WSBA**Sections**

Annual Report 2012- 2013
(October 1, 2012 – September 30, 2013)

Deadline: October 4, 2013

Section: **Alternative Dispute Resolution Section**
Submitted by: **Anamaria Gil**
Section position: **Chair, 2013-2014**
Date submitted: **September 20, 2014**

Thank you for completing your section's annual report. Please feel free to add to the topics below as appropriate for your section.

- **ADR Section's highlights and accomplishments during 2012-2013:**
    - The ADR Section has been actively involved in the development of a number of continuing legal education events over the last year. Educational events include:
        - June 10, 2013: De-escalating Intense Emotions: The secrets of a hostage negotiator
            - Co-sponsored with WSBA
        - November 4, 2013: Overcoming Barriers to Mediation in Land Use and Environmental Disputes – Emerging Tools and Tips from the Trenches
            - Co-sponsored by ADR Section and Environmental and Land Use Law Section
        - February 14, 2014: Early Mediation in Family Law – Models and practice under proposed HB 1353?
    - The ADR Section is also a co-sponsor of the Annual Northwest Dispute Resolution Conference. Next year's conference is scheduled for March 28-29, 2014.
    - The ADR Section Membership Committee sponsored four Membership events in 2012-2013. The Membership events are a 1-hour Panel Presentation on current ADR issues, followed by a social/networking event. Panel Presentation topics over the last year were:
        - ABC's of Arbitration
        - Land Use Mediation
        - "Collaborative" and "collaborative" Probate
        - Professionalism in ADR and why it can help you

- The ADR Section held its Annual Meeting on September 4, 2013, which included a panel presentation entitled "A Litigator's Perspective: Real World Lessons Learned From Early Mediation."
- The ADR Section Legislative Committee supported various legislative amendments, including:
    - Statutes of limitation in arbitration (HB 1065)
    - Early family mediation (HB 1353)
    - Uniform Collaborative Law Act and Rules
    - Incorporation of UMA in Fairness Foreclosure Act
- The ADR Section Legislative Committee has also been involved in the examination of a proposal for legislation relating to apologies to victims of airline disasters.
- The ADR Section Legislative Committee also sponsors forum discussions on current legislative issues. Forum discussion topics over the past year include:
    - Uniform Collaborative Law Act and Rules
    - New International Commercial Arbitration Act (Scheduled for October 23, 2013)
- The ADR Section has also sponsored research and reports on current ADR topics, including:
    - Report: Mediation Practices in Law--Survey of Northwest Mediators
    - Research: Using Mediation to Lower the Cost of Litigation--Task Force Recommendations
    - New Research re: What lawyers and mediators are really doing in various areas of law.

- **ADR Section's current member benefits:**
    - The ADR Section maintains its own website at www.wsba-adr.org. The ADR Section website provides a forum for Section members to:
        - Create a professional profile
        - Market their practice
        - Discuss current ADR topics
    - The ADR Section website is also a resource for ADR events and activities, and includes with an archive of documents and articles. Recent posts & discussions on the website include:
        - Can Lawyer-Mediators Write Up Legal Documents?
        - Summary of U.S. States ADR Rules/Statutes on family law and parenting
        - Useful Practices in Mediation Report
        - A Critique of Collaborative Divorce Law
        - Low Bono Focus Group Bears Fruit
    - The website hosts various discussion groups, including:
        - Foreclosure Mediation Discussion Group
        - NW DR Conference
        - Land Use and Environmental Mediation
- **ADR section's current partnerships with other entities:**
    - The ADR Section is currently working with the Environmental and Land Use Law Section in co-sponsoring a CLE scheduled for November 4, 2013.
    - The ADR Section also maintains an active committee, the Land Use and Environmental Mediation Group, which is a joint standing committee of the WSBA ADR and ELUL Sections.
    - The Membership Committee is in the process of planning an event to discuss career opportunities (traditional and non-traditional) for lawyers interested in alternative

dispute resolution, and also, an event to discuss mediation and ADR with limited English proficiency parties.
    - ADR Section Executive Committee Members attended and participated in the WYLD on "Open Sections Night".

- **ADR section's priorities for the upcoming membership year 2013-2014:**
    - Priorities for the upcoming membership year include planning a 2014 CLE, and expanding CLE and outreach opportunities outside the Seattle-metropolitan area, and to other bar groups within the WSBA.
    - Continuing with its practice of planning 4 educational/networking membership events.
    - Continuing its co-sponsorship with the Northwest Dispute Resolution Conference, and working with the NWDR Conference Planning Committee on programing and speakers for the March 28-29, 2014 event.
    - Revitalize the Media & Communications Committee with its newly appointed Chair to better use on-line resources for publishing content relevant to our members/subscribers.

- **ADR Section's support of WSBA's Guiding Principles:**
    - The ADR Section actively supports the continued recruitment and growth of diversity among Executive Committee members.
    - The ADR Section is currently investigating the publication of ADR informational material in major non-English languages.
    - The ADR Section's educational programs continue to address ethical conduct, civility, professionalism and competency within the bar with respect to dispute resolution practices.

- **Executive Committee's relationship with WSBA staff and the Board of Governors.**
    - The ADR Section has worked very well over the last year with its contacts and liaisons at the WSBA. Their contributions have been consistently valuable and productive towards helping the Section reach its goals. Specifically:
        - Paris Erickson, WSBA Liaison, has attended our annual retreats the last couple of years, and she has attended nearly all of our Executive Committee Meetings.
        - Kathryn Leathers, Legislative Liaison, worked closely with the Legislation Committee on multiple legislative matters. Kathryn Leathers was also a panel member at one of the ADR Section's Membership Event.
        - Kathy Burrows, Seminar Development Specialist, worked closely with the Education Committee on development of the upcoming November 4, 2013 CLE.

Note: Annual Reports will be shared with the WSBA Executive Director, the WSBA Board of Governors 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: October 4, 2013

Email to: RaeLani Valaile, WSBA Sections Administrative Assistant, raelaniv@wsba.org.

Thank You!