

# Creditor/Debtor Section



*An announcement of the Creditor/Debtor Section of the Washington State Bar Association*

---

Our Section has four regular Executive Committee meetings each fiscal year in September, December, in the spring at the Northwest Bankruptcy Institute and in the summer at the Eastern District's annual Bankruptcy Seminar in Winthrop. NWBI was an outstanding success. In 2015 it will take place on May 1 and 2 in Portland, Oregon.

One of the highlights of our December meeting was our ability to increase and award grants to a number of legal aid organizations that focus on issues and services that are germane to our Section's purpose. Our ability to make these grants is attributable to our members, whose annual dues, combined with our excellent CLE revenues and prudent expense management policies, resulted in having the funds to assist in the needs of our neediest Washington citizens. This year, we issued grants to The Center for Justice, Chelan County Bar Association, Columbia Legal Aid, Cowlitz Legal Aid, KCBA Bar Foundation, CENTS, Kitsap Legal Aid, Legal Action Center, NW Consumer Law Center, Snohomish County Legal Aid and the Spokane County Bar Association. I want to thank our Committee Member, Bill Malaier, for his excellent work reviewing the applications and making recommendations to the Committee.

As indicated, another source of our annual revenues is from our Section's CLE programs. Past Chair Gloria Nagler, and our Recorder, Tom Linde, oversee the efforts to produce these programs. The CLE entitled: "Judgments: Winning is Only Half the Battle" (presented by WSBA and the Section) was held on December 12, 2013. Attendance for this program was very good and the program was well received. Please mark your calendars for two more seminars this year - Distressed Properties on August 19 and an updated presentation on Judgments/Liens on December 10. We are also hoping to have another seminar dedicated to advanced litigation skills in the late winter of 2015.

Finally, the 2014 legislative session is over, and as usual, it was a flurry of Senate and House bills for our review and input. In order to meet the exigencies of the Session, Committee Members Sheila O' Sullivan, Karen Gibbon and Section Member Doug Cameron were instrumental in working with me to review and summarize proposed legislative proposals, forwarding these summaries to the rest of the Committee for further voting and discussion. We were able to develop an electronic voting process that greatly streamlined this annual task, and the rumor is that our Section's review model may be the poster child for other Sections for the 2015 Session.

We appreciate the opportunity to be of service to the Bar, our Bar's lobbyist and legislative liaisons and our representatives in Olympia.

At our NWBI Executive Committee meeting, our Spokane representative, Kevin O' Rourke, was elected as the incoming Recorder. This fall the Chair position passes from me to Jim Hurley of Yakima, and the Vice-Chair will be Tom Linde, of Seattle. They will each serve a two year position before advancing to the next level. With Kevin's election, we will be preserving our tradition of rotating the Chair seat between Eastern and Western Washington.

If you have any questions about the Section, volunteer opportunities or Executive Committee agenda items, please do not hesitate to contact me.

John Rizzardi, Chair