

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:	Real Property, Probate and Trust	
Chair:	Brian Lewis (2020-2021)	
Section Information: <i>*To be completed by WSBA Staff*</i>	Membership Size: <i>(As of December 1, 2020)</i>	2,305
	Staff Lead:	Eleen Trang
	BOG Liaison:	P. J. Grabicki
	FY20 revenue (\$): <i>As of September 30, 2020</i>	\$93,493.26
	FY20 direct expenses (\$): <i>(As of September 30, 2020; does not include the Per-Member-Charge)</i>	\$26,996.70
Purpose: <i>(Usually stated in the Section's Bylaws)</i>	<p>The purpose of the Section is to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Assist our members in achieving the highest standards of competence, professionalism, and ethics in their practices, b. Assist the Legislature in the enactment and improvement of the laws affecting real property, probate, trusts, and estates and to assist the Judiciary in the just administration of those laws, c. Support the WSBA with regard to those matters which concern the practice of law in the areas of real property, probate, trusts and estates, and d. Otherwise serve our members by helping them realize their professional goals. 	
2020 Accomplishments and Work in Progress:	For 2019-2020, the RPPT Section set goals of delivering high quality CLEs in an environment where attendance at all WSBA CLEs is declining and increasing its presence with young lawyers. The RPPT	

continues to be thrilled with the high quality content and with the amazing young leaders in our Section.

Over the past four years, RPPT has fully integrated its Fellows Program which was originally introduced in June 2016. The Fellows who have participated in our Section have been an amazing resource for our Section Members. RPPT has enjoyed the benefits of welcoming Fellows back as elected executive committee members. RPPT continues to receive applications from young, energetic lawyers eager to join the section.

RPPT co-sponsored four (4) full day CLEs (in addition to our webinars and mini-CLEs offerings) and attracted great attendance at our recent Midyear Conference which was held virtually in June 2020.

RPPT published four (4) high-quality newsletters by our dedicated group of lawyers who sit on our Newsletter Committee.

RPPT continues to make an effort to have a representative attend each of the BOG meetings each year. RPPT continues to participate in a sub-committee to investigate reinstating a State-wide, all Sections Convention with the goal of increasing collegiality between the sections and WSBA membership.

Please quantify your section's current member benefits:	Quantity	Member Benefit
<i>For example:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$3000 Scholarships, donations, grants awarded; • 4 mini-CLEs produced 	~4 (~\$2,500; RPPT Scholarship grants typically include tuition and expenses at our mid-year conference, which was held virtually this year; we typically budget \$4,000 for this)	Scholarships, donations, grants awarded (\$ amount)
	1-2 (attended, not hosted)	Law school outreach events/benefits hosted
	Multiple (RRPT review dozens of proposed bills annually)	Legislative bills reviewed/drafted
	4	Newsletters/publications produced
	1	Mini-CLEs produced
	4	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
	4-6 (all CLE include networking receptions or lunches, or both)	Receptions/forums hosted or co-hosted
	0-1 (RPPT is working to develop a lifetime contribution award, but has not yet been able to give it because no in person meetings are allowed)	Recognitions/Awards given
	1-2	New Lawyer Outreach events/benefits
		Other (please describe):
Looking Ahead: Goals & Priorities for 2021 (Top 5)	1	Continue to re-establish effective communication with the Legislature through a WSBA Legislative Liaison. RPPT and WSBA's Legislative Liaison must create communication channels that allow a timely and impactful flow of information so that the expertise of RPPT members can be utilized to educate and inform Legislative members as they create law impacting the practice areas of real property, probate and trust.
	2	Continue outreach to new lawyers, including but not limited to offering of scholarships to the RPPT Midyear Conference, open section nights, mentor lunches at CLEs and other similar programs.
	3	Continue enrichment of the Fellows program to promote section membership to new lawyers and to inform existing RPPT members of ways to positively impact practice

		development and section membership for new lawyers.
	4	Strategic planning regarding most effective way to deliver CLEs to our members, including forms based/hands on training.
	5	Contribute constructively to all meetings where Sections participation is invited and work collaboratively with other Section Leaders to benefit all Members of the WSBA.

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?)

Diversity continues to be an important issue to RPPT. When recruiting individuals to serve on the RPPT executive committee and/or join the Section, RPPT makes significant efforts to be inclusive. As a result of these efforts RPPT is doing very well in maintaining diversity in areas it can control: gender, age, small firm/large firm, geography. As to gender equity, RPPT has done a great job. For 2020-2021, 3 of 5 officers (and 14 of a total of 22 Executive Committee Members) of RPPT were women and the executive committee has had good gender balance for more than a decade. RPPT is expanding ethnic diversity with its Fellows and Young Lawyer Liaison. RPPT is continuing to examine areas where it can create inclusive education in its CLE programming.

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?)

RPPT makes a conscious effort to include numerous ethics credit opportunities in our CLE programming. We also started, last year, providing lunch to all CLE attendees to increase relationship building among practice area professionals and offer mentoring lunches at the CLEs to young lawyers in attendance.

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?)

RPPT has 4 fellows (2 on the probate and trust council and 2 on the real property council) and a Young Lawyer Liaison (on the real property council). The involvement of our young lawyers benefits RPPT by allowing the Section to learn first-hand about issues important to young lawyers. We believe the fellows and liaison benefit by obtaining experience necessary to lead RPPT and WSBA in the future. Historically, we provided up to four scholarships for tuition to the Midyear Conference to young lawyers at the Young Lawyer’s Open Section Nights. We have also provided full “all expenses paid” scholarships for young lawyers who applied to attend our Midyear Conference. RPPT has invested heavily in young lawyers in the last several years, and we are beginning to feel the benefits of that investment.

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 work closely with and receive excellent service from WSBA staff. Our relationship over the past year with Section staff has been as strong as we have experienced in a number of years. We work extremely well with Kevin Plachy and Miriam Gordon on CLE planning. Each of them is responsive and helpful and the information each communicates is always reliable. Each is positive and supportive of our CLE efforts.

We have appointed a small subcommittee whose responsibility is to attend BOG meetings. Previously, we had a different person attend meetings periodically. We found that it was a challenge keeping abreast of BOG issues. Having a smaller group of people attend allows for continuity without placing too much burden on any one individual. RPPT eagerly awaits knowledge of our new BOG liaison, particularly at this time when our Section will benefit from staying abreast of important decisions made by the BOG and when the BOG will benefit from information uniquely within the province of sections.

A RPPT representative typically attends the sections leaders’ meetings that are held throughout the year. Section Leaders from WPTL, IPS, RPPT, Small and Solo Practice, Low Bono, Land Use/Environmental Law, Corporate Counsel, Family Law, Administrative Law, and ADR attended. RPPT looks forward to working with these Section Leaders to continue great work to benefit all members of the WSBA.

We look forward to ongoing communication with WSBA staff to ensure that we can be effective in legislative issues.

We are committed to a relationship of mutual respect with WSBA. We will strive to assist WSBA in meeting its objectives and appreciate that WSBA offers support and the flexibility we need to continue to provide the high-quality member services our members have come to expect.

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