

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

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^j), 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).

Name of Section:	Liquor, Cannabis & Psychedelics Law Section
Chair or Co-Chairs:	Alexis Hartwell-Gobeske
Staff Liaison: (include name, job title, and department if known)	Carolyn MacGregor, Sections Program Specialist, Advancement Department
Board of Governors Liaison:	Allison Widney
Purpose: <i>May be stated in Bylaws, Charter, Court Rule, etc.</i>	
<p>The purposes of the Section shall be to: A. provide continuing legal and other education for its members in areas of common interest to professionals interested in cannabis, psychedelics, and/or liquor law; B. provide opportunities for Section members to become better acquainted with other legal professionals with similar interests; C. provide services including education and networking for students interested in some of the fastest growing new practices of law and updates to the long established practice of liquor law; D. provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and discussion about issues of common interest to Section members; E. provide advice to the Bar, as requested, on proposed legislation, court rules, and other matters; F. provide resources and education to legislators and regulators; and G. undertake such other services that may be of benefit to the public and the Bar.</p>	
Strategy to Fulfill Purpose:	

<p>Hold monthly meetings open to all members that include a discussion of industry updates and an opportunity to ask questions and learn from peers; hold an annual member meeting that includes a significant discussion about industry updates, questions, comments and provides a forum for learning and networking; develop relevant CLE programming; provide a resources section to members on our section page that provides basic information as a starting point for those interested in practicing in this area of law.</p>	
<p>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"?</p>	
<p>The section advances the board's mission by organizing educational programs, networking events, and offering informational resources to its members. These efforts help cultivate well-informed, skilled, and highly competent legal professionals in the field of cannabis law, thereby enhancing the integrity of the legal profession and benefiting the public.</p>	
<p>Top 2023 -2024 Section Accomplishments:</p>	
<p>Quarterly Virtual Mini CLEs: Successfully organized and offered quarterly virtual mini Continuing Legal Education (CLE) sessions to members for free, enhancing their professional development</p>	
<p>In-Person Events: Held two successful in-person events, including a CLE at Gonzaga followed by a wine mixer, and a networking event at DeLille Cellars, fostering community and professional networking.</p>	
<p>Annual Virtual Meeting: Conducted an annual virtual meeting to gather member feedback, which led to the implementation of more virtual CLEs and non-CLE in-person events based on member preferences.</p>	
<p>Monthly Open Meetings: Maintained monthly open meetings to discuss industry updates and encourage member participation, ensuring ongoing engagement and communication within the section.</p>	
<p>Next Fiscal Year: 2024-2025 Top SMART Goals & Priorities: <i>Tip: SMART Goals are: Specific Measurable, Relevant and Time-Bound</i> Use this worksheet (under 'Leadership') to develop your SMART goals and then summarize below in 1-2 sentences.</p>	
1	Continue to hold quarterly CLEs.
2	Increase membership by 20% by the end of the fiscal year
3	Increase member participation in both CLEs and open meetings by 20%
<p>Looking Ahead: <i>Please share any long-term goals and/or priorities that your entity aims to address.</i></p>	
1	Make the resources page a more valuable tool for members
2	Foster diversity, equity, and inclusion within the section
3	Create a newsletter/blog for the membership regarding industry updates

<p>Please describe how this entity is addressing diversity, equity, and inclusion:</p> <p><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>The section encourages diversity among its executive committee and membership – the executive committee is currently comprised of diverse individuals - those new to the practice of law, practitioners located in diverse areas of the state whose practice might vary from those in the greater Seattle area, and various age groups. The diverse makeup of the executive committee fosters a wide breadth of perspectives and opinions that help the section develop valuable and inclusive programming for its members. We have provided in-person CLE programming outside of the greater Seattle area to provide valuable networking opportunities to practitioners in diverse areas of the state. The section continues to make diversity and inclusion a priority at the executive committee level and within the membership as a whole and encourages the bar to provide suggestions as to how we can take further action to promote equitable conditions for members from historically underrepresented backgrounds.</p>	
<p>Please share feedback regarding the support and engagement provided by WSBA.</p> <p><i>For example:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Quality of WSBA staff support/services, including technology solutions</i> • <i>Involvement with Board of Governors, including assigned BOG liaison</i> • <i>Ideas you have on ways WSBA can continue to strengthen/support your entity.</i> 	
<p>Carolyn MacGregor has been an invaluable asset to our section, providing support with bylaw amendments, creating new committee positions, generating ideas to boost membership, and addressing general administrative queries. While the board of governors liaisons have not been heavily involved, they have occasionally attended our meetings. Our section meets monthly, and we encourage the section liaison to take a more active role by attending these meetings regularly</p>	
<p>Please quantify your section's 2023-2024 member benefits:</p> <p><i>For example:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>\$3000 Scholarships, donations, grants awarded;</i> • <i>4 mini-CLEs produced</i> 	
0	Co-sponsored half-day, full-day and/or multi-day CLE seminars with WSBA
	Co-sponsored half-day, full-day and/or multi-day CLE seminars with <i>non</i> -WSBA entity.
1	Receptions/forums hosted or co-hosted
	\$ amount given through donations/scholarships/grants.
	Newsletters/publications produced
4	Mini-CLEs produced

Sections

12	New Lawyer Outreach events/benefits	
	Recognitions/Awards given	
	Other (please describe):	
SECTION DATA <i>To Be Completed by WSBA Sections Team</i>		
Section Membership Information:	66	Membership Size: <i>(As of September 30, 2024)</i>
	\$3,049	FY24 Revenue (\$): For Sections Only: <i>As of September 30, 2024</i>
	\$2,100 \$1,239	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:	10	Size of Executive Committee: <i>(include and specify voting and non-voting positions)</i>
	9	Number of Vacancies for FY25: <i>The number of positions with terms beginning October 1, 2024 (FY25).</i>
	7	Number of Applicants for FY25: <i>Applications submitted in the Spring-Summer of 2024 for terms beginning October 1, 2024 (FY25)</i>

¹ 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.