



WSBASections

Annual Report 2011- 2012

(October 1, 2011 – September 30, 2012)

Section: The Corporate Counsel Section
Submitted by: Paul A. Swegle
Section position: Chair
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1. Section highlights and accomplishments in 2011-2012.

- The Section's Corporate Counsel Institute in November of 2011 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 continues with renewed vitality under the leadership of Activities Chair James Doane. The event venue alternates between Seattle and Bellevue and Mr. Doane has successfully transitioned the Seattle programs to the Rainier Club, a move that has been well received by Section members.
- As described below, the Section successfully launched an "Eastern Washington Outreach" effort with a very successful event on September 21, 2012 – the "First Annual Corporate Counsel Section and Business Law Section ½ Day CLE and Networking Event."
- Section membership continues to be strong and growing at 838 as of August 2012 and the Section's finances are in excellent condition.
- The Section has a strong and diverse Executive Committee totaling 13 persons and representing many of the top companies in the region, including Costco, Microsoft, PACCAR, Boeing, BECU, HTC, Itron, Avista, Flexplan, and Fidelity National Financial, as well as the Seattle Art Museum. The Section appears to be well-positioned for successful leadership transitions in the coming years.

2. Section priorities, including new goals, for upcoming membership year 2011-2012.

- 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, on September 21, the Section co-sponsored the "First 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. Following the event, the Executive Committee expects to add at least one 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 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. Launched, 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.

- A member of the Section's Executive Committee collaborated with the Association of Corporate Counsel to sponsor a networking event at the Seattle Art Museum during the Gauguin exhibit which was open to all Section members.
- Members of the Executive Committee helped organize and participated in a "Corporate Counsel Pro Bono" roundtable at the Rainier Club with several ACC Washington Chapter board members and various individuals representing KCBA, WSBA, Eastside Legal Assistance Project, and the Perkins Coie law firm.

5. Section activities supporting the WSBA Guiding Principles for 2011-2013 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."*

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

- The Section has participated actively in WYLD programs, including hosting a booth at the WYLD Section's Night and by participating in the WYLD Liaison program.
- On September 21, the Section worked closely with the Business Law Section to co-sponsor the "First Annual Corporate Counsel Section and Business Law Section ½ Day CLE and Networking Event" in Spokane, Washington.
- The Section has volunteered to participate in the WSBA New Lawyer Education.

7. Section relationship with WSBA staff and the Board of Governors.

- The Section enjoys excellent support from the WSBA staff and greatly appreciates their assistance in preparing and implementing CLEs, guiding Section leaders in the fulfillment of their duties, and helping Section leaders stay abreast of WSBA programs and initiatives.
- The Section has worked with its BOG liaison, Leland Kerr, to keep him informed of the Section's activities and initiatives and to stay abreast of BOG concerns and initiatives.