

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

SECTION ANNUAL REPORT – 2019

Deadline: Friday, December 6, 2019

Email Annual Report to: sections@wsba.org

Name of the Section:	Environmental and Land Use Law Section (ELUL)	
Chair:	Elizabeth A. Tellessen	
Section Information: <i>*To be completed by WSBA*</i>	Membership Size: <i>(As of December 15, 2019)</i>	813
	Staff Lead:	Eleen Trang
	BOG Liaison:	Dan Clark
	FY19 revenue (\$): <i>As of September 30, 2019</i>	\$30,425.92
	FY19 direct expenses (\$): <i>(As of September 30, 2019; does not include the Per-Member-Charge)</i>	\$15,425.49
Purpose:	<p>The ELUL Section is a formal association of attorneys, other professionals, and law students who share a common focus and interest in the practice of environmental and land use law. Our Section represents a diverse membership with individuals who are often on different sides of an issue, but who are all committed to civil and professional cooperation for the protection and enhancement of our communities. Accordingly, our Section endeavors to continually and regularly provide opportunities and forums for the interchange of ideas surrounding environmental and land use law.</p>	
2019 Accomplishments and Work in Progress:	<p>ELUL's main event is the three-day Midyear Conference and Membership Meeting held each spring. In 2019, this conference was held at Alderbrook Resort. Topics included case law and legislative updates by individuals working in those fields, environmental hot topics, and insights into practical aspects of land use law in Washington. Each year we also have a high-level keynote speaker, and this year we were thankful to have Attorney General,</p>	

Bob Ferguson.

In December, we hold our annual mini-CLE on ethics. While other mini-CLEs were not held this year, we are looking into providing more opportunities as webcast(s) that will be available beyond the initial conference date.

This year the Section has undertaken an effort to produce a more user friendly on-line newsletter, which is anticipated to be circulated in the coming weeks. The goal for our newsletter is to make it smaller, with articles that may be disseminated and accessed through social media.

We have also continued to provide legislative updates this past legislative session with targeted environmental and land use bill information sent to members by the list-serve so members can keep up with the ever-changing legislative sessions. Given the diversity of membership, the Section does not take positions on any particular bill.

Finally, for our soon-to-be and young lawyers, we continued our annual networking receptions in both Seattle and Spokane – coordinated with the law schools – and were deeply appreciative of the number of practicing attorneys who took time out of their busy schedules to network and encourage those new to the field. We were also graciously joined in the sponsorship of these events by the Environmental and Land Use Section of the King County Bar Association and the ABA Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources. These activities go hand-in-hand with our highly successful grant program that awards funds to students who participate in activities that further their interest and commitment to the practice of environmental or land use law.

<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
	2	Scholarships, donations, grants awarded
	2	\$1,000 Law student Grants Scholarships for Mid-Year CLE Registration
	1 Event	Law school outreach events/benefits hosted
	Numerous	Legislative bills reviewed
	1	Newsletters produced
1	Mini-CLEs produced	

	1	Co-sponsored half/day to multi-day CLEs with WSBA
	2	Receptions/forums hosted
	3	Awards given to departing board members
	1	New Lawyer Outreach events/benefits
		Other (please describe): Adopted a new ELUL Logo
2020 Goals & Priorities (Top 5)	1	Endeavor to increase diversity in the section in terms of individual attributes, practice areas, and geographic location, among others.
	2	Continue efforts to circulate a useable and informative newsletter.
	3	Maintain fiscal and financial responsibility, which will allow continued development of programming as well as additional outreach and grants.
	4	Promote networking of ELUL attorneys and further engagement of attorneys entering our area of practice.
	5	

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 ELUL executive committee has received training from the WSBA Diversity Specialist and reviewed and discussed the common misperceptions and barriers regarding achieving diversity and how to overcome them. Based on numbers provided by the Bar, the Section is improving; however, we acknowledge there is always more that could be done. Currently, we actively solicit from multiple minority groups to participate in the slate of candidates for election to the Committee and for mid-year co-chairs and speakers. We have also contacted minority student law associations to garner interest in joining our yearly student-professional social events. We also evaluate venues for barrier free accessibility, and changed the location of our law student-professional social in an effort to increase accessibility.

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 ELUL Section has historically been an association of members with diverse backgrounds and opposing interests on any particular topic. Accordingly, civility and professionalism have long been part of our core moral compass. Our networking events strive to engage members in a fun and casual manner so that the person behind the client is known, as this often douses the

flames of disagreement. Our educational events also frequently include a “view from the bench” to provide practitioners with insight of what our court and administrative judges need and wish to see to effect justice.

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 ELUL Section has, in recent years, more actively involved our young lawyer liaison and so has received valuable insight as to how to better engage law students and new lawyers into the fields of environmental and land use law. The Section also has seen success in providing grants to each law school and co-sponsoring networking events with students and practitioners. Not only does this expose students to the field, but it promotes involvement by attorneys and furthers civility and professionalism by creating an environment of inclusion and open communication.

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.*

WSBA staff turnover has been a continuity concern for our committee, though we have established good working relationships and appreciated the role served by each sections liaison and BOG liaison assigned to our section. There has been difficulties with the changes in the WSBA personnel responsible for coordinating and planning midyear seminars in the past few years. Although we have greatly valued our good working relationship with Kevin Plachy.

Overall, we remain concerned and continue to try to monitor communications between the Board of Governors and the various sections. It is not always clear, however, what is going on at the larger policy level. A more thoughtful approach and coordination with regard to sections would be helpful to institute and maintain, in general. Although there was an effort to have sections represented through the bar structure workgroup, it did not appear those contributions were valued. Fundamentally, the Bar should appreciate that sections are a vital part of the WSBA, which directly serve its members, but administered by volunteers.

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