

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

WSBA ENTITY ANNUAL REPORT FORM

FY 2023: October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023

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 Boards¹), 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 FY2023 (October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023). 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 the staff liaison.

Submission Deadline is Friday, October 13: please submit by emailing barleaders@wsba.org or requesting that your staff liaison submit the report internally.

Name of Entity:	Liquor, Cannabis & Psychedelics Law Section
Entity Size: <i>Total Number of Entity/Section Executive Committee Positions</i>	10
Chair or Co-Chairs:	Alexis Hartwell-Gobeske
Staff Liaison: <i>Include name, job title, and department if known</i>	Carolyn MacGregor
Board of Governors Liaison(s):	Mary Rathbone Erik Kaeding
Purpose of Entity: <i>May be stated in Bylaws, Charter, Court Rule, etc.</i>	
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.

Strategy to Fulfill Purpose:

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.

How does the entity’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”?

The section furthers the mission of the board by hosting educational programming, networking events, and providing informational resources to its members. These actions assist with developing well informed, capable and highly competent legal practitioners within the field of cannabis law which aids integrity within the legal profession and serves the public.

2022-2023 Entity Accomplishments:

The section engaged the membership and sought input from it in broadening the scope of its section topics, and based on support from the membership did broaden its scope to include the practice of liquor and psychedelics as we noticed that these areas of law were lacking representation. As a result, we have increased our membership base (although not significantly). We have increased the number of CLEs we provide, by committing to providing at least one CLE per quarter. So far in 2023, we have provided 3 CLE programs. We have broadened the scope of our CLEs to include education on both cannabis and liquor law issues. We expect to include programming for psychedelics in the near future. A larger executive committee provides a wider range of ideas and perspectives.

Looking Ahead: 2023-2024 Top Goals & Priorities:

1	Curate at least one in-person networking opportunity annually. We have discussed tying this together with the annual member meeting and a CLE.
2	Increase membership. We have already seen an increase in membership tied to our more varied and more frequent CLE programming, and expect to see a more significant increase in the upcoming year.
3	Foster diversity, equity, and inclusion within the section
4	Make the resources page a more valuable tool for members
5	Click or tap here to enter text.

Please describe how this entity is addressing diversity, equity, and inclusion:

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 committee/board done to promote equitable conditions for members from historically underrepresented backgrounds to enter, stay, thrive, and eventually lead the profession? Other?

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.

Please share feedback regarding the support and engagement provided by WSBA.

For example:

- *Quality of WSBA staff support/services, including technology solutions*
- *Involvement with Board of Governors, including assigned BOG liaison(s)*
- *Ideas you have for ways WSBA can continue to strengthen/support your entity.*

Carolyn MacGregor has been a wonderful resource for our section and has assisted the section through bylaw amendments, creating additional committee positions, ideas to increase the membership, and general administrative questions. The board of governors liaisons were not significantly involved in our section, but did on occasion attend a meeting. The section holds monthly meetings and the section liaison can take a more active role by attending our meetings on a more regular basis.

SECTIONS ONLY: Please quantify your section’s 2022-2023 member benefits:

For example:

- *\$3000 Scholarships, donations, grants awarded;*
- *4 mini-CLEs produced*

None. We did attempt this for a time, but had difficulty with the information becoming stale before the board approved the newsletter for publication	Newsletters/publications produced
2	Mini-CLEs produced
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
	1- Annual member meeting	Receptions/forums hosted or co-hosted
	0 – we lack the funds for this at this time	Scholarships, Donations, & Grants
	12 – we hold a monthly open meeting and have encouraged new member attendance	New Lawyer Outreach events/benefits
	Click or tap here to enter text.	Other (please describe): Click or tap here to enter text.
SECTIONS ONLY: Please quantify your section's 2022-2023 legislative activity.	28	Bills Reviewed
	28	Bills tracked
	0	Comments proposed
	0	Bills proposed/drafted
Entity Detail Report: To Be Completed by WSBA Staff		
Number of Entity Members/Section Executive Committee Members:	11	
Number of Section Members: <i>As of September 1, 2023. Note: The Section Membership year runs on the calendar year.</i>	71	
Number of Applicants for FY24 Positions: <i>October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024</i>	1	
Do you have vacant positions for the coming year, FY24?	No	
FY23 Budgeted Direct Expenses: <i>As of September 30, 2023. For Sections, this does not include the Per-Member-Charge.</i>	\$1,511	

FY23 Total Direct Expenses: <i>Draft estimate as of Dec. 1, 2023</i> <i>For Sections, this does not include the Per-Member-Charge.</i>	\$1,402
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ⁱ 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.