



WSBASections

Annual Report 2012- 2013

(October 1, 2012 – September 30, 2013)

Section: The Corporate Counsel Section
Submitted by: Paul A. Swegle
Section position: Chair

1. Section highlights and accomplishments in 2012-2013.

- The Section's ½ Day Ethics for In-House Counsel CLE in November of 2012 was very successful. Among other things, in-person seating was sold out and a large number of individuals attended online, attendees rated the program very highly, and it was profitable for both the WSBA and the Section.
- The Section's long tradition of hosting excellent Quarterly Dinner/Mini-CLE programs continued very successfully under the leadership of Activities Chair James Doane. The event venue alternates between the Rainier Club in Seattle and Seastar Restaurant in Bellevue. These events are nearly always sold out and provide excellent educational and networking opportunities for our members.
- Last year, the Section successfully launched an "Eastern Washington Outreach" effort which was continued very strongly this year with the "Second Annual Corporate Counsel Section and Business Law Section ½ Day CLE and Networking Event."
- Section membership continues to be strong and growing at 851 as of September 2013, up slightly from the same period last year, and the Section's finances are in excellent condition.
- The Section has a strong and diverse Executive Committee representing many of the top companies in the region, including Costco, Microsoft, PACCAR, BECU, HTC, Itron, Avista, Intellectual Ventures, Ecova, Liberty Mutual, Eddie Bauer, T-Mobile, Flexplan, and Numera, as well as the Seattle Art Museum. The Section appears to be well-positioned for successful leadership transitions in the coming years.
- The depth and breadth of the Section's leadership has enabled it to transition individuals through various leadership positions more regularly and to spread the workload in a manner that encourages greater participation and a more dynamic Section.

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

- Eastern Washington Outreach – The Executive Committee has made it a priority to "do more with and do more for" our Eastern Washington members and prospective members. In support of this initiative, in September, the Section co-sponsored its "Second Annual Corporate Counsel Section and Business Law Section Eastern Washington ½ Day CLE and Networking Event." The CLE was a great success and our Eastern Washington members are very supportive of the initiative. After last year's event, the Executive Committee added an

additional Eastern Washington-based attorney to the Executive Committee and others have expressed interest in getting involved with Section CLE planning and programming.

- Another priority for the Section is to continue its growth through greater awareness of its activities and the opportunities it presents for professional development. In furtherance of this goal the Section Executive Committee has:
 - i. Coordinated with WSBA staff to continually enhance the Section's website with updated event information, content from Section CLEs and pictures from Section events.
 - ii. Timely forwarded pictures of Section events to the BarNews Magazine for inclusion in the publications "Around the State" feature.
 - iii. Maintained and promoted a Section LinkedIn page, including regular updates regarding Section events and activities.
 - iv. Continued to make use of the ListServe to provide timely information regarding Section events and activities.

3. Current and new benefits for section membership.

- Discounted attendance at Quarterly Dinner Mini CLE's that provide exceptional opportunities for professional development and networking.
- Discounted attendance at other CLEs, primarily the Section's ½ Day Ethics for In-House Counsel CLE and Corporate Counsel Institute.
- Opportunities for leadership and professional development within the Section's Executive Committee and through participation in CLE development and implementation.

4. Section community involvement and special financial designations.

- The Executive Committee invited the executive director of an organization that sponsors and coordinates pro bono opportunities for in-house counsel to present at one of its Executive Committee meetings this year and then later invited the same person to make a similar presentation to a much larger group at one of our quarterly dinners. We plan to make this an annual event.

5. Please describe the ways in which your section's activities have supported and/or will support the WSBA's Guiding Principles, which are to advance and promote:

- The Section sponsors a ½ Day Ethics for In-House Counsel CLE that advances and supports *"The ethics, civility, professionalism, and competency of the bar."*
- The Section Executive Committee has become increasingly diverse in recent years and currently exploring ways to increase both its own diversity and that of the Section membership overall.

6. Please describe your Executive Committee's relationship with WSBA staff and the Board of Governors.

- The Section's Executive Committee has excellent working relations with WSBA staff and is very pleased with the level of service and support received in designing, promoting and administering our various programs, as well as in guiding its leadership in the successful management of the Section.
- The Section Executive Committee has worked with the Section's BOG Liaisons to stay in touch with concerns and issues of importance at the BOG level and to provide input on such concerns and issues from the Section's perspective.

- The Section again helped to sponsor the WYLD Section's Night and hosted a booth to share information about the Section and its activities with newer lawyers.
- The Section Executive Committee has made several efforts to interact more with the young lawyers committee and to provide educational and professional development opportunities through the WSBA's New Lawyer Education, but these efforts and offers have seemed to fall through the cracks, primarily due to changes in staffing at the WSBA and the recent structural changes within the WYLD.