

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:	WSBA Tax Section
Chair or Co-Chairs:	Cat Connell
Staff Liaison: (include name, job title, and department if known)	Carolyn MacGregor, Sections Program Specialist, Advancement Department
Board of Governors Liaison:	Nam Nguyen (District 10)
Purpose: <i>May be stated in Bylaws, Charter, Court Rule, etc.</i>	
The purposes of the Section are to further the knowledge of the members of the Section and the Bar in areas of the law involving federal, state, and local taxation, and to assist in the activities of WSBA and otherwise to further the interest of the WSBA and of the legal profession as a whole.	
Strategy to Fulfill Purpose:	
The Section strives to foster visibility of, and conversation concerning, the practice of tax law. The Section is organized with multiple subcommittees which include various areas of tax law practice. Through those subcommittees, the Section is able to provide more specific, substantive service to members while also providing broad benefit through the Section as a whole. Through Section hosted events, which typically are little to no cost to members, members are provided opportunities involving networking, continuing legal education, and access to notable speakers from across the	

country (including in recent years multiple US Tax Court judges, the IRS Commissioner, and IRS Chief Counsel).	
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"?	
Over the years, the Section has made donations to and worked closely with both the UW Law and Gonzaga Law Low-Income Taxpayer Clinics, whose purposes are to provide free representation to low-income taxpayers with federal tax issues. Additionally, the Section has had discussions with both the Washington Department of Revenue and the LITCs about the possibility of developing low-income taxpayer clinics that would provide free representation concerning Washington state tax issues. The Section also sponsors an annual scholarship to a law student who has a demonstrable economic need and interest in practicing tax law in Washington. Further, through the Section's co-chair model, the Section encourages collaboration and conversation by partnering government practitioners with private practice practitioners on both the state and federal side.	
Top 2024-2025 Section Accomplishments:	
The Taxation Section has continued to build out the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion subcommittee, which we understand was the first DEI committee among the WSBA sections. This increased investment in DEI led to the development of the PATH mentorship program, which launched in FY24 and continued to grow throughout FY25.	
The Section continued its renovation of the website, efforts of which are currently focused on making more educational materials available for members' access, which includes (to the extent possible) archiving past CLE presentations and materials.	
The Section was effective in providing timely CLE updates on significant changes in tax law during FY25, which included a significant Washington Supreme Court decision, Washington's May budget bill, OBBBA, and the significant changes to federal taxing authority workforces and structural organizations.	
Click or tap here to enter text.	
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 Section will work towards expanding its member events beyond the greater Seattle area, with a particular focus on Spokane. This was an emphasis identified during FY25, which included plans for a US Tax Court meet-and-greet (which unfortunately had to be cancelled due to the Judge's availability). This expanded outreach will include both opportunities for Section members as well as Gonzaga Law students.
2	The Section intends to reinstitute an annual law student event. Prior to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Section had a long history of hosting an annual breakfast with law students. This gave students the opportunity to meet practitioners from across tax practice and gain exposure and insight into the

	various types of work and opportunities available across tax law, while also giving practitioners the opportunity to meet the next generation of attorneys.
3	The Section intends to sponsor DEI-focused events and CLEs, ideally in collaboration with other sections.
Looking Ahead: Please share any long-term goals and/or priorities that your entity aims to address.	
1	Expansion of the PATH Mentorship Program for young tax professionals and law students.
2	Establish an annual half-day CLE.
3	Establish regular, direct connection and outreach with members beyond western Washington.
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>	
In recent years, the Section created its DEI Committee which developed and launched the PATH Mentorship Program for young tax professionals and law students. Having identified exposure and visibility of tax law as a potential barrier to entry into the practice, the Section intends to explore potential outreach opportunities with universities and high schools, with a focus on underserved and marginalized communities.	
Please share feedback regarding the support and engagement provided by WSBA staff and leadership <i>For example:</i> • Quality of WSBA staff support/services, including technology solutions • Involvement with Board of Governors, including assigned BOG liaison • Ideas you have on ways WSBA can continue to strengthen/support your entity.	
The Section's appreciation and gratitude for Carolyn MacGregor and Noah Baetge's efforts in supporting our operations cannot be overstated.	
Please quantify your section's 2024-2025 member benefits: <i>For example:</i> • \$3000 Scholarships, donations, grants awarded; • 4 mini-CLEs produced	
Click or tap here to enter text.	Co-sponsored half-day, full-day and/or multi-day CLE seminars with WSBA

Sections

2	Co-sponsored half-day, full-day and/or multi-day CLE seminars with <i>non</i> -WSBA entity.	
1 (included WA State tax law update)	Receptions/forums hosted or co-hosted	
\$5,000 scholarship	\$ amount given through donations/scholarships/grants.	
Click or tap here to enter text.	Newsletters/publications produced	
2	Mini-CLEs produced	
Click or tap here to enter text.	New Lawyer Outreach events/benefits	
1	Recognitions/Awards given	
Click or tap here to enter text.	Legislative activity (Bills reviewed, tracked, proposed)	
Sponsor NASBTS membership	Other (please describe):	
Click or tap here to enter text.	Other (please describe):	
SECTION DATA <i>To Be Completed by WSBA Sections Team</i>		
Section Membership Information:	603	Membership Size: <i>As of September 30, 2025.</i>
	\$20086.25	FY25 Revenue (\$): <i>As of September 30, 2025.</i>
	\$13963.38	FY25 Direct Expenses (\$) <i>As of September 30, 2025. This does not include the Per-Member-Charge.</i>
Section Executive Committee Information:	27 voting/0 non-voting	Full Size of Executive Committee (per Section bylaws): <i>Include and specify voting and non-voting positions.</i>
	0	Number of Vacancies for FY26: <i>The number of vacant positions as of October 1, 2025 (FY26).</i>

October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025 (FY25)

Sections

	24	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>
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