



Annual Report 2012- 2013

(October 1, 2012 – September 30, 2013)

Section: Business Law Section

Submitted by: Charles John Ha

Section position: Chair

Date submitted: October 4, 2013

1. Please describe your section's highlights and accomplishments in 2012-2013:

- The Section continued to increase its membership over the year, and reached 1,222 members as of the end of September 2013.
- The Section held a very well-attended Mid-Year Meeting on May 17, 2013, entitled "Around the World of Business Law: 80 Things Every Washington Lawyer Must Know."
- The Securities Subcommittee held its annual "Meet The Regulators" CLE and reception on November 27, 2012. Staff from the Washington Securities Division discussed changes regarding investment advisor rules, mortgage broker-dealer rules, accredited investor rulemaking and other issues.
- The Section co-sponsored the 33rd Annual Northwest Securities Institute on May 10-11, 2013 in Portland, OR. The annual update on developments in securities laws was presented in cooperation with the Oregon State Bar Securities Regulation Section, WSBA CLE, and the Northwest State-Federal-Provincial Securities Conference.
- The Section continued to focus its attention on young lawyers by co-sponsoring a New Business Lawyer Summit with the WSBA Young Lawyers Committee and New Lawyer Education on April 16, 2013 entitled, "Advising the New Tech Startup."
- The Section co-sponsored the Second Annual Corporate Counsel Section and Business Law Section ½ Day CLE and Networking Event in Spokane, WA on September 20, 2013.
- Legislative participation:
 - The Business Law Section, through its Corporate Act Revisions Committee, brought forward HB 1148 – Corporate Act, Dissenters' Rights, which passed the House 97-0 and the Senate 48-0, and was signed into law by the Governor.
 - The Section commented on eight bills, reviewed fifteen bills, and were referred a total of thirty-seven pieces of legislation for the 2013 Session.

2. Please summarize your section's current member benefits:

- Access to the Washington Business Corporation Act "Sourcebook," prepared by the Corporate Act Revision Subcommittee. The Sourcebook contains in-depth comments and legislative history on the Business Corporation Act.
- Our Section maintains a separate website at www.wabuslaw.org which contains valuable information regarding pending legislation, upcoming events and CLEs and member-only resources. We also maintain a members-only list serve, and publish an electronic newsletter with articles on current topics.

- Our Section also maintains a Linked-In page as an additional means to reach out to our membership and keep them up to date on section events and publications.
 - Our Section published two Newsletters during the year that included articles on “crowdfunding” under the JOBS Act, the Business Startups Act, transferring personal information in connection with M&A transactions, bad faith in connection with insurance coverage, and MERs.
- 3. Please describe your section’s current partnerships with other entities:**
- Our Section makes our WYLD liaison, currently Matt Forman, an integral part of our activities.
 - We have co-sponsored several events in the past year with other sections and bar associations, including the WYLD and the Corporate Counsel Section. See description above under Section Highlights.
- 4. Please describe your section’s priorities for the upcoming membership year 2013-2014, including any goals for expansion, educational priorities, member benefits, and/or public benefits:**
- Our Section will continue to focus on outreach to our members, including members in Eastern Washington.
 - We will continue to work with the WSBA YLD to increase participation by young business lawyers.
 - We will focus on being a valuable source of up-to-date information for practicing business attorneys.
 - We will try to get additional members involved with the legislative process.
- 5. Please describe the ways in which your section’s activities have supported and/or will support the WSBA’s Guiding Principles 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.**
- We endeavor to collaborate with minority bar associations to promote each others’ events and diversity within the Business Law Section.
 - Our support of WAACO helps provide access to qualified business attorneys to nonprofit corporations, community organizations and low-income microentrepreneurs; by strengthening nonprofits and helping small business formation, we can help strengthen and transform communities.
- 6. Please describe your Executive Committee’s relationship with WSBA staff and the Board of Governors.**
- Our Section works closely with our liaison, Paris Eriksen, who is key to helping us achieve our Section goals. We also work closely with Kathryn Leathers on all legislative matters – she is invaluable in helping us navigate each legislative session.
 - One of our former Past Chairs, Matthew LeMaster, is a member of the Legislative Committee.
- 7. Section community involvement and special financial designations.**
- The Section has continued to provide monetary support to Washington Attorneys Assisting Community Organizations, which is a state-wide organization that matches volunteer attorneys with charitable and community-based non-profit organizations and disadvantaged micro-entrepreneurs that are in need of business-related legal services.

- The Section also engages law students to provide research and writing services for special projects such as Sourcebook updates and New Developments in Business Law for our website content.
-