



WSBA Sections

Annual Report 2011- 2012

(October 1, 2011 – September 30, 2012)

Due: September 30, 2012

Section: **Litigation**
Submitted by: **William J. Schroeder**
Section position: **Past Chair, Executive Committee**
Date submitted: **September 28, 2012**

The following outline is provided as an example of possible areas to address; however, feel free to modify as appropriate for your section.

1. Section highlights and accomplishments in 2011-2012.

On August 24, 2011, the Litigation Section sponsored a CLE in conjunction with its annual meeting. The seminar took place at the WSBA conference center and we had excellent speakers.

During the last year, our Section sponsored law school events at the state's law schools. The law school events involved an on-campus work session between students and members of our Litigation Section. The purpose of these events was to give students an opportunity to talk to practicing lawyers, particularly litigators, about the practice of law, job prospects and any other topics that were of interest.

In May 2012, our Executive Committee hosted the State Supreme Court Justices for a dinner that has become an annual event. This is an opportunity for members of the Litigation Section and the Supreme Court Justices to interact and discuss topics of interest to both the Bench and Bar in a more informal environment.

Our Committee has also monitored legislation that would potentially affect the litigation practice and has provided comments to the legislative liaison and Board of Governors.

2. Section priorities, including new goals, for upcoming membership year 2012-2013.

The goal of our Executive Committee for the 2012-2013 year is to continue with the programs that we are capable of undertaking with the budget available. We anticipate sponsoring on-campus workshops at the three state law schools. We will consider the moot court sponsorships after our dues revenue picture becomes clear. We will continue to issue our quarterly newsletter. We anticipate operating our List Serve so that it provides valuable information on recent case law, litigation tips and legislation of interest to litigators.

3. Current and new benefits for section membership.

Section members benefit from information provided through our newsletter, from our review and comment on legislative proposals, from our sponsorship of the annual CLE and from our involvement in ongoing projects, such as the electronic discovery rules update and local rules updates. We hope to have a List Serve that will provide updated information on recent case law, litigation tips and legislative proposals.

4. Section community involvement and special financial designations.

Our Executive Committee has provided support for law school moot court competitions and have also sponsored high school moot court competitions through the YMCA.

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

- *Access to the justice system*
- *Diversity, equality, and cultural understanding throughout the legal community.*
- *A fair and impartial judiciary*
- *The public's understanding of the rule of law and its confidence in the legal system*
- *The ethics, civility, professionalism, and competency of the bar.*

It has been our goal to engage attorneys with diverse backgrounds to become members of our Executive Committee.

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

Our Executive Committee provides input on legislation sponsored by, or of interest to, other WSBA Sections. In addition, we have a WYLD liaison that attends our Executive Committee meetings. Our WYLD liaison is also participating in the joint hosting of Webinars.

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

Our Committee has had good support from the WSBA staff at every level. Our Section appreciates their assistance and dedication.

8. Additional information, comments and suggestions.

We have found that the time constraints associated with Executive Committee membership presents a fairly serious obstacle to most practitioners. The geographic diversity we attempt can also present a problem since the majority of our members are from the west side, primarily the Seattle area, and we try to maintain membership representation of all parts of the state. This sometimes burdens those members from outside the Seattle area. We will attempt to schedule meetings on the east side (Spokane) and conduct more teleconferences.

Note: Annual Reports will be shared with the WSBA Executive Director and posted on your section's webpage.* We encourage you to share the Annual Report with your BOG liaison and the section membership.

Due date: September 30, 2012

Email to: Melina Lambuth, WSBA Sections Administrative Assistant, melinal@wsba.org

*does not apply to section's with websites outside of the WSBA administration.