

# WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

## WSBA ENTITY ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2021: October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021

*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<sup>1</sup>), 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, 2020 – September 30, 2021. 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, December 3:** please submit by emailing to Sections Program Specialist Carolyn MacGregor [carolynm@wsba.org](mailto:carolynm@wsba.org).

<b>Name of Entity:</b>	Senior Lawyers Section
<b>Chair or Co-Chairs:</b>	Eleanor Doermann
<b>Staff Liaison:</b> <i>(include name, job title, and department if known)</i>	Carolyn McGregor
<b>Board of Governors Liaison:</b>	Jordan Couch
<b>Purpose of Entity:</b> <i>May be stated in Bylaws, Charter, Court Rule, etc.</i>	
<b>Strategy to Fulfill Purpose:</b>	
Provide educational offerings and section news to membership	
<b>How does the entity’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”?</b>	
Article II of the Bylaws of the Senior Lawyers Section states that “the purpose of this Section shall be to benefit members of the Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) and the general public, by:” The following subsections spell out specifically how this purpose is to be accomplished. Subsection 2.1 provides for programs that will promote the interests of members 55 years of age and older. Subsection 2.2 seeks to advance the opportunity and forum for members to exchange ideas and engage in educational, social and related activities geared to promoting the same common interests. Subsection 2.3 states the broadest goal of	

undertaking other services consistent with the Bylaws and other applicable rules that will benefit members of the legal profession and the public. Article III of the Bylaws spells out eligibility for membership. This is pertinent to defining who are the members of the Section referred to above. Under Section 3.1, to enroll as a voting member of the Section, the attorney must be an “Active member of the Washington State Bar Association 55 years of age and older or who has been in practice in any jurisdiction for 25 years.” Such an enrollee may be granted voting membership upon request and payment of annual Section dues. Section 3.1 also provides for inactive members who may be members of the WSBA, law students and subscribers. Annual dues of members are established by the Section’s Executive Committee, subject to approval of the WSBA Board of Governors, and the dues of subscribers are determined and approved by the WSBA Board of Governors.

**2020-2021 Entity Accomplishments:**

**ANNUAL CLE EVENT**

A major event sponsored and carried out by the Senior Lawyer Section is its annual CLE seminar, an all-day program usually held in the last week of April or the first week of May. It is well-attended usually by 100 or more attorneys from around the state. The all-day program usually offers 7.0 CLE credits (including a 1.0 ethics credit).

The 2020 event could not be held due to the pandemic. It has been tentatively rescheduled for May 2021. This will be reviewed at the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

*MINI-CLEs*

The Senior Lawyers Section as produced three mini-LE’s during this pandemic era:

- Kurt Balmer presented “Impact on Legal Ethics of Emerging Expectations Regarding Gender, Sex, and Race” on October 30, 2020, with 105 attendees.
- Sarah Wixson presented “Got Food? How Law and Technology Will Impact What is on Your Plate” on January 22, 2021.
- Miriam Korngold presented “Strategies for Successfully Representing Asylum Seekers” on April 9, 2021.

The Mini-CLE’s have been popular and have resulted in an increase in Section membership.

*COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE*

The Senior Lawyers Section has transitioned from its traditional print version of its newsletter, “Life Begins” to a new electronic format. We also utilize the Section list-serve to provide information and updates to our members. The Section is working on how we can best utilize electronic communication to stay connected with our membership, as well as non-member senior lawyers who might be interested in our programming and/or consider membership.

## OTHER

We continue to investigate the dramatic changes in senior lawyer programs taking place in several major states designed to meet the expanding interests of those reaching retirement age – changes designed to avoid total extinction of these programs for senior lawyers. Our section faces some of the same challenges that suggest broadening our programs and membership.

### Looking Ahead: 2021-2022 Top Goals & Priorities:

- 1** [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)**TASK FORCE:** The Task Force was instituted by our executive committee a few years ago to look into what other major bar associations might be doing to expand their senior lawyer programs. It has not been easy obtaining reliable information given that access to these programs is limited to designated members of whatever state bar is being reviewed. The coronavirus threat poses new challenges that our section also needs to evaluate and address.
- 2** **EXPANDED PUBLICATIONS:** We have embarked on transmitting our publications electronically. These publications reach a wider audience of lawyers who potentially have interest in what our section has to offer – and might join our section.
- 3**
- 4** **BROADENED CLE PROGRAMS:** Our annual CLEs have always been outstanding in the programs and speakers offered. However, participation has steadily dwindled in recent years. This suggests addressing a broader audience of attorneys and structure the programs accordingly. At the same time, we have expanded to mini-CLEs and they are proving most successful. The pandemic presents new challenges for all of these programs.
- 5** **OUTREACH TO OTHERS:** The focus of our section has always been senior lawyers. However, we are broadening our mission to include support and dealings with young lawyers. We have periodically had a liaison from the Young Lawyers Division participating on our Executive Committee.  
**INVOLVEMENT IN BAR POLICY AND DECISIONS:** As a section, we have interest and seek participation in the overall administration of the bar and its sections. We strive to have members of our executive committee attend BOG meetings to extend ideas and positions and also participate in special programs and activities involving the various sections. The Section has just made a successful proposal to the BOG regarding Bylaws amendments regarding participation of non-active WSBA members in Section voting and governance, which is currently being forwarded to the Supreme Court for final approval.

### **Please report how this entity is addressing diversity, equity, and inclusion:**

*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 committee/board done to*

*promote equitable conditions for members from historically underrepresented backgrounds to enter, stay, thrive, and eventually lead the profession? Other?*

Senior Lawyer Section members are now mostly lawyers who have retired or are about to reach that point in their practice. They are mostly white males, since that was the makeup of the bar when they commenced practice. The legal profession has of course gone through dramatic change over the years and now, looking at all the lawyers who have reached seniors status, the make-up is much broader and diverse than the present makeup of our section. A primary goal of our section is to expand its membership to all lawyers now in the senior category – to include the huge generation of Baby Boomers and diversity of lawyers of every race, sexual orientation, religion and culture. Our goal is to address the ongoing changes that formulate the make-up of all senior lawyer members of our state bar.

**Please describe the relationship with WSBA staff and the Board of Governors.**

*For example:*

- *Quality of WSBA staff support/services*
- *Involvement with Board of Governors, including assigned BOG liaison*
- *Ideas you have on ways WSBA can continue to strengthen/support your entity.*

Senior Lawyers Section receives excellent support from WSBA staff. Carolyn McGregor is our staff liaison. Kevin Plachy and Julianne Unite played pivotal roles in assisting us with our most recent initiative to modify Bylaws as they pertain to Section participation of non-active members. Tom McBride has been an excellent and responsive BOG liaison during the past year, and we look forward to working with Jordan Couch this year.

**SECTIONS ONLY: Please quantify your section’s 2020-2021 member benefits:**

*For example:*

- *\$3000 Scholarships, donations, grants awarded;*
- *4 mini-CLEs produced*

2		Newsletters/publications produced
3		Mini-CLEs produced
	Click or tap here to enter text.	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.	Recognitions/Awards given
	Click or tap here to enter text.	New Lawyer Outreach events/benefits

	Click or tap here to enter text.	Other (please describe):
<b>Entity Detail Report: To Be Completed by WSBA Staff</b>		
<b>Size of Entity:</b>	11	
<b>Membership Size: (for Sections Only)</b> <i>(As of September 30, 2021)</i>	240	
<b>Number of Applicants for FY22 Positions</b> <i>(October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022)</i>	13	
<b>How many current volunteer position vacancies for this entity?</b>	1 (Young Lawyer Liaison position)	
<b>FY21 Revenue (\$): For Sections Only:</b> <i>As of September 30, 2021</i>	\$8,726	
<b>Direct Expenses:</b> <i>As of September 30, 2021. For Sections, this does not include the Per-Member-Charge.</i>	\$929	

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<sup>i</sup> The Access to Justice Board (not regulatory, but applicable to the distinction herein) and Regulatory Boards (Disciplinary Board, LLLT Board, Limited Practice Board, MCLE Board and Practice of Law Board) are not required by Bylaws or Court Rule submit an annual report to WSBA. However, as part of the administration of monitoring of Regulatory Boards, the Boards listed herein typically provide an annual report to the Court and WSBA should be provided this same report an annual basis.