

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

Name of the Section:	<i>Litigation Section</i>	
Chair:	<i>Michelle Pham</i>	
Section Information: <i>*To be completed by WSBA Staff*</i>	Membership Size: <i>(As of December 1, 2020)</i>	1,019
	Staff Lead:	Eleen Trang
	BOG Liaison:	Jean Kang
	FY20 revenue (\$): <i>As of September 30, 2020</i>	\$30,655.25
	FY20 direct expenses (\$): <i>(As of September 30, 2020; does not include the Per-Member-Charge)</i>	\$7,183.04
Purpose: <i>(Usually stated in the Section's Bylaws)</i>	<p>The Litigation Section strives to be the voice of civil litigators practicing in Washington state. The Section is involved in a wide range of activities that interest those who handle civil matters in superior or federal courts. Activities include review and formal input concerning legislation and rule making, annual midyear trial skills seminar and support for litigation skills training.</p>	
2020 Accomplishments and Work in Progress:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Support of WSBA's Trial Advocacy Program</i> • <i>Review and comment on legislative bills relevant to the section and its members</i> • <i>Scholarship and/or grant programs at all three WA Law Schools</i> • <i>Launch of mentorship program, including recruitment and pairing of experienced litigators as mentors and law students/young attorneys as mentees.</i> • <i>Educational events – annual Trial Skill CLE seminar (this did not occur due to COVID-19)</i> 	
	Quantity	Member Benefit

<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 	\$6,000	Scholarships, donations, grants awarded (\$ amount)
	3	Law school outreach events/benefits hosted
	50+	Legislative bills reviewed/drafted
	0	Newsletters/publications produced
	0	Mini-CLEs produced
	2	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 non-WSBA entity
	0	Receptions/forums hosted or co-hosted
	0	Recognitions/Awards given
	0	New Lawyer Outreach events/benefits
	2	Other (please describe): Mentor Program; Listserve. Unable to host Annual Reception/Dinner for Supreme Court.
<p>Looking Ahead: Goals & Priorities for 2021 (Top 5)</p>	1	Continue Annual CLE program
	2	Continue scholarship program for public interest, litigation-focused students
	3	Law Student Outreach at all three Washington law schools
	4	Provide timely input on bills during active legislation session
	5	Maintain electronic listserv for topics of interest to litigators throughout the state; and continue development of mentorship program
<p>Please report how this section is addressing diversity:</p> <p>(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>We actively ensure that our CLE programs include diverse speakers/presenters. We try to ensure both practice, geographic, and ethnic diversity on our Executive Committee. We have not used the WSBA Diversity Specialist. The point of contact on our Committee for this should be Michelle Pham (Chair).</p>		

We will continue to promote diversity within our section leadership and in the presenters and speakers at section programs and identify outreach opportunities to increase diversity in our membership and leadership.

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?)

We have engaged with our YLD Liaison to get input on issues of importance to younger lawyers, and continue in our participation at Law School outreach events at all three law schools. In addition, we have implemented and will continue to improve upon a mentorship program pairing experienced litigators with newer members of the Bar. Finally, our annual CLE focuses on both more basic and higher level skills in a demonstration and discussion format that allows both new and more experienced lawyers to share and learn.

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?)

Several members of the committee are less than 7 years out of law school. In addition, we have developed a mentorship program, coordinated by the young lawyer liaison. We are also actively in contact with the law schools to host annual social events with law students.

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 has been wonderful to work with and responsive when we have questions. Staff has also been helpful in assisting our section in complying with WSBA requirements.

In the past, BOG Liaison was engaged, participated and was most helpful in providing insight and outreach for the BOG to our section. We have not heard from the BOG Liaison this past year.

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