

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

## 2020 SECTION ANNUAL REPORT

**January 1 - December 31, 2020**

*Deadline: Friday, December 4, 2020*

<b>Name of the Section:</b>	<i>Environmental and Land Use Law</i>	
<b>Chair:</b>	<i>Pat Spurgin</i>	
<b>Section Information:</b>  <i>*To be completed by WSBA Staff*</i>	Membership Size: <i>(As of December 1, 2020)</i>	776
	Staff Lead:	Eleen Trang
	BOG Liaison:	Dan Clark
	FY20 revenue (\$): <i>As of September 30, 2020</i>	\$33,785.87
	FY20 direct expenses (\$): <i>(As of September 30, 2020; does not include the Per-Member-Charge)</i>	\$5,710.36
<b>Purpose:</b> <i>(Usually stated in the Section's Bylaws)</i>	<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>	
<b>2020 Accomplishments and Work in Progress:</b>	<p>Typically, ELUL's main event is a three-day Midyear Conference and Membership Meeting held each spring. The ELUL Section also typically holds an in-person mini-CLE that includes ethics credit.</p> <p>Due to COVID-19 concerns, the 2020, Midyear Conference and December mini-CLE were converted to a one-day webcast and two webinars. Topics included case law and legislative updates by</p>	

individuals working in those fields, environmental hot topics, and insights into practical aspects of land use law in Washington.

This year the Section implemented a website and a user-friendly on-line newsletter rather than a print version as had been issued in previous years. Articles are now disseminated through social media and accessed through the website.

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.

For our soon-to-be and young lawyers, we have typically held annual networking receptions in both Seattle and Spokane. This year—again because of COVID-19 concerns—we experimented a networking session using an online meeting platform. We once again 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 for the online event. In addition to the online networking event, we collected advice from seasoned attorneys to share with law students and new attorneys.

Finally, we continued 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><b>Please quantify your section's current member benefits:</b></p> <p><i>For example:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$3000 Scholarships, donations, grants awarded;</li> <li>• 4 mini-CLEs produced</li> </ul>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Member Benefit</b>
	<b>1 @ \$1,500</b>	Scholarships, donations, grants awarded (\$ amount)
	<b>1</b>	Law school/ New lawyer outreach events/benefits hosted
	<b>Many reviewed</b>	Legislative bills reviewed/drafted
	<b>7</b>	Newsletters/publications produced
	<b>2</b>	Mini-CLEs produced
	<b>1</b>	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 non-WSBA entity
		Receptions/forums hosted or co-hosted
	<b>2</b>	Recognitions/Awards given
		New Lawyer Outreach events/benefits
		Other (please describe):
<b>Looking Ahead: Goals &amp; Priorities for 2021 (Top 5)</b>	<b>1</b>	Adapt CLE delivery platforms to optimize availability of information and credits to membership in light of COVID-19
	<b>2</b>	Identify and improve networking opportunities in light of public health protocol issues
	<b>3</b>	Endeavor to increase diversity in the section in terms of individual attributes, practice areas, and geographic location, among others.
	<b>4</b>	Continue efforts to provide pertinent and timely legal issues analyses through online platforms.
	<b>5</b>	Maintain fiscal and financial responsibility, which will allow continued development of programming as well as additional outreach and grants.
<p><b>Please report how this section is addressing diversity:</b>  (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?)</p> <p>The ELUL Section 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. The committee plans to refresh this training based on the turnover in membership since the last session. We acknowledge there is always more that could be done. We will continue to actively solicit multiple minority groups to participate in the slate of candidates for election to the Committee and for mid-year co-chairs and speakers. This is a key consideration in the operation of the nominating committee that identifies candidates each year. 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 have selected the location of our law student-professional social in the past in an effort to increase accessibility. In the near term, we will continue to pursue similar efforts despite current public health constraints.</p>		
<p><b>Please report how this section is addressing professionalism:</b>  (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?)</p>		

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. The executive committee nominating process seeks to achieve diversity on this basis in identifying candidates. Our networking events strive to engage members in a fun and casual manner so that the person behind the client is known. 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 actively involves 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 provides 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.

In addition, the executive committee put together and posted a collection of advice for law students. We hope and believe that this compilation of reflections and advice will be helpful as students navigate through the unique challenges of this unprecedented moment in history.

**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 have established good working relationships and appreciated the role served by each sections liaison and BOG liaison assigned to our section. WSBA staff have been very helpful in addressing financial issues and requirements and in innovating our CLE approaches in the face of the current public health issues in Washington.

Overall, we are interested in upgrading the level of communications between the Board of Governors and the committee. Attention to communication regarding what is going on at the larger policy level would be useful.

**Note:** Annual Reports will be provided to the WSBA Executive Director and Board of Governors and will be 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 2021 BOG Meeting Materials.

**Return by December 4, 2020 to [eleent@wsba.org](mailto:eleent@wsba.org)**