

WASHINGTON STATE B A R A S S O C I A T I O N

SECTION ANNUAL REPORT – 2019

Deadline: Friday, December 6, 2019

Email Annual Report to: sections@wsba.org

Name of the Section:	Business Law Section	
Chair:	David Eckberg	
Section Information: <i>*To be completed by WSBA*</i>	Membership Size: <i>(As of December 15, 2019)</i>	1,324
	Staff Lead:	Eleen Trang
	BOG Liaison:	Paul Swegle
	FY19 revenue (\$): <i>As of September 30, 2019</i>	\$34,223.51
	FY19 direct expenses (\$): <i>(As of September 30, 2019; does not include the Per-Member-Charge)</i>	\$13,826.25
Purpose:	<p>The purpose of the Section is to benefit the members of the Section and their clients: (a) by encouraging research and study, and the development of best practices, in the area of business law in the State of Washington, and sharing these efforts through continuing legal education where possible and appropriate; (b) by participating in the development of state legislation and regulations in order to improve and facilitate the administration of justice in the area of business law; and (c) by undertaking such other services relating to the area of business law as may be of benefit to members of the Section, members of the Bar and the greater public.</p>	
2019 Accomplishments and Work in Progress:	<p><u>Legislation.</u> This year, Senate Bill 5003 was signed into law by Governor Jay Inslee. The law amended the WBCA with respect to shareholder preemptive rights to unissued shares of a corporation. In addition, the Business Law Section continued its tradition of strong legislative involvement, with the active review of dozens of proposed bills through the legislative session.</p>	

	<p>Additionally, the Section has been diligently working on a proposal for amendments to the WBCA for WSBA-request legislation for the 2020 legislative session.</p> <p><u>Programming.</u> The Section co-sponsored one of its two perennial programs to the securities-focused legal community – the “Meet the Regulators” securities event. It also co-sponsored a CLE with the ADR Section – “Best Practices in Drafting the ADR Clause.” The Section also participated in the Northwest Securities Institute.</p> <p><u>Bylaws and Structure.</u> There were no major changes to the Bylaws and Structure of the Section this year.</p>	
<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 	<p>Quantity</p>	<p>Member Benefit</p>
	0	Scholarships, donations, grants awarded
		Law school outreach events/benefits hosted
		Legislative bills reviewed/drafted
	1 this year	Newsletters produced
		Mini-CLEs produced
	2	Co-sponsored half/day to multi-day CLEs with WSBA
	0	Receptions/forums hosted
	1 - \$5,000 donation awarded to Wayfind	Awards given
	0	New Lawyer Outreach events/benefits
		Other (please describe):
<p>2020 Goals & Priorities (Top 5)</p>	1	Continue the Section’s strong tradition of legislative participation
	2	Improve upon programming initiatives of the past year, including the new format of the mid-year

		meeting and the collaborative programming with the Corporate Counsel Section
	3	Conduct two mini-CLE's for our membership
	4	Continue the publication of our semi-annual newsletter and improve the content and member benefit on our WSBA-hosted website
	5	Actively recruit more members to participate in the Section.

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?)

Even as compared to other segments of the legal profession, the business law bar is historically lacking in diversity. The Section has tried to be cognizant of this in the constitution of our executive committee. Women and racial and ethnic minorities currently represent almost 25% of our executive committee, which seems like a good starting point in a historically homogeneous bar, if only a starting point. We are actively soliciting minority bar associations for their involvement within the Business Law Section. We have also sought out opportunities to participate in business law-tailored events in the community that focus on the inclusion and participation of underrepresented segments of the business law bar. For example, the Section has sponsored events in the past through the McMahan Fund that serve the dual purpose of addressing business issues and targeting underrepresented groups. As a Section, we continue to look for opportunities of this sort.

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?)

The Section seeks to promote professionalism among our members by growing the sense of community among them. Unfortunately, this past year we did not have any hosted or sponsored events due in part to logistics but we plan to continue with them in 2020 to help foster personal relationships among attorneys. We do not currently have any plans for an ethics-focused CLE program, but some portion of the mini-CLE's planned this year may include an ethics component.

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?)

The Section has a policy drafted into its bylaws of including a Young Lawyer Liaison in our executive committee as a full voting member. We attend and participate in Open Sections nights to try to promote business law among new/young lawyers. Further, we have co-sponsored and participated in specific CLEs coordinated by the young lawyers' group that focus on business law issues in the practices of more junior lawyers. We firmly understand that the long-term health of our Section is dependent on succession planning and outreach to new and young lawyers.

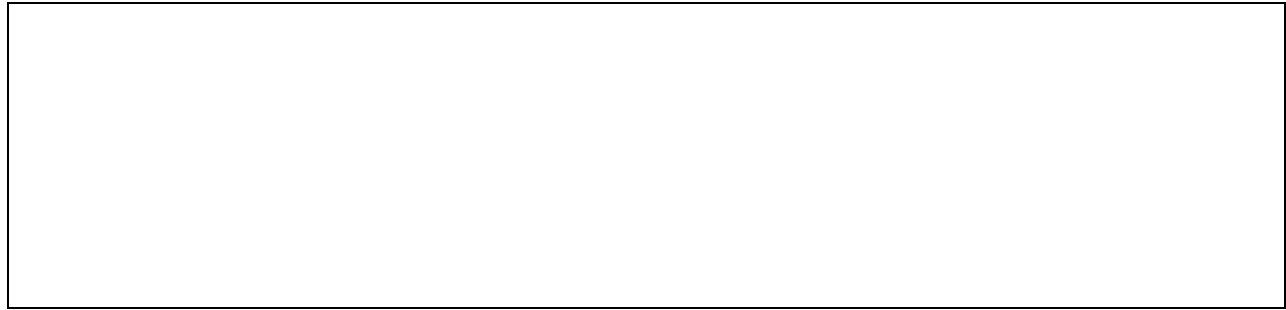
Please describe your Executive Committee's relationship with WSBA staff and the Board of Governors.

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.*

We believe the Section's relationship with the WSBA staff and governors has been fruitful. The WSBA staff has always been willing to help and provide assistance. We appreciate the lengths to which the WSBA staff always goes to acknowledge the contributions of the section leaders; we appreciate the WSBA leadership's willingness to consider questions of section support and autonomy; and we appreciate the WSBA's willingness to revisit the financial terms of CLE programming.

The Section Liaison position has stabilized this year with Eleen taking over this past year. She has been always available to assist in any way on behalf of our Section.



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