

# **Washington State Bar Association**

## **Directory of Section and Committee Justice Initiatives**



**November 2008**

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If you are aware of edits or additional justice initiative projects that should be included, please contact Sharlene Steele at (206) 727-8262 or [sharlene@wsba.org](mailto:sharlene@wsba.org) Justice initiative projects are projects that increase access to the justice system for low or moderate-income people.



# WSBA

## Introduction

The *Mission* of the Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) is to serve the public and the members of the Bar, ensure the integrity of the legal profession, and to champion justice. The *Guiding Principles* of the WSBA state: “The WSBA will operate a well-managed association that supports its members and **advances and promotes access to the justice system.**” In implementing this *principle*, the WSBA administers the Supreme Court’s Access to Justice Board, and its own *Pro Bono* and Legal Aid Committee (PBLAC). The WSBA also supports and implements numerous other initiatives, including the Emeritus Attorney Program, *Pro Bono* CLE credits, the Greater Access and Assistance Project and the public interest efforts of the Washington Young Lawyers Division.

Despite these efforts, there is much to be done. The Washington State Supreme Court’s groundbreaking *Washington State Civil Legal Needs Study* found that approximately 87 percent of low-income households in Washington state experience a civil legal problem each year. Nine out of 10 low-income people do not get legal assistance and end up living with the consequences of their legal problem. The study is now over five years old, and the number of low-income people continues to increase, as does their need for legal services for some of life’s basic necessities. These challenges provide real opportunities for WSBA leadership to engage their members in initiatives that will have a significant and long-term impact.

The WSBA’s strong commitment to improving access to the justice system for low - and moderate-income people is demonstrated throughout this directory. This directory, a publication of the WSBA *Pro Bono* and Legal Aid Committee, is a compilation of justice initiatives developed over the last few years by WSBA committees and sections. The directory is updated annually to include new justice initiatives.

The purpose of the directory is three-fold:

- 1) To provide a useful guide to activities and initiatives within the WSBA that foster increasing access to justice for low- and moderate-income people and financial contributions for those efforts.

- 2) To recognize the contributions of the many attorneys who support and facilitate these initiatives; and
- 3) To encourage all WSBA committees and sections to develop access to justice initiatives.

Many of your colleagues in WSBA sections and committees already are engaged in access to justice activities, such as:

- **Pro Bono Representation:** The Legal Assistance to Military Personnel Section created a panel of attorneys willing to provide low-cost and *pro bono* legal services to members of the armed forces. The goal is that each committee or section will develop a *pro bono* panel to assist low-income clients in areas of the expertise of its members.

- **Financial Contributions:** Many sections have created grant and scholarship programs. In 2008 section donations totaled over \$126,000! Financial contributions are a great way for sections whose members focus in an area of law that is not relevant to poverty law.

- **Free or Low-Cost CLE Seminars and/or Training Materials:** Volunteer attorneys and legal services attorneys are always in need of CLE seminars covering topics that are relevant to providing *pro bono* legal services for low-income clients. The Administrative Law Section collaborated with the Access to Justice Conference Planning Committee to produce "Access Issues in Administrative Agency Programs," a CLE seminar presented at Celebration 2000. The seminar was available to legal services lawyers at a reduced fee.

More recently, the Family Law Section and the Criminal Law Section have offered financial scholarships to WSBA-sponsored CLE seminars. The scholarships were made available to volunteer attorneys, legal services attorneys, public defense attorneys, prosecutors and law students.

- **Support Changes in Rules/Procedures:** The Legal Services to the Armed Forces Committee (now the Legal Assistance to Military Personnel Section) was instrumental in the passage of an amendment to APR 8(g), allowing JAG officers a limited license to represent indigent members of the military in civilian courts. Similar rule changes allow out-of-state in-house counsel practicing in Washington to provide *pro bono* services through qualified legal services providers.

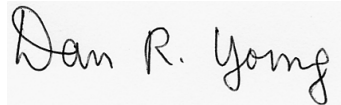
- **Build Awareness:** Seven WSBA sections signed a letter in May 2001 to state legislators and Washington's congressional delegation in support of increased funding for civil legal services.

Several WSBA sections and committees develop and update the WSBA Consumer Information pamphlet series, providing the public with information on topics such as bankruptcy, elder law, trusts, wills, alternatives to court and family law issues.

The Creditor-Debtor Section website provides a link to the Spokane County Bar Association's Volunteer Lawyers Program.

I hope this directory will inspire your section or committee to join this very important effort. The *Pro Bono* and Legal Aid Committee would like to challenge all WSBA sections and committees to develop justice initiatives that will move us closer to ensuring that all people have equal access to the justice system, regardless of their ability to pay. PBLAC and its WSBA support staff (Joan Fairbanks and Sharlene Steele) are happy to offer suggestions and to help get your initiative off the ground. Please feel free to contact them at (206) 727-8262 or me at (206) 292-8181 if you have questions, comments or suggestions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan R. Young". The signature is written in a cursive style and is placed on a light gray rectangular background.

Dan Young, Chair  
WSBA *Pro Bono* and Legal Aid Committee

# WSBA SECTIONS

## Administrative Law Section

### 2008

The section donated \$500 to co-sponsor the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Diversity Conference at Seattle University School of Law.

### 2007

As part of its annual public service project that promotes access to administrative justice, the section donated a copy of *Public Records Act Deskbook: Washington's Public Disclosure and Open Public Meeting Laws* to each county law library in Washington (a contribution valued at \$1,170). The section also donated \$1,500 to the Yakima Volunteer Attorney Services. A donation in the amount of \$250 was made to sponsor the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Diversity Conference at the Seattle University School of Law.

### 2006

The section made a \$1,500 donation to Kitsap County Legal Services

### 2005

The section made a \$1,500 donation to Kitsap County Legal Services.

### 2004

The section made the following donations:

Unemployment Law Project, Seattle	\$1,500
Washington State Bar Foundation Student Loan Repayment Assistance Program	\$1,500

### 2003

The section made the following donations:

Thurston County Volunteer Legal Services	\$1,500
State of Washington County Law Libraries	\$1,500

The section also initiated a program to ensure that all citizens have access to important administrative law reference materials by donating copies of the Washington Administrative Law Practice Manual to county law libraries throughout the state of Washington.

The Administrative Law Section collaborated with the Access to Justice Planning Committee to produce "Access Issues in Administrative Agency Programs," a CLE seminar presented at Celebration 2000 (a joint conference of the Access to Justice Conference, the Judicial Conference and the Washington State Bar Association). The seminar was available to legal services lawyers at a reduced fee. The seminar

introduced participants to hearing practices for various administrative agencies. Presenters explored ethical issues about client representation and barriers to the access of unrepresented clients to the administrative forum.

Section website: [www.wsba.org/lawyers/groups/administrativelaw/adminlaw](http://www.wsba.org/lawyers/groups/administrativelaw/adminlaw)

## **Alternative Dispute Resolution Section**

(Prior to July 2008, the Dispute Resolution Section)

### **2008**

The section made a sponsorship donation in the amount of \$1,000 to the American Bar Association Section of Dispute Resolution Spring Conference in Seattle. The section donated \$2,500 to the Seattle University School of Law through the section's Annual Summer ADR Clerkship Program.

### **2007**

The following donations were made from the section's Annual Summer ADR Clerkship Program:

Gonzaga School of Law	\$2,500
Seattle University School of Law	2,500
University of Washington School of Law	2,500

### **2006**

Donations totaling \$2,900 were contributed to the Dispute Resolution Summer Clerkship Program.

### **2005**

The section continued its tradition of sponsoring dispute resolution summer internships, this year providing a \$2,000 grant to a student at Seattle University School of Law. Her clerkship was spent at the Dispute Resolution Center of Snohomish and Island Counties which provides a variety of mediation services to low income families.

Section members led efforts in conjunction with the WSBA Legislative Committee, the WSBA Family Law Section, Resolution Washington and other stakeholders to obtain enactment during the 2005 Legislative session of the Uniform Mediation Act and the Revised Uniform Arbitration Act. These Acts establish uniform standards that parties, participants and neutrals will follow when involved in mediations and arbitrations.

### **2004**

As part of the section's recent overall redesign of its website, the online ADR Provider Directory has been updated and improved. By hosting the website with a third party provider, the section is able to provide its membership and the ADR community extensive information from a variety of resources.

The section continues to support a summer dispute resolution clerkship in collaboration with the state's three law schools. For clerkships in the summer of 2004, a student from

each of the state's three law schools benefited from the section's \$2,500 contribution to their clerkship.

### **2003**

The section developed the Online Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Provider Directory, the only comprehensive statewide directory that helps consumers make an informed choice about how to select an ADR professional. The site is very easy to use and offers a wealth of information about the providers listed. Users can search for a provider by location and practice service.

The Dispute Resolution Section collaborated with Seattle University and the UW School of Law to provide a summer dispute resolution clerkship for a student from both institutions. Work-experience is provided at a public-interest alternative dispute resolution-related agency or nonprofit organization. The law school received a commitment from the dean to match the section's \$2,500 award given to each student. The section offers this contribution annually to all three law schools in Washington.

The section also made a financial contribution to the 2003 Access to Justice Conference.

Section website: [www.adr-wa.com](http://www.adr-wa.com)

## **Animal Law Section**

### **2008**

The section donated \$200 to TV Washington's "The Docket" legal affairs program.

### **2007**

The section donated \$100 to the Washington State Bar Foundation Loan Repayment Assistance program.

### **2004**

The section is planning CLE trainings in a few specific *pro bono* areas. It is also working to develop a resource and referral list for potential clients needing low-cost or free legal help.

### **2003**

It its first year of existence, the Animal Law Section formed a *Pro Bono* Committee, which will work to create a screening clearinghouse for *pro bono*/low fee animal law assistance, with referrals to attorneys in the section's network.

Section website: [www.wsba.org/lawyers/groups/animallaw](http://www.wsba.org/lawyers/groups/animallaw)

## **Business Law Section**

### **2008**

The section donated \$10,000 to Washington Attorneys Assisting Community Organizations (WAACO).

### **2007**

The section donated \$2,000 to TV Washington's "The Docket" legal affairs program. A donation in the amount of \$10,000 was made to Washington Attorneys Assisting Community Organizations.

### **2006**

The section continued its support of Washington Attorneys Assisting Community Organizations with a donation of \$10,000.

### **2005**

The section contributed \$10,000 to Washington Attorneys Assisting Community Organizations.

### **2004**

The Business Law Section contributed an additional \$20,000 to Washington Attorneys Assisting Community Organizations (WAACO) based on a midyear report indicating very successful outcomes in the first six months of the project. WAACO is now fully operational, making referrals for *pro bono* business-related legal services. Areas in which clients have already been served include the following: organizational formation and governance, taxation, business contracts, structure and transactions, employment, real estate and intellectual property. WAACO contact information: 1 866 288 9695, [www.waaco.org](http://www.waaco.org); [contact@waaco.org](mailto:contact@waaco.org)

### **2003**

The section made a financial contribution to the 2003 Access to Justice Conference. In addition, members of the section collaborated with the 2003 ATJ Conference Planning Committee to develop a conference workshop entitled "Community Economic Development: *Pro Bono* for Business Lawyers." As a result of this workshop, in June 2003 members of this section established a Task Force on Washington State Business Law *Pro Bono*. The Task Force's purpose was to study the feasibility of launching a statewide program to provide community-based nonprofits and micro enterprises with *pro bono* legal assistance on transactional and organizational matters.

The Task Force on Washington State Business Law *Pro Bono*, which included members of the Business Law Section, the WSBA *Pro Bono* and Legal Aid Committee, representatives from the King County Bar Association, local law firms and community organizations launched WAACO, Washington Attorneys Assisting Community Organizations, a statewide volunteer attorney project designed to promote community development and organizational capacity-building in Washington state by providing free legal assistance to eligible nonprofits on business-related legal matters. The Task Force was assisted by Perkins Coie LLP associate, Katie Ludwig, through the Perkins

Coie Associate Fellowship Program. The Business Law Section donated \$10,000 to support the start-up phase of the project.

Section website: [www.wsba.org/lawyers/groups/businesslaw](http://www.wsba.org/lawyers/groups/businesslaw)

## **Corporate Counsel Section**

### **2007-2008**

Members of the section worked with the WSBA Pro Bono and Legal Aid Committee and the leadership of the WSBA to propose an amendment to RPC 5.5(e) to allow in-house counsel to provide pro bono legal services through a qualified legal services provider. The amendment was adopted, effective July 1, 2008. Subsequently, the WSBA recommended amendments to APR 8(b) to permit lawyers practicing under RPC 5.5(e) to be admitted *pro hac vice* so they can appear in court.

### **2003**

The section is investigating possible avenues for corporate counsel to engage in *pro bono* work. This program in development would enable corporate counsel to share their business expertise with new and/or struggling companies while having the necessary legal malpractice insurance to permit such *pro bono* work.

Section website: [www.wsba.org/lawyers/groups/corporatelaw](http://www.wsba.org/lawyers/groups/corporatelaw)

## **Creditor - Debtor Section**

The practitioners of the WSBA Creditor-Debtor Section recognize the importance for all individuals to have access to legal services. Many section members are actively involved in providing expertise to creditor-debtor legal services for low-income individuals, both through direct representation and/or educational programs. While financial constraints and/or other limitations may impede individuals in seeking legal services, it is recognized that community services exist to assist with legal issues. Established in 2004, the purpose of the Creditor-Debtor Section grant program is to financially assist in the on-going operation of these community service programs.

### **2008**

The section awarded the following grants from its Annual Grants Program:

Catholic Community Services of King County	\$2,500
King County Bar Association Consumer Education & Training Services (CENTS)	4,000

### **2007**

The section's Annual Grants Program awarded the following grants:

Kitsap Legal Services	\$5,000
King County Bar Association CENTS Program	4,000

## 2006

The section's Annual Grants Program awarded the following grants:

King County Bar Association CENTS Program	\$3,900
Kitsap County Legal Services	4,300
Spokane County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Program	4,300
Yakima County Volunteer Attorney Services	2,500

The section also made a contribution in the amount of \$1,250 to the Duberstein Moot Court Competition.

## 2005

In the first year of its Annual Grants Program, 2004-2005, the section made the following grant awards:

King County Bar Association CENTS Program	\$3,500
Kitsap County Legal Services	2,500
LAW Advocates (Whatcom County volunteer legal program)	3,000
Legal Action Center (Catholic Community Services, Seattle)	2,500
Spokane County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Program	3,500

## 2004

The Creditor-Debtor Section launched a new grants program to support the work of nonprofit organizations throughout the state which provide legal services to low-income individuals in the area of creditor debtor law through direct representation or financial education programs. The section formed a subcommittee to learn which of the *pro bono* programs in the state offer services in this practice area and set aside \$15,000 to donate to those programs.

A donation in the amount of \$4,500 was made to the King County Bar Association Consumer Education & Training Services Program (CENTS), [www.centsprogram.com](http://www.centsprogram.com). CENTS was formed in 1995 by concerned bankruptcy and accounting professionals in response to an alarming increase in the number of financially troubled individuals in King County. CENTS provides money management training, debt counseling, referrals, and legal services.

As in previous years, the section also contributed \$4,500 to the Spokane County Bar Association Volunteer Attorneys Program.

## 2003

The section approved funding for \$4,500 each to the Debtor-Creditor Resource Project and the Spokane County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Program. Both organizations provide legal assistance programs for low-income individuals relating to debtor-creditor issues.

Section website: [www.wsba.org/lawyers/groups/creditordebtor](http://www.wsba.org/lawyers/groups/creditordebtor)

## **Criminal Law Section**

### **2008**

The section sponsored scholarships totaling \$3,600 for its 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Criminal Justice Institute.

### **2006**

The section provided ten scholarships to the 2006 WSBA Criminal Justice Institute. Scholarships to the CLE seminar included the registration fee (\$299) and up to \$151 for travel, lodging and meal-related expenses. The scholarships were made available to prosecutors, defense attorneys and law school students.

### **2005**

The section sponsored low-cost full-day CLE seminars on criminal law and free ethics CLE seminars at Gonzaga and Seattle University law schools.

Section website: [www.wsba.org/lawyers/groups/criminallaw](http://www.wsba.org/lawyers/groups/criminallaw)

## **Elder Law Section**

The practitioners of the WSBA Elder Law Section recognize the importance for all seniors to have access to legal services. While financial constraints and/or physical limitations impede seniors in seeking elder law services, it is recognized that community services exist to assist them with legal issues. In 2001-2002, the Elder Law Section established a grant program to financially assist with the on-going operation of these community service programs.

### **2008**

The following grants were made from the section's Annual Grants Program:

Chelan-Douglas County Volunteer Attorney Services	\$3,668
Dispute Resolution Center of Yakima & Kittitas Counties	5,667
Senior Services of King County	5,665
LAW Fund (Legal Aid for Washington); designation for Columbia Legal Services	 30,000

### **2007**

The section's Annual Grants Program made the following donations:

Dispute Resolution Center of Thurston County	\$2,220
Dispute Resolution Center of Yakima & Kittitas Counties	4,000
Access to Justice Institute, Seattle U School of Law	3,780
Chelan-Douglas Volunteer Attorney Services	5,000

LAW Fund (Legal Aid for Washington); designation for Columbia Legal Services	30,000
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**2006**

Donations from the section's Annual Grants Program were awarded to:

Chelan-Douglas County Volunteer Attorney Services Senior Law Clinic	\$2,500
Dispute Resolution Center of Yakima and Kittitas Counties Mediation Services for Seniors	2,500
Dispute Resolution Center of Thurston County Elder Mediation Program	5,000
LAW Fund (Legal Aid for Washington); designation for Columbia Legal Services	25,000

The section formed the Public Guardianship Task Force to propose a solution to the problem faced by Washington residents who need the help of a guardian but who can't afford to pay for guardianship services. The task force issued a report, including a series of recommendations. The report was considered by the Executive Committee on and a resolution supporting the recommendations of the task force was adopted. The resolution was also adopted by many law-related entities. The resolution and details regarding the task force can be found on the section's website.

**2005**

The Elder Law Section advocated for an increase in the Medicaid Medically Needy Income Level. In 2004-2005, it also provided the following awards for its annual grant program established in the fall of 2001:

Dispute Resolution Center of Yakima and Kittitas Counties:	\$4,000
Northwest Regional Council, Bellingham	3,000
Northwest Health Law Advocates (NoHLA), Seattle	3,000

The \$3,000 award to NoHLA was supplemental to a 2003-2004 grant and based on demonstrated measurable results noted in the project's FY 2004 midyear report.

A donation to the Legal Aid for Washington Fund, LAW Fund, in the amount of \$20,000 was designated for Columbia Legal Services' legal work for seniors.

Elder Law Section Public Guardianship Task Force (new): The Elder Law Section formed a public guardianship task force to propose a solution to the problem faced by Washington residents who need the help of a guardian, but who can't afford to pay for guardianship services. In August 2005, the task force issued a report, including discussion of the needs, costs and benefits of public guardianship services as well as a series of recommendations. Following the Executive Committee's consideration of the

report, a resolution supporting the recommendations of the task force was adopted. Efforts to promote implementation of the recommendations are planned in 2005-2006.

#### **2004**

A donation in the amount of \$1,500 was made to the Alliance for Equal Justice of Washington State's Open House Project in October 2004. This project is part of the Access to Justice Board's effort to raise public awareness and political support for indigent civil legal services. Eighteen open houses were hosted in Washington.

At its annual meeting in September 2003, the section membership approved a recommendation by the section executive committee to contribute \$25,000 to LAW Fund. This larger amount was based on the outstanding service of Columbia Legal Services (a recipient of LAW Fund monies) on behalf of older persons as well as the severe statewide funding crisis for civil legal services.

The Elder Law Annual Grant Program awarded grants to Chelan-Douglas County Volunteer Attorney Services (\$2,500); the Dispute Resolution Center of Yakima and Kittitas Counties (\$1,000) and the Northwest Health Law Advocates, NoHLA (\$2,000).

The section adopted a position and statement in support of an increase in the Washington State Medically Needy Income Level to bring it in line with the Federal Poverty Guideline Level.

#### **2003**

For the past few years, the Elder Law Section has annually donated an average of \$10,000 to Legal Aid for Washington Fund (LAW Fund). The section is committed to improving access to justice services needed by the elderly, such as low-cost legal services, insurance and health care. LAW Fund was chosen as the donation recipient, because it provides money to assist the elderly in accessing such services. In 2002-2003, LAW Fund received \$20,000 from the Elder Law Section for its 2003 and previous year's contribution. The section requested that the funds be designated for Columbia Legal Services.

#### **2002**

The section offered its first annual grant program in September 2001. Up to \$10,000 was offered to existing senior programs operating in Washington by nonprofit organizations. These programs must provide legal services to Washington state seniors. The purpose of the grant program is to provide financial assistance to organizations offering legal assistance to seniors who otherwise would not receive such services due to financial constraints and/or physical limitations. Each award amount varies from \$1,000 to \$5,000, depending on the type of program and number of seniors served. The number of award recipients varies, based on the type and quantity of program(s) seeking funding. In 2002-2003, four grants were awarded to Washington nonprofit organizations to implement or continue the operation of a legal service project for Washington seniors:

Dispute Resolution Center of Yakima and Kittitas Counties  
Northwest Justice Project, Seattle  
Spokane County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Program  
University Legal Assistance, Elderlaw Project, Gonzaga University School of Law

The Elder Law Section's grant program received national recognition, including a feature article in the *ABA Bulletin*.

Section website: [www.wsba.org/lawyers/groups/elderlaw](http://www.wsba.org/lawyers/groups/elderlaw)

## **Environmental and Land Use Law Section**

### **2008**

The section continued its support of environmental law societies at Washington's three law schools:

GreenLaw - University of Washington Environmental Law Society	\$ 990
Seattle University Environmental Law Society	1,000
Gonzaga University Environmental Law Society	1,000

### **2007**

The section provided financial support to the environmental law societies at Washington's law schools. Grant funds were used to support a speaker series on the environment and human rights and to help support summer public-interest fellowships. The section also contributed \$750 to the Seattle University School of Law for its Matthew Henson Fellowship award. The section solicited financial contributions from its Executive Committee alumni/ae to help underwrite the cost of several scholarships offered for the section's midyear meeting and CLE.

### **2006**

The section made the following donations:

GreenLaw - University of Washington Environmental Law Society	\$ 500
Seattle University Environmental Law Society	500
Gonzaga University Environmental Law Society	1,000

### **2005**

The section made the following donations:

Gonzaga University Environmental Law Caucus (ELC)	\$ 250
Seattle University Environmental Law Society (ELS) 2005 Matthew Henson Fellowship	\$1,000

Section website: [www.wsba.org/lawyers/groups/elul](http://www.wsba.org/lawyers/groups/elul)

## Family Law Section

### 2008

The Family Law Section collaborated with the Administrative Office of the Courts in providing training to the state's court facilitators in June 2008.

The section made the following grants:

Pierce County Minority Bar Association - 9 <sup>th</sup> Annual Youth and Law Forum	\$ 500
LAW Fund (Legal Aid for Washington)	5,000
Greater Access and Assistance Project (GAAP)	9,500

### 2007

The section made the following grants:

Washington State Bar Foundation Loan Repayment Assistance Program	\$1,000
Eastside Legal Assistance Program	2,000
Center for Justice Street Law Program	500
LAW Fund	5,000

### 2006

Through its on-going grant program, the Family Law Section enhances public access to legal services. In the fall of 2005 the section contributed \$5,000 to Habitat for Humanity for the Gulf Coast Relief Fund and \$5,000 to Law Fund.

The section, in collaboration with the Washington Gender and Justice Commission, will award up to 30 scholarships – each worth \$134 – for use towards registration for a CLE seminar entitled “The Nexus of Domestic Violence and Family Law.” The scholarships are intended for attorneys who are legal aid lawyers, attorneys who work for a non-profit organization, private lawyers who represent domestic violence survivors *pro bono* or at a reduced fee.

The section contributed \$2,000 to the King County Bar Association to go towards the publication *Washington State Title 26 Family Law GAL Manual*.

In collaboration with the Washington Young Lawyers Division (WYLD), the section sponsored a family law CLE seminar for the purpose of training and recruiting potential new members of the Greater Access and Assistance Project (GAAP) in the Puget Sound region. GAAP, a joint effort of the Access to Justice Board and the WYLD, provides legal services at a reduced rate for clients that do not meet the financial requirements for *pro bono* legal services through a qualified legal services provider, but cannot pay the full rate for legal services.

## 2005

The Family Law Section made the following donations:

Clark County Volunteer Lawyers Program	\$1,000
City of Kent's Safe Havens Center	500
Spokane Greater Access and Assistance Project	1,000
Snohomish County Legal Services	1,000
King County Family Court Services	900
Washington State Bar Foundation Loan Repayment Assistance Program	1,000

## 2004

The Family Law Section donated \$3,000 to LAW Fund for distribution to volunteer attorney programs. In a letter to all WSBA sections, Chair J. Mark Weiss made a clear statement in support of the hard work contributed by the many attorneys around the state who donate their time and their talents to serve those in need. As part of the contribution, the Family Law Section challenged all sections to also donate to LAW Fund.

Section website: [www.wsba.org/lawyers/groups/familylaw](http://www.wsba.org/lawyers/groups/familylaw)

## Indian Law Section

### 2008

The section's Indian Legal Scholars Program/ Bar Exam Stipend Program provided scholarships for three recipients, totaling \$2,400.

### 2007

The section made the following donations:

Washington State Bar Foundation Loan Repayment Assistance Program	\$1,000
Indian Legal Scholars Program	2,250

### 2006

The Indian Law Section, in conjunction with the Northwest Indian Bar Association, developed the *Tribal Referral List*. The intent of the publication is to help Native and non-Native people who have legal disputes arising out of Indian Country, to receive assistance from lawyers and access to justice in the tribal and state judicial systems. The publication lists lawyers who are familiar with Indian legal issues and tribal court practice and are willing to help. The list was widely distributed and is also available on the Indian Law Section website.

In collaboration with the Northwest Indian Bar Association, the section's new Bar Exam Stipend Program awarded four recipients \$500 each to offset the costs associated with bar exam preparation.

## **2005**

The section contributed \$3,000 toward the Indian Law Scholars Program established in 2003 with its sister-group, the Northwest Indian Bar Association (NIBA). The Section's contribution provided scholarships for five Northwest Native law students.

Through the leadership of the Indian Law Section, in October 2004, the WSBA Board of Governors unanimously approved including federal Indian jurisdiction on the state's bar exam beginning in the summer of 2007. In addition to the significant social impact the new bar exam policy will have on the State of Washington and its citizens, it exemplifies the stated purposes of the WSBA's General Rule 12 – i.e., to “promote an effective legal system, accessible to all”.

## **2004**

Since 2002, the WSBA Indian Law Section and the Northwest Indian Bar Association (NIBA), have raised the issue of whether certain federal Indian jurisdictional principles should be tested on the WSBA bar exam. While the issue is first and foremost one of competence and professionalism, a significant collateral benefit of testing tribal jurisdiction on the bar exam is ensuring that Washington citizens, particularly the indigent, secure access to justice. The WSBA's failure to generally understand fundamental Indian jurisdictional principles and resultant anxiety about handling matters that implicate tribal jurisdiction, deprives indigent Washington citizens – both Indians and non-Indians – from obtaining legal counsel and gaining access to our court systems for the resolution of matters affecting basic familial and property rights. The WSBA Board of Governors considered the issue in October 2004. A motion was made and seconded to amend the Policy Governing Admission, Section 6 B to include Federal Indian Jurisdiction as a testable area effective with the summer 2007 exam. . After further discussion, the motion passed by a vote of 14-0-0; President Ward declared the endorsement of the inclusion of Indian law on the bar exam as unanimous.

Since the fall of 2003, the WSBA Indian Law Section and NIBA have partnered to award scholarships in amounts ranging from \$500 to \$10,000 to a group of eleven aspiring Native American lawyers in four northwest states. In August 2004, the General Practice, Solo and Small Firm Section of the ABA bestowed the Indian Law Section and NIBA with the “Solo and Small Firm Project Award” in recognition of their success in raising and donating over \$30,000 in scholarships. Five students attending Washington law schools will benefit from the Indian Law Section's contribution of \$7,500 in scholarship support.

## **2003**

The section collaborated with the Access to Justice Conference Planning Committee to develop and facilitate a workshop at the 2002 ATJ Conference in Yakima. The goal was to increase tribal attendance at the conference and to raise awareness regarding

Native American issues. The panel discussed substantive law, gave a practical overview of how tribal and state legal systems are working together, and gave a big picture look at tribal access to justice issues and how they interplay with the state legal system. Topics included PL 280 training, ICWA, Full Faith and Credit, Jurisdiction, training for judges on Native issues and history.

The section awarded \$1,000 scholarships to two Native American law students. As the most under-represented ethnic demographic in the legal profession, the intent of the section's scholarship program is to nourish future Indian lawyers. Scholarships are open to any law student attending a Washington law school who is a member of a federally recognized Indian tribe or Alaska native group. Factors considered in awarding the scholarships were school achievement and scholastic potential, and demonstrated dedication to cultural and political heritage.

Section website: [www.wsba.org/lawyers/groups/indianlaw](http://www.wsba.org/lawyers/groups/indianlaw)

## **Intellectual Property Section**

### **2008**

The section awarded the following grants:

Law student scholarships	\$6,000
Washington Lawyers for the Arts	500

### **2007**

The section donated a total of \$5,000 to the three Washington law schools for student scholarships for intellectual property law students.

### **2006**

The section awarded \$2,000 to each Washington state law school to provide scholarships for Intellectual Property law students. The section donated \$2,000 to Gonzaga University School of Law's moot court competition. In addition, the section provided three supplemental scholarships (\$300 each) for a student team to attend annual Saul Lefkowitz Intellectual Property Moot Court Competition.

### **2005**

For its annual intellectual property scholarship program, the section provided a \$1,000 award to a student at each of the state's three law schools. As in prior years, the scholarships were awarded by members of the executive committee during "meet and greets" during the year at each law school.

### **2004**

The section established an annual intellectual property scholarship for one student at each of the state's three law schools, awarding a total of \$3,000.

**2003**

Members of the Intellectual Property Section provide on-going participation in and support of the programs of Washington Lawyers for the Arts (WLA), to make legal information and counseling available at low or no cost to artists and arts organizations that could not otherwise afford the cost of legal services. Information about Washington Lawyers for the Arts is available at [director@wa-artlaw.org](mailto:director@wa-artlaw.org) or [www.wa-artlaw.org](http://www.wa-artlaw.org). The Intellectual Property Section contributed \$4,500 to WLA.

Section website: [www.wsba.org/lawyers/groups/intellectualproperty](http://www.wsba.org/lawyers/groups/intellectualproperty)

**International Practice Section**

**2007**

The section awarded \$500 to the recipient of the Huneke Award.

Section website: [www.wsba.org/lawyers/groups/internationalpractice](http://www.wsba.org/lawyers/groups/internationalpractice)

**Labor and Employment Law Section**

**2008**

The section’s Law Summer Internship Program awarded a total of \$9,000 to students of the three Washington law schools.

**2007**

The section’s Law Summer Internship Program awarded a total of \$8,500 to students of the three Washington law schools. A contribution in the amount of \$5,000 was made to TV Washington’s “The Docket”

**2006**

The Labor and Employment Law Executive Committee awarded \$7,500 for summer internships to deserving students selected by their law schools as showing an outstanding interest in labor and employment issues. Internships were awarded to students from all three Washington state law schools.

**2005**

The section established an annual Labor & Employment Law Summer Internship program and provided \$2,500 grants each to a student attending Seattle University School of Law and Gonzaga University School of Law. The University of Washington School of Law elected not to participate in the program.

Donations were also made to:

Washington State Bar Foundation Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP)	\$2,500
Unemployment Law Project, Seattle	\$2,500

## **2003**

The section made a \$1,000 financial contribution to the Unemployment Law Project which provides legal assistance to unemployed workers across the state who have had their eligibility for unemployment benefits challenged by their employers or the state.

Section website: [www.wsba.org/lawyers/groups/laboremployment](http://www.wsba.org/lawyers/groups/laboremployment)

## **Legal Assistance to Military Personnel Section**

### **2007-2008**

The section teamed with Washington National Guard's 81<sup>st</sup> Brigade to organize, train, and equip volunteer lawyers for the Attorneys Assisting Citizen-Soldiers and their Families (AACF) initiative (see [www.aacf.org](http://www.aacf.org)) to support deployed soldiers and their families with statewide *pro bono* legal assistance

### **2005**

The WSBA Legal Services to the Armed Forces Committee has been superseded with the creation of the Legal Services to the Armed Forces *Section*, effective October 1, 2004. This section has since been renamed "Legal Assistance to Military Personnel."

This new section created a list of section members who have agreed to consider accepting matters from military personnel and dependents. Some of these cases will be accepted on a *pro bono* or low-fee basis.

### **2004**

The committee sponsored a two-day CLE seminar for JAG officers to meet the requirements of the ARR 8(g) exception.

Approved by the WSBA Board of Governors in April 2004, the work of the committee will continue as the newly formed Legal Services to the Armed Forces Section beginning in October 2004.

### **2003**

A website at [www.wsba.org/lawyers/groups/legalsvsaf](http://www.wsba.org/lawyers/groups/legalsvsaf) includes links to resources for lawyers, the military and the public. Subjects include CLE notices, links to military agencies, contact people; and general information about applicable federal laws; military jurisdictional issues; and related matters involving military personnel, their dependents, and their access to the civilian justice system.

The Legal Services to the Armed Forces Committee, together with the Navy, Army, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard legal services offices can arrange for in-court representation in Washington courts for active duty junior enlisted personnel. This program, the Expanded Legal Assistance Program (ELAP), is authorized under current United States Armed Forces regulations. ELAP representation is limited to civil matters and is further limited to junior enlisted service members and their dependents who demonstrate an inability to afford attorney fees without undue hardship. The committee was instrumental in the passage of an amendment to APR 8(g), allowing JAG officers

not admitted in Washington a limited license to represent indigent members of the military in civilian courts. JAG officers seeking admission under Rule 8(g) must satisfy 15 hours of specified CLE. The Legal Services to the Armed Forces Committee helps develop this curriculum each year.

Section website: <http://www.wsba.org/lawyers/groups/lamp>

## **Litigation Section**

### **2007**

The section contributed \$2,500 to the Washington State Bar Foundation to sponsor a documentary developed by the WSBA Leadership Institute: *Justice for All: Our Profession, Our Responsibility*.

Section website: [www.wsba.org/lawyers/groups/litigation](http://www.wsba.org/lawyers/groups/litigation)

## **Real Property, Probate & Trust Section (RPPT)**

### **2008**

The section donated \$1,000 to Washington Attorneys Assisting Community Organizations (WAACO).

### **2007**

The section contributed \$3,000 to TV Washington's "The Docket" and made a donation in the amount of \$500 to Washington Attorneys Assisting Community Organizations.

### **2003**

Many members of this section support *Leave a Legacy*, a community- and corporate-sponsored public-education campaign to encourage people to make planned gifts to their favorite charities in their estates. This successful campaign is a collaboration among hundreds of community organizations, businesses and professionals, with the goal of generating increased interest in estate planning and charitable giving. As part of the campaign, *Leave a Legacy* has launched "Make a Will, Make a Difference" and asks RPPT members to help by donating time to provide a no-obligation consultation with individuals who have become aware of the need to provide an estate plan for their family and community.

Contact: Leave a Legacy 800-682-0090 or [www.leavealegacy.org](http://www.leavealegacy.org)

The RPPT Section signed a *Pro Bono* Resolution on June 7, 1997 in an effort to encourage and support *pro bono* services by the section's general membership.

Section website: [www.wsbarppt.com](http://www.wsbarppt.com)

## Senior Lawyers Section

### 2008

The section awarded its 2008 Grant Award in the amount of \$10,000 to Plymouth Housing Group to support the development and implementation of quarterly legal clinics at Simons Senior Apartments.

Section website: <http://www.wsba.org/lawyers/groups/seniorlawyers>

## Taxation Law Section

### 2008

The section made the following contributions:

2008 Annual Tax Law Student Scholarship – UW School of Law (scholarship for a student graduating from a Washington state law school who has been accepted to attend a tax LLM program)	\$5,000
Low Income Taxpayer Clinic – Gonzaga School of Law	2,000
Federal Tax Income Clinic - University of Washington School of Law	2,000

### 2007

The section made the following donations:

Gonzaga University – University Legal Assistance	\$2,000
University of Washington – Low Income Taxpayer Clinic	2,000
2007 Tax Law Student Scholarship	5,000

### 2006

The section's annual scholarship in the amount of \$5,000 was awarded to an LLM law student at Seattle University School of Law.

### 2005

An annual \$5,000 scholarship was awarded to a University of Washington School of Law student candidate for LL.M in Taxation.

### 2004

The Tax Law Section awards an annual scholarship is to a graduating student from a Washington State law school that has been accepted by and plans to attend a tax Masters of Law program at a United States law school. The amount of the scholarship is approximately \$5,000. Members of the Tax Executive Committee of the Tax Law Section will award the scholarship based on several factors, including the financial need of the applicant and the likelihood the applicant will become an active member of the WSBA Tax Law Section.

Section website: [www.wsba.org/lawyers/groups/taxlaw](http://www.wsba.org/lawyers/groups/taxlaw)

## **World Peace Through Law Section**

### **2008**

The section continued its support of the Seattle International Human Rights Film Festival by donating \$200 to Amnesty International Puget Sound.

### **2007**

The section contributed \$200 to Amnesty International Puget Sound to sponsor the Seattle International Human Rights Film Festival.

### **2005**

The section continues to offer its free monthly forums for members and the public. The 2004-2005 series addressed a variety of topical justice issues of an international scope, including Iraq's new constitution and democratization in the Middle East, Iraqi sanctions, judicial reform in Russia and the former Soviet Union, forensic investigations and human rights, and the law of individual humanitarian acts.

### **2004**

In 2003-2004, the section expanded its monthly membership meetings which have provided a special presentation on a topic of interest into a forum series titled "World Peace Through Law: Foundations & Applications". Forum topics presented by legal experts and other professionals have included the right to peace between a nation and its peoples, the Mayan justice system, and war crimes trials.

## **Letter of Support for Increased Funding for Civil Legal Services (2003)**

The Access to Justice Board and Equal Justice Coalition thank the following WSBA sections for signing a letter in May 2001 to state legislators and Washington's congressional delegation urging legislators to address the critical need for increased funding for civil legal services in our state.

Administrative Law Section  
Corporate Law Department Section  
Creditor-Debtor Law Section  
Dispute Resolution Section  
Family Law Section  
Labor & Employment Law Section  
Litigation Section  
Law Practice Management & Technology Section  
Taxation Law Section

### **Washington State Legal Needs Study**

Special thanks also go to the following sections that made significant financial contributions toward the cost of the first extensive study ever conducted in this state of the civil legal needs of low-income and vulnerable people. The study is a project of the Civil Equal Justice Funding Task Force, which was established in November 2001 by the Washington State Supreme Court, at the request of the Access to Justice Board.

Administrative Law Section  
Dispute Resolution Section  
Elder Law Section



For additional information on the WSBA section activities highlighted in this *Directory*, please contact the current section chair, listed on the section's website, or Toni Doane, WSBA Section Leaders Liaison, at (206) 727-8293, or [tonid@wsba.org](mailto:tonid@wsba.org).

# WSBA COMMITTEES

## Court Rules and Procedures Committee

### 2007

In 2007/2008 the committee assisted the WSBA Pro Bono and Legal Aid Committee in drafting a new proposed General Rule, GR 34 *Waiver of Fees and Costs in Civil Matters on the Basis of Indigency*. The intent of this proposed rule is to help minimize the time and effort currently required for volunteer lawyers to obtain a fee waiver on behalf of their clients, and to develop uniformity throughout the state in the application of the fee waiver process.

### 2006

In 2005/2006 the Court Rules and Procedures Committee assisted the Access to Justice Board in drafting a new proposed General Rule, GR 33 *Requests for Accommodation by Persons with Disabilities*, designed to address accommodation of persons with disabilities in the court system. The draft rule was approved by the Board of Governors for a joint WSBA/ATJ submission to the Court. The WSBA and the ATJ Board jointly submitted the proposed rule to the Court in the fall of 2006. GR 33 was adopted, effective September 1, 2007.

### 2005

This committee assisted the Legal Foundation of Washington and the Access to Justice Board in drafting and promoting a proposed amendment to Civil Rule 23, designed to direct payment of twenty-five percent of residual funds in any class action case to the Legal Foundation of Washington, which administers Interest on Lawyer's Trust Accounts (IOLTA) and other funds in support of legal and educational programs for low-income persons in Washington state. Civil Rule 23 was approved by the Court in December 2005 and went into effect January 2006.

Contact: Elizabeth Turner, WSBA Assistant General Counsel  
(206) 232-2109 [elizabetht@wsba.org](mailto:elizabetht@wsba.org)  
<http://www.wsba.org/lawyers/groups/courtrules>

## **Pro Bono and Legal Aid Committee (PBLAC)**

The *Pro Bono* and Legal Aid Committee deals with questions in the fields of *pro bono* and legal aid, with respect to:

1. supporting activities that assist volunteer attorney legal services programs and organizations, and encouraging *pro bono* participation;

2. addressing the administration of justice as it affects indigent persons throughout the state; and
3. cooperating with other agencies, both public and private, interested in these objectives.

The major focus of the *Pro Bono* and Legal Aid Committee 1994-1999 was the implementation of Volunteer Attorney Legal Services Action Plan (VALS Action Plan), adopted by the Washington State Bar Association Board of Governors in 1994 to enhance the delivery of *pro bono* services in Washington state. In 1999 the committee wrote a Five-Year Progress Report analyzing the implementation of the VALS Action Plan. The report notes that its implementation is inextricably tied to significant initiatives in Washington state that have been under development since the VALS Action Plan was adopted in 1994 (e.g., Revised Plan for the Delivery of Civil Legal Services to Low Income People in Washington State (State Plan- developed by the Access to Justice Board in 1995, most currently revised in 2006) and the annual Access to Justice Conference Recommendations. The report concluded that the VALS Action Plan (and the subsequent State Plan) is a work in progress, as well as a flexible document that continues to change with the needs of this community.

The following is a compilation of PBLAC's accomplishments over the last several years, and on-going justice initiatives. Much of the work is accomplished through subcommittees.

### **Proposed GR 34 Waiver of Court and Clerk's Fees and Charges in Civil Matters on the Basis of Indigency**

Goal: To develop and seek adoption of a statewide *in forma pauperis* rule, designed to make the civil action filing fee waiver process for indigents more objective, efficient and uniform throughout the state

After several years of drafting and vetting the proposed *in forma pauperis* rule to solicit input and address concerns of interested parties and stakeholders, the proposed rule was sent to the WSBA Court Rules and Procedures Committee (CRPC) in 2007. The CRPC reviewed and edited the document to refine language and to ensure consistency with other rules. The CRPC and the Pro Bono and Legal Aid Committee presented the proposed rule to the WSBA Board of Governors at its July 2007 meeting. The WSBA Board of Governors approved the proposed rule and forwarded it to the Washington State Supreme Court for consideration. In response to comments submitted to the Court by the Superior Court Judges Association (SCJA) and the Washington Court Clerks Association opposing GR 34, PBLAC asked the Court for an extension so that it could attempt, once again, to work directly with the judges and clerks in hopes of revising GR 34 to address their concerns, while at the same time maintaining the objectives of the proposed rule. Following a series of meetings with representatives of the SCJA, county clerks and PBLAC, an agreement has been reached between PBLAC and the SCJA on a substantially revised version of the draft rule. Unfortunately, agreement was not achieved with the clerks. The revised draft will go to the WSBA

Board of Governors in December 2008, with a request to endorse and forward to the Supreme Court.

### **Corporate Counsel Pro Bono Subcommittee**

Mission: To encourage the development of a culture of pro bono within the corporate law departments and in-house counsel sector to increase pro bono service

The list of corporate counsel was updated for the purpose of contacting corporations to compile information as to how best to encourage pro bono among corporate attorneys. A brief questionnaire will be sent to those attorneys in the fall of 2008. PBLAC members worked with the leadership of the WSBA to develop an amendment to RPC 5.5(e) to rectify the unintended consequences of 2007 revisions to the RPCs (which resulted in in-house counsel being unauthorized to provide pro bono services). The Court approved the amendment, effective July 1, 2008.

### **Government Attorney Pro Bono Subcommittee**

Mission: To encourage the development of a culture of pro bono within the government law sector to increase pro bono service

The committee collaborated with staff at the Attorney General's Office in an effort to increase awareness of the Attorney General's Office *Pro Bono* Policy. A CLE seminar on August 19, 2004 sponsored by the Attorney General's Office, focused on this policy and the amendments to RPC 6.1. PBLAC's chair was a presenter on the panel. As a result of PBLAC's participation in the seminar, the AG's office created an internal *pro bono* committee to institutionalize, monitor and track *pro bono* efforts and training.

An article was written for publication in the September 2006 issue of the WSBA *Bar News* to highlight the presentation of the Thurston County Volunteer Legal Services' "Pro Bono Law Firm of the Year Award" to the Olympia office of the Attorney General.

The Olympia Office of the Attorney General generated attention at both national and state levels after receiving the Thurston County Volunteer Legal Services' Pro Bono Law Firm of the Year Award. PBLAC member Dina Yunker, Office of the Attorney General, participated in panel discussions at the American Bar Association/National Legal Aid & Defender Equal Justice Conference in Denver and at the Washington State Access to Justice/WSBA Bar Leaders Conference in Wenatchee. The discussions focused on the successful collaboration between the volunteer legal services program and government attorneys to increase services to low-income clients.

PBLAC members attended a meeting of the Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys to discuss and encourage pro bono services among prosecutors. A document developed for distribution at this meeting included a quote from King County Prosecutor Norm Maleng, praising attorneys in his office who volunteer to assist the homeless at Angeline's Day Center for Homeless Women. Also included was a message from Attorney General Rob McKenna, encouraging employees to share their time and talent to benefit the less fortunate. The Attorney Generals' Pro Bono Policy

was also discussed in an effort to dispel confusion about what government attorneys are allowed to do in regards to pro bono services.

A letter from PBLAC was mailed to all Washington state elected county prosecutors for the purpose of encouraging government lawyers to provide pro bono services. The letter raises awareness about RCW 36.27.060, in which the legislature made clear its intention that prosecuting attorneys be free to provide legal services to those who cannot afford to pay. The letter provides suggestions on how to overcome unique obstacles and gives examples of how government attorneys can become involved in pro bono efforts. Subcommittee members will follow up with phone calls to the prosecutors.

### **Supreme Court Involvement Subcommittee**

Mission: To promote increased involvement of the Washington State Supreme Court in taking a leadership role in encouraging WSBA members to provide pro bono services

In response to meetings with Justice Mary Fairhurst and Justice Bobbe Bridge (ret.) to discuss ways for the Supreme Court to encourage pro bono the subcommittee drafted two articles: *The Need for More Pro Bono Volunteers*, was published in the *WSBA Bar News*. An article about the legacy of Fred Korematsu, is intended for a general circulation newspaper or newsletters for use by Washington Supreme Court Justices.

A letter signed by eight of the Washington State Supreme Court justices was sent to the Qualified Legal Services Providers (QLSPs). The QLSPs were encouraged to utilize and distribute the letter widely for volunteer attorney recruitment efforts.

The subcommittee is finalizing a proposal for a Washington State Supreme Court *Pro Bono* Honor Roll. The Honor Roll would recognize and honor those attorneys and legal employers/law firms/professionals in the State of Washington who have greatly exceeded the aspirational goals set forth in RPC 6.1. The Honor Roll would recognize those attorneys and legal employers/law firms/professionals that have gone far “above and beyond” the call of duty to address the profound need for legal representation of indigent individuals as identified in the *Washington Supreme Court Civil Legal Needs Study*. The recognition is intended for those attorneys who are providing direct legal representation to indigent individuals (RPC 6.1(a)) rather than *pro bono* work in general (RPC 6.1(b)).

### **Rules/Education for Pro Bono Participation Subcommittee**

Mission: To propose court rules to facilitate the appearance of pro bono counsel, to raise the awareness or pro bono aspirational goals among law students and the general bar, to increase free and low-cost CLE seminars for volunteer attorneys, and otherwise to remove procedural and administrative barriers that impede volunteerism.

Discussions are taking place with LexisNexis and Westlaw to provide free or low-cost legal research services for volunteer attorneys. Columbia Legal Services and Northwest Justice project have agreed to provide meeting and work space for volunteer attorneys. Pending reorganization at Seattle University School of Law, PBLAC plans to

encourage the law school to expand its translation services to volunteer attorneys in other areas of Washington state.

### **Emeritus Subcommittee**

Mission: To raise awareness about the WSBA Emeritus Program and membership status and to increase Emeritus membership

WSBA Emeritus members were surveyed in an effort to improve and expand the WSBA Emeritus Program, to enhance the *pro bono* experience for WSBA Emeritus members and to identify potential barriers to WSBA members changing their status to Emeritus. The QLSPs were also surveyed to determine the effectiveness of Emeritus volunteers, and to solicit feedback that could improve the recruitment process. As a result of survey results, PBLAC has recommended amendments to APR 8(e) Emeritus to change the name of the membership status to “Emeritus Pro Bono”; reduce or eliminate the annual licensing fee and to clarify the definition of QLSPs to make clear that they are Washington state organizations. PBLAC made a presentation about the WSBA Emeritus Program at the annual WSBA Senior Section meeting. An article was published in the May 2008 “access to justice issue” of *Bar News* to raise awareness among the general membership of the WSBA. A marketing packet was mailed to attorneys who have been in practice 34-44 years in an effort to raise awareness about Emeritus to the “baby boomers” approaching retirement.

### **WSBA Membership Survey Subcommittee**

Mission: To develop a survey to identify areas of interest for volunteer lawyers and to identify incentives for increased pro bono

A survey of WSBA members has been drafted and vetted among interested parties and stakeholders. The survey will be formatted in *Survey Monkey* by PBLAC, and sent via e-mail to all WSBA members that have an e-mail address on record with the WSBA this fall. PBLAC plans to work with Seattle University School of Law to compile the survey results.

### **Other Miscellaneous Accomplishments and Initiatives**

- PBLAC unanimously supported the WSBA Amicus Committee’s request for endorsement of its proposal to write an amicus brief in support of the civil Gideon concept (case: *the marriage of King*).
- PBLAC member Jason Vail co-authored a chapter on ethical issues in pro bono representation for inclusion in the updated version of the WSBA CLE Department’s Ethics Deskbook.
- Increase visibility of Washington state’s *pro bono* efforts  
Committee member Andy Guy authored an article for the U.S. State Department, entitled “*Pro Bono* Representation: Providing Counsel Where It’s Needed,” which was published in August 2004 in the State Department’s electronic journal “Access to the Courts: Equal Justice for All.” Among other items, the article describes the

efforts being made by the WSBA and other organizations to address the civil legal needs of low income persons in Washington.

- Encourage the development of justice initiatives by WSBA Sections and Committees  
The *Directory of WSBA Section and Committee Justice Initiatives* (first published in the fall of 2003) is updated and distributed annually to WSBA Sections and Committees.
- CLE Credits for Pro Bono MCLE Regulation 103(g) *Pro Bono Legal Services*  
In 2000 the *Pro Bono* and Legal Aid Committee succeeded in the adoption of MCLE Regulation 103(g) *Pro Bono Legal Services*.

A member may earn up to six (6) hours of credit annually by certifying that the member has fulfilled requirements under the auspices of a qualified legal services provider:

In an effort to assist the qualified legal-services providers with providing the education component to their volunteers, PBLAC developed a “*Pro Bono* CLE Video Library” for the qualified legal services providers. This video library contains a wide range of substantive training in legal topics relevant to *pro bono* cases, such as family law, bankruptcy, housing, and ethical issues involved in representing *pro bono* cases. Providers either loan the tapes to their volunteers individually or host a seminar for groups of volunteers.

- Amendments to RPC 6.1 *Pro Bono Publico Service*  
In July 2003 the Washington State Supreme Court adopted PBLAC’s recommendations for the adoption of a rule that mirrors the ABA rule, reaffirming every lawyer’s professional responsibility to provide *pro bono* legal services, and identifying an objective of at least 30 hours of *pro bono* legal services per year (of which a substantial majority would be for persons of limited means; or charitable, religious, civil, community, governmental and educational organizations). Lawyers rendering a minimum of 50 hours receive recognition for such service from the WSBA. The Court also approved **voluntary** reporting of *pro bono* service hours via the WSBA annual licensing renewal form. These changes became effective September 1, 2003.

Comprehensive articles were written by PBLAC, and were published in the October 2003, November 2003 and July 2004 issues of *Bar News*. A brief mention of the amended rule also appeared in the September 2003 FYI section of *Bar News*. Presentations were made at CLE seminars hosted by the Government Lawyers Bar Association, the Northwest Women’s Law Center, and the state Attorney General’s Office. The committee was very involved in developing the voluntary *pro bono* reporting process, including determining which statistics should be compiled, analyzing the data and assisting WSBA leadership in recognizing attorneys who provided 50+ hours of *pro bono* service. The committee proposed the form of the

recognition awards and the wording for the certificate that was issued to members who reported 50 or more hours.

PBLAC monitors the voluntary pro bono reporting statistics. Since 2005 there has been an increase in the percentage of the WSBA membership reporting, as well as an increase in the number pro bono hours. The committee will continue to monitor this process in the future in an effort to make yearly comparisons and conclusions.

- Facilitated WSBA membership survey in 2001 on market incentives to determine what motivates attorneys to volunteer
- Developed the Model Law Firm Pro Bono Policy.

Contact: Sharlene Steele, WSBA Access to Justice Liaison  
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[www.wsba.org/lawyers/groups/probono](http://www.wsba.org/lawyers/groups/probono)