WSBA**Sections**

Annual Report 2012- 2013

(October 1, 2012 – September 30, 2013)

Due: October 4, 2013

Section: Civil Rights Law Section
Submitted by: Courtney Ackley
Section position: Incoming Chair
Date submitted: October 1, 2013

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1. **Section highlights and accomplishments in 2012-2013.**

- On September 19, 2013, the Executive Committee voted in favor of the update to and continuation of the WSBA Board of Governors 2010 Resolution regarding moratorium on official travel to the State of Arizona.
- On September 13, 2013, our Section held its annual meeting with elections, presentation of the annual Civil Rights Awards, and mini CLE at the Alki Room at Century Square, entitled, "Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Distinguished speaker Lembhard Howell presented the CLE program, "Life in the U.S. and Washington State Prior to Passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964." The event was provided as a member benefit (no cost) for 1.0 general CLE credits, and was immediately followed by a section social on site, with refreshments sponsored by Tonkon Torp LLP.
- **Distinguished Service Award** presented to Hon. Charles V. Johnson (Retired) in recognition of devoted service to civil rights law.
- **Civic Leader Award** presented to Washington United for Marriage for their generous commitment of time, support, and inspiration to the endeavors of civil rights law, especially with regard to Referendum 74, which legalized same-sex marriage in Washington State in 2012.
- On or around August 14, 2013, the Section published its Summer 2013 Newsletter, which included a highlight of the past year's civil rights court decisions, an excerpt from Robin Lindley's article, "Understanding the Legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr.," and a piece entitled, "The Right to Counsel 50 Years After *Gideon*."
- The Executive Committee held a retreat on March 23, 2013 from 9 a.m. to 3 pm. at ACLU offices in Seattle, with the objectives of strengthening the working relationships of the Executive Committee and developing a work plan for 2013 (including semi-annual newsletter, annual meeting, and Executive Committee infrastructure) and identifying possible long-term goals. Helena Stephens served as the retreat facilitator. WSBA Governor and BOG liaison Tracy Flood presented information on the Section's history, mission, and by-laws. Stacy Holmes, WSBA Staff Liaison, presented information on WSBA guidelines and regulations for Sections. At the retreat, the Executive Committee

also approved a motion to elect Sharon James (née Payant) as Immediate Past Chair, following the resignation of Patricia Paul.

- A mini CLE was held on November 2, 2012 at WSBA offices entitled, "Major U.S. Supreme Court Civil Rights Case Review—2011-2012 and Upcoming Term." This event was provided for $50 to section members and $100 for non-members for 3.0 general CLE credits and 1.0 ethics credits. A section social occurred immediately after at the Purple Café in Seattle.

2. Section priorities, including new goals, for upcoming membership year 2013-2014.

- Semi-annual newsletter (Winter/Summer).
- Membership recruiting, including Open Section Night in January.
- Section extended mini CLE to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (February—tentative).

3. Current and new benefits for section membership.

- Members-only listserv, newsletters, CLEs.

4. Section community involvement.

- The section is teaming up with the University of Washington Law School's Diversity Committee to engage in dialogue with law students on the practice of civil rights law; current issues in civil rights; preparing for a career as civil rights attorney, as themes of civil rights, social justice and responsibilities of attorneys.

5. Section activities supporting the WSBA Guiding Principles for 2011-2013 which are to advance and promote:

- Each year, our section honors the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., with a press release that is published on the WSBA website. This section was inspired by the ideals of Dr. King.

6. Collaboration/partnerships with other sections, bar-affiliated groups, and/or groups in the legal community.

For example:

- WSBA Young Lawyers Division liaison, Heidi Kay Walter will serve another year.
- Our section participates in WSBA events, and this year members attended an Open Section Night with the WSBA YLD.
- Worked with WSBA BOG Liaison Tracy Flood regarding the update to and continuation of the WSBA Board of Governors 2010 Resolution regarding moratorium on official travel to the State of Arizona, which was passed by the BOG on or around September 27, 2013.

7. Additional information, comments and suggestions.

- Continuing Legal Education material and newsletters are available to the general public, posted on the webpage for the section at www.wsba.org.