



WSBASections

Annual Report 2012- 2013

(October 1, 2012 – September 30, 2013)

Section: Environmental and Land Use
Submitted by: Tom McDonald
Section position: Chair
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1. Section's highlights and accomplishments during 2012-2013:

- The 2013 ELUL Section Midyear Meeting and Seminar was held at the Alderbrook Resort in May and included 11.5 CLE credits for Washington attorneys. The evaluations indicated that this was an excellent seminar. The success and quality may be attributed not only to the hard work done by the Co-Chairs, but also to the fact that several of our Executive Committee members, all seasoned practitioners, made presentations along with other terrific speakers.
- The Midyear was also a financial success, bringing in approximately \$10,000 for the Section, which appears to be the most successful seminar to date.
- We have maintained a strong membership base and have not raised dues since 2010, despite the additional obligations to WSBA.
- The ELUL Section and the WSBA Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Section approved the formation of a Land Use Mediation Standing Committee to further pursue the objectives of the Land Use Mediation Focus Group. The Committee is composed of professionals versed in dispute resolution and land use, natural resource and environmental issues, and its mission is to promote more efficient, effective and enduring resolutions in our arenas through the use of mediation and related conflict resolution techniques. This Committee has been a huge success, with the members providing pro bono services.
- The ELUL Section continues to develop its outreach to the law schools and the Bar members. We had several successful law student and professional socials, which bring together students and lawyers to discuss the environmental and land use practice. This last year we had socials in Seattle, Spokane, and the Tri-Cities.
- In addition to the Midyear, we continued to offer Mini-CLEs on topics of current interest to our membership. Our December Mini-CLE also provides two hours of Ethics credits. Last December Justice Wiggins had an excellent presentation on the ethical and legal issues surrounding the World War II Japanese internment camps in the United States.

- We continue to provide grants to the student environmental and land use committees for the three law schools. We have increased these grants over the last few years.
- There has also been transition of Executive Board members during their respective terms. Last November, Millie Judge resigned as Past-Chair because she was elected to the Snohomish Superior Court. This position remained vacant. Last June, Chair Steve Jones announced that he took a position with a law firm in Salt Lake City and chaired his last meeting in June, 2013. I, as Chair-Elect, took over as Chair. This means that the Past-Chair position will again be vacant this upcoming year. We also had our newsletter editor resign, and we are fortunate to have a very talented Executive Board member fill that position temporarily.
- We had elections for Executive Board members in August. There were many highly qualified candidates running for two open positions.

2. Section's current member benefits:

- Our Section Newsletter continues to be popular with our membership.
- Our Annual Midyear Meeting and CLE has traditionally been a significant benefit to our membership and is well-attended by attorneys throughout the State.
- Our Mini-CLEs continue to be well-attended by our membership.
- Networking opportunities are provided for members throughout the year, as described above, we have a very active outreach program for law students.

3. Section's current partnerships with other entities:

- As discussed above, we have been working with the ADR Section on a mediation committee.
- We have had active participation by our WYLC liaison.
- We are waiting for WSBA to assign our section a Board of Governor's liaison.
- We are coordinating mini-CLEs and law school outreach with the King County Bar Association (KCBA), which is very active and has begun similar programs

4. Section's priorities for the upcoming membership year 2013-2014, including any goals for expansion, educational priorities, member benefits, and/or public benefits:

- Search for a well-qualified editor for our newsletter.
- Expanding our outreach to the law schools.
- Coordinating with KCBA as discussed above.
- Continuing involvement in the Land Use Mediation Standing Committee.
- Planning a successful mid-year conference in May, 2014, at Suncadia Resort near Cle Elum.

5. Section activities that support and/or will support the WSBA's Guiding Principles, which are to advance and promote:

- The Land Use Mediation Standing Committee provides greater access to parties for efficient and cost-effective resolution of land use and environmental disputes.
- Outreach to law students and introducing the students to the land use and environmental bar.
- Providing excellent and free mini-CLEs including a popular ethics CLE in December.
- Jointly sponsoring with the ADR Section an Environmental dispute resolution CLE in November.

6. Executive Committee's relationship with WSBA staff and the Board of Governors.

- Our Section has been an active participant in WSBA Section meetings with Staff, where we work together to improve and support Sections and the programs we provide to our members.
 - The WSBA staff support/services provided to ELUL has been exceptional this year and we look forward to a great relationship in the future.
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