

Washington State Bar Association
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW SECTION

Annual Report for 2009 - 2010

October 1, 2009 – September 30, 2010

Date: September 29, 2010
Submitted by: John M. Gray, Chair
Term of office for section leadership: September 17, 2009 through September 29, 2009 (Annual Meeting)

1. Section highlights and accomplishments for fiscal year 2010

The Administrative Law Section accomplishes its work through four standing committees, staffed mostly by board members and officers, but also by section members. The standing committees are: legislative; CLE; newsletter; and publications.

Work of the Legislative Committee: this committee fields questions sent to it from the WSBA legislative office. The committee's work comes during the legislative session (January – March in a “short session;” January – May in a “long session;” 2010 was a “short session”). The WSBA referred 12 bills to the Legislative Committee, again ably chaired by Richard Potter. The committee had to consider each bill on very short turn-around time (usually a matter of two days) and whether to ask the section board to take a position. The board chose not to take a position on any of the 12 bills. The section did not recommend to the WSBA any proposed legislation pertaining to administrative law.

Work of the CLE Committee: this committee works with the WSBA CLE Department to produce CLE programs of interest to section members, other WSBA members, and some non-WSBA members, in the general area of administrative law. In this term, the section presented one mini-CLE and one full-day CLE. The mini-CLE was at the University of Washington Law School on June 17. The topic was “Administrative Law Cases from the U.S. Supreme Court and How They Relate to Washington State Practice.” Professor William Andersen and Professor Kathryn Watts were the speakers. The full-day CLE was at the Tacoma Convention Center on September 29, 2010, and the program was an Administrative Law Survey, including an update on hearing procedures, administrative investigations, a presentation on interstate compact law, ethics issues, local administrative law, and a Public Records Act update.

Work of the Newsletter Committee: Under the leadership of its chair, Merrilee Harrell, the Newsletter Committee has published three newsletters: Winter 2009-2010; Spring 2010; and Fall 2010. Kudos to Merrilee and all those who contributed! She is already hard at work on the next newsletter.

Work of the Publications Committee: the Publications Committee oversees the updates to two books: the Administrative Law Practice Manual and the Public Records Act Deskbook. The Administrative Law Practice Manual continues to be updated annually. The update to the Public Records Act Deskbook is should be released this Fall.

Other Committees: The work of the **Diversity and Outreach Committee** is discussed below in section 4, Diversity.

The Public Service Committee contributed \$500 to the Minority Bar Associations Collaboration Project, which presented the Fifth Annual Statewide Diversity Conference at the Seattle University Law School on June 24, 2010. The Public Service Committee also contributed \$300 to pay for the registrations of three section members to attend the Statewide Diversity Conference. The section's board had offered to pay for up to eight members to attend the conference at section expense.

Additionally, the Public Service Committee contributed \$750 to the Washington Women Lawyers for their program on October 8, 2010, in Spokane.

Other Accomplishments:

- **No Dues Increase:** the dues for this section are still only \$20 per year. The overhead charged by the WSBA to the various sections increases next year from \$12 per member to \$13.25 per member. Despite the overhead increase, our fund balance is healthy enough that the board decided there is no need for a dues increase at this time.
- **Frank Homan Award:** The Frank Homan Award for 2010 goes to Jeff Goltz. The presentation will be made in January 2011 in Olympia.
- **Washington Young Lawyers Division:** Katy King has served as the WYLD liaison between the WYLD and the Administrative Law Section. We appreciated her contributions and participation over the last year and found her to be a very valuable liaison to our board, particularly at our retreat where we did planning and set priorities for our future activities. The section looks forward to working with her again in 2010 – 2011.
- The board met in January (telephonic), February (in-person), and August (telephonic) for scheduled board meetings to tend to section business. The board met at an annual retreat, held in June (in-person). The annual board retreat is a good way to plan the next year's section business outside of the usual confines of an evening or telephonic board meeting. It allows the board to consider what works and what needs to change. The chair thanks all board members for the time they were able to devote to section business.

2. Current benefits for section members

The section's web page describes the benefits of section membership as:

- Reduced tuition at high-quality section CLEs (at least two per year);
- Three newsletters per year including summaries of recent administrative law state and federal cases, articles and announcements;
- Annual meeting with good food and other special events;
- Section publications, including the Washington Administrative Law Practice Manual, and the Public Disclosure Act Deskbook;

- Input into legislative and WSBA proposals as the recognized experts in administrative law;
- Contributions to projects benefiting access to justice efforts; and
- Networking and support in the field of administrative law.

This section has met these goals, except for reduced tuition at the CLE. The board will address that issue in this coming year.

3. Section priorities, including new goals, for upcoming fiscal year 2010.

In the membership year of 2010 – 2011, the board plans to produce two full-day CLEs and two mini-CLEs. The board will try to secure reduced fees for section members.

The board is very pleased with the resumption of the section newsletters and plans to continue producing newsletters with interesting and useful content. The newsletters are completely electronic now; no more hard copies being mailed to members. The electronic format allows more timely production and eliminates the cost of postage.

This board is committed to diversity – that is, **all** lawyers are welcome as section members and to participate fully in the section.

Any member is encouraged to contact any officer or board members to convey ideas on how the section can improve and deliver benefits to section members. All members are welcome to volunteer for any of the section's committees or to run for a board position.

4. Diversity.

The Diversity and Outreach Committee worked to support the goal of increased diversity in the practice of law. Toward that end, this section has again contributed financially to the production of the Fifth Statewide Diversity Conference. In addition to the direct contribution to the program sponsors (the Washington Minority Bar Associations Collaborative Project), this section sponsored 8 scholarships for section members who wished to attend the conference, which was held on June 25, 2009, at the Seattle University Law School.

5. Current relationship between the section and the WSBA

The Administrative Law Section continues to enjoy good relations with the WSBA. The section has frequent contact with the WSBA staff on such matters as planning, the budget, CLE programs, services available by the WSBA to the sections, and legislation. We shall miss Toni Doane, who retired this year, and who always ably assisted the officers and board members in our work.

6. Additional information & comments

The board encourages the section membership to become active in this section's committee work. It is the committees that produce CLE programs, consider legislative bills referred to the section, work on diversity in the legal profession, produce newsletters,

and recommend how section resources may be used for the benefit of the membership and the legal profession. Section members are also needed for board positions. Become involved!