

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

WSBA SECTION ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2025: October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025

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, 2024 – September 30, 2025. 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 17: please submit by emailing to Carolyn MacGregor (carolynm@wsba.org).

Name of Section:	Juvenile Law Section
Chair or Co-Chairs:	Bailey Zydek
Staff Liaison: (include name, job title, and department if known)	Carolyn MacGregor, Sections Program Specialist, Advancement Department
Board of Governors Liaison:	Kari Petrasek
Purpose: <i>May be stated in Bylaws, Charter, Court Rule, etc.</i>	
The Section will provide a forum to discuss issues of concern and act as an agent of change to improve the law and practice related to civil and criminal matters involving children and youth in Washington State. This Section welcomes advocates from all interested disciplines and a variety of fields of law, including juvenile justice, child welfare and those who represent youth in civil legal practice. The Section is concerned with all aspects of juvenile law and policy: dependency, offender, civil legal needs of youth and status offenses (children in need of services, youth at risk, and truant).	
Strategy to Fulfill Purpose:	
The Juvenile Law Section provides an opportunity for legal professionals who work with juveniles and their families in child welfare and juvenile justice to meet together and work collaboratively on issues facing their clients. The Section acts as an agent of change to improve the law and practice related to civil and criminal matters involving children and youth in Washington state.	

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"?	
The Juvenile Law Section is primarily concerned with providing community, education, collaboration, and support around areas of legal practice for indigent and underrepresented clients and families, including in practice areas such as child welfare, juvenile justice, status offenses, immigration as it relates to children and families, truancy, at-risk youth and children in need of services proceedings, as well as a variety of civil legal needs of youth.	
Top 2024-2025 Section Accomplishments:	
The JLS sponsored and held five mini-CLEs over the past year: 1) Evidence with Judge Michael Schwartz on 3/7/2025; 2) Child Development and the Impact of Trauma on the Brain on 5/9/2025; 3) DDA Intake, Eligibility, and Services, and Cross-Systems work with DCYF on 6/11/2025; 4) Building a More Equitable Profession – A Moral Imperative on 6/20/2025; 5) An Overview of Special Education in Washington State on 7/11/2025. The mini-CLEs were well-attended and provided a variety of topics for members and non-members.	
The JLS put on, and/or participated in, outreach events to Seattle University School of Law and Gonzaga University Law School to encourage law student participation in the JLS. The events included the participation and planning by the JLS's Young Lawyer Liaison and the JLS's Treasurer. The events were also attended by other lawyers practicing in the child welfare field. As a result of these events, two law students joined the JLS and became the new law student representatives.	
As a result of its outreach efforts (including its mini-CLEs, outreach to law schools, and scholarship opportunities), the JLS grew its memberships by approximately 50% during FY 2025.	
The JLS amended its by-laws to stagger the terms of the Executive Committee officers. In odd numbered years, the JLS will vote for the Chair, Chair-elect, Secretary, Treasurer, one officer of each committee (Juvenile Justice, Dependency and Child Welfare, Civil Legal Needs, and Legislative), one At-Large member, and the Young Lawyer Liaison. In even numbered years, the JLS will vote for one officer of each committee, the CLE Coordinator/Publication Editor, and one At-Large member. The purpose of staggering the terms is to promote consistency in the Executive Committee and to ensure there are always officers with experience with the section during elections, which can be an unstable time.	
Next Fiscal Year: 2025-2026 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.	
1	The JLS will hold monthly or bi-monthly mini-CLEs or CLEs, free to JLS membership and open to other Sections and general WSBA members, on topics relevant to the JLS (including juvenile law, dependency law, juvenile justice, civil legal needs, and race/equity/disproportionality in the juvenile justice legal space).
2	The JLS will finish its update of the JLS website. Tasks include publishing the membership directory, creating a "members only" section, moving content to appropriate parts of the website, ensuring JLS website links are correct, and updating the website.

3	The JLS's law student representatives will use JLS resources to table at Seattle University to generate interest in the section. The law student representatives may use those resources to purchase items such as a banner, sweatshirts that advertise the section, and other promotional materials. The JLS will also hold events at the Washington State law schools to generate interest in jobs related to juvenile work and recruit members for the section.
Looking Ahead: <i>Please share any long-term goals and/or priorities that your entity aims to address.</i>	
1	The JLS will increase scholarship opportunities to provide section members specific opportunities and funding to attend trainings and CLEs relevant to the JLS. The scholarship opportunities will be relevant, attractive to JLS members, and will provide JLS members the opportunity to expand their knowledge or experience concerning issues relevant to the JLS.
2	The JLS will work to actively collaborate with other WSBA sections in planning and producing mini-CLEs and CLEs, as well as other projects that are relevant to the JLS purpose. Those sections could include the Civil Rights Law section, the Criminal Law section, the Family Law section, the Indian Law section, the LGBTQ+ Law section, the Low Bono section, the Solo and Small Practice section, and other sections.
3	The JLS will deepen its understanding of, and focus on, inclusivity, equity, and anti-racist legal practice. This will include in its selection of scholarship topics and in the planning and production of mini-CLEs and CLEs that address the disproportionate treatment and outcomes for Black, brown, Native American, and other impacted populations in the juvenile legal system. The JLS will also actively recruit practitioners who are historically underrepresented in the legal profession.
Please describe how this entity is addressing diversity, equity, and inclusion: <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>	
The section meetings include Diversity/Equity/Inclusion at the beginning of every agenda; in this way, we are working to ensure we are always keeping issues of disproportionality at the front and center of our practice. We held a CLE focused on equity in practice: "Building a More Equitable Profession – A Moral Imperative." We also offered two scholarships to conferences focused on disproportionately-represented populations in the system: a scholarship to attend the National Indian Child Welfare Act Protecting Our Children Conference virtually, and a scholarship to attend the National Association for Public Defense Racial Justice Conference in person.	
Please share feedback regarding the support and engagement provided by WSBA staff and leadership <i>For example:</i> • <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>	
Our BOG liaison (now president-elect of the BOG) attends almost every meeting and provides exceptional support. Our staff section liaison also regularly attends section meetings and has always	

Sections

been able to answer any question we have. We have greatly appreciated her dedication and support of our section.		
Please quantify your section's 2024-2025 member benefits: <i>For example:</i> • \$3000 Scholarships, donations, grants awarded; • 4 mini-CLEs produced		
	Co-sponsored half-day, full-day and/or multi-day CLE seminars with WSBA	
Click or tap here to enter text.	Co-sponsored half-day, full-day and/or multi-day CLE seminars with <i>non</i> -WSBA entity.	
Click or tap here to enter text.	Receptions/forums hosted or co-hosted	
Click or tap here to enter text.	\$ amount given through donations/scholarships/grants.	
Click or tap here to enter text.	Newsletters/publications produced	
5 mini-CLEs produced	Mini-CLEs produced	
2 New Lawyer Outreach events/benefits	New Lawyer Outreach events/benefits	
Click or tap here to enter text.	Recognitions/Awards given	
Reviewed, tracked, and made recommendations to the JLS on at least 30 bills	Legislative activity (Bills reviewed, tracked, proposed)	
Amendment of JLS by-laws related to Executive Committee officer elections	Other (please describe): Organization/structure change	
Scholarship to National Indian Child Welfare Annual Protecting Our Children Conference, \$99 Award Pending	Other (please describe): Scholarship offer	
Scholarship offered to National Association for Public Defense Racial Justice Conference (no scholarship applicants)	Other (please describe): Scholarship offer	
Creation of Member Directory, pending publication to JLS website	Other (please describe): Publication created; publication pending	
SECTION DATA <i>To Be Completed by WSBA Sections Team</i>		
Section Membership Information:	223	Membership Size:

Sections

		<i>As of September 30, 2025.</i>
	\$14892.82	FY25 Revenue (\$): <i>As of September 30, 2025.</i>
	1750.87	FY25 Direct Expenses (\$) <i>As of September 30, 2025. This does not include the Per-Member-Charge.</i>
Section Executive Committee Information:	16 voting/2 non-voting	Full Size of Executive Committee (per Section bylaws): <i>Include and specify voting and non-voting positions.</i>
	3	Number of Vacancies for FY26: <i>The number of vacant positions as of October 1, 2025 (FY26).</i>
	10	Number of Applicants for FY26 open positions: <i>Applications submitted in the Spring of 2025 for vacant positions and terms beginning October 1, 2025 (FY26)</i>