		New Lawyer Outreach events/benefits
	Other (please describe): <i>Co-sponsorship with KCBA of CLE entitled White Fragility: A Dialogue on How Mediators Can Better Handle Racial Issues; Co-sponsorship with KCBA of 2019 mediation</i>	

		<i>week CLE on An Introduction to Liberating Structures - Unleashing the Power of Groups.</i>
2020 Goals & Priorities (Top 5)	1	Support the continuation of the Northwest Dispute Resolution Conference
	2	Connect with Section members and ADR practitioners state-wide
	3	Connect and coordinate with other alternative dispute resolution organizations, including other Bar Associations, Dispute Resolution Centers and the Washington Mediation Association
	4	Reach out to law students and newer lawyers to provide information and mentoring on incorporating alternative dispute resolution practices (ex. mediation and arbitration)
	5	Act to fulfill mission by providing resources; educating members of the bar and the public; and addressing issues relating to the growth and development of alternative dispute resolution services in the State of Washington

Please report how this section is addressing diversity:

(Are you using any of the tools provided by WSBA and if so, how? Have you sought out training or consultation from the Diversity Specialist? How have you elicited input from a variety of perspectives in your decision-making? What have you done to promote a culture of inclusion within the board or committee? What has your section done to promote equitable conditions for members from historically underrepresented backgrounds to enter, stay, thrive, and eventually lead the profession?)

The ADR Executive Committee welcomes the participation of practitioners who bring a diverse perspective, whether it be based on age, gender, ethnicity, geography, or another factor. We have transitioned to holding monthly meetings by Zoom to facilitate increased participation outside the Seattle area.

As addressed later in the report, the Executive Committee continues to direct energy toward involving new/younger lawyers in the Section to foster age/practice experience diversity.

We recognize that we are an older section; the Executive Committee reached out to WSBA staff as we seek to increase diversity in age and experience within the section.

Please report how this section is addressing professionalism:

(Does the section’s work promote respect and civility within the legal community? Does it seek to improve relationships between and among lawyers, judges, staff and clients? Does it raise awareness about the causes and/or consequences of unprofessional behavior?)

Our activities in the NW DR conference are aimed in part at increasing the use of respectful processes in dispute resolution. Additionally, the work of the Section to further the skills of knowledge of all practitioners—ADR professionals and advocates—supports constructive resolution of disputes in a manner that promotes civility and respectful discourse.

Please report how this section is integrating new and young lawyers into its work:

(How have you brought new and young lawyers into your decision making process? Has the section supported new and young lawyers by (for example) helping to find and prepare them for employment, assisting with debt management, building community, and providing leadership opportunities?)

As an Executive Committee, we frequently consider how we can reach out to support new/younger lawyers; this has been a formal topic of discussion at our annual retreat, is a part of the mission of our Professional Development Committee, and often comes up informally in Executive Committee meetings.

We consistently have numerous Executive Committee members attend the Open Sections night in an effort to connect with new and young lawyers.

We will be hosting events for young lawyers as part of our 2019-2020 programming.

Please describe your Executive Committee's relationship with WSBA staff and the Board of Governors.

For example:

- *Quality of WSBA staff support/services provided to Section Executive Committee*
- *Involvement with Board of Governors, including assigned BOG liaison*
- *Ideas you have on ways WSBA can continue to strengthen/support services to sections.*

The Section has been fortunate to receive excellent support from the WSBA Staff. There have been no issues in our involvement with the Board of Governors.

Note: Annual Reports will be provided to the WSBA Executive Director, Board of Governors and posted on your section's webpage. We encourage you to share the Annual Report with your BOG liaison and section membership.

Reports are scheduled to be included in the January 2020 BOG Meeting Materials.

Return by December 6, 2019 to sections@wsba.org