



WSBASections

Annual Report 2011- 2012

(October 1, 2011 – September 30, 2012)

Due: September 30, 2012

Section: Taxation
Submitted by: Darek M. Jarski
Section position: President
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1. Section highlights and accomplishments in 2011-2012.

- On December 15, 2011, the Section held a CLE: "Hot Topics in State and Federal Tax: Offshore, Online and in the Cloud." This event was well attended both in person and online.
- Throughout the year, the Section's committees have held a number of presentations on topics consistent with each committee's focus. These presentations are intended to provide information that is timely and helpful to practice tax law.
- On May 15, 2011, the Section held its Annual Luncheon at the Tower Club of the Columbia Center. The Annual Luncheon is the Section's most attended event and typically draws over one hundred members.
- As part of the Annual Luncheon, the Section presented the Stouder Award to Gary Tober. This award is in memory of Roger L. Stouder who dedicated his career to his community, to performing the highest quality legal work and, above all, to professionalism.

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

- The Section will continue to work toward improving communication with Section members regarding the numerous Section events and presentations. At a time when attorneys are inundated with email advertisements, the goal will be to strike a balance between providing pertinent information to Section members without overwhelming them with emails.
- The Section will be exploring options for providing live electronic access to Section members living/working outside of the Seattle area to participate in Section presentations. With many presentations being only an hour, it is difficult for many members to justify a trip to Seattle where most of the Section's presentations take place. The goal will be to ensure that all Section members have access to these presentations regardless of where they are located.
- The Section currently has a LinkedIn group and will be exploring the further use of this for the Section's committees.

3. Current and new benefits for section membership.

- The Section's committees hold several meetings throughout the year. The meetings are free of charge to Section members. In the past, CLE credit was available for some of the presentations.
- The Section publishes a newsletter up to three times a year. The newsletters are a way for members to receive information regarding the Section's events and also include scholarly articles relevant to tax practice.
- The Section is looking into the use of LinkedIn as a possible means for members of the Section's committees to comment and ask question of fellow attorneys on subjects specific to that committee's charter. The current WSBA Tax Section listserv covers all Section members and does not allow for sub-listservs for each of the Section's committees.
- As mentioned above, the Section will be looking into new ways to reach out to its members with the goal that every member has access to the Section's benefits.

4. Section community involvement and special financial designations.

- During the June 2012 WSBA Taxation Section Annual Luncheon, the Section provided grants of \$2,000 each to the Low Income Taxpayer Clinics at the University of Washington School of Law and Gonzaga School.
- Also during the Annual Luncheon, Adam Engst received a \$5,000 scholarship from the Section. The Tax Section scholarship program is primarily funded through donations from firms and attorneys. Thank you once again to the following firms and attorneys for their generous support of this program: Carney Badley Spellman P.S., Chicoine & Hallett, P.S., Davis Wright Tremaine LLP, Garvey Schubert Barer, K&L Gates LLP, Lane Powell PC, LeSourd & Patten, P.S., Skagit Law Group PLLC, Randall Danskin, P.S. and Law Offices of Jennifer A. Gellner, LL.M, LLC.
- The Section continues to work with pro bono organizations to encourage members' involvement.

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

- As part of better communication with Section members, the Section plans to inform members of potential pro bono opportunities.

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

- The Section looks for opportunities to partner with other organizations, such as the WSCPA, where the constituents of both organizations may benefit from such partnership.
- The Section has a Young Lawyers Committee chaired by Kay Lennon. As part of the chair's duties, she will interface with the WSBA WYLD.
- The Section remains open and welcomes corroboration with other sections and bar groups.

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

- The Section's leadership intends to stay in close communication with the WSBA to ensure that each organization's expectations are met.