



## WSBASections

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### Annual Report 2012- 2013

(October 1, 2012 – September 30, 2013)

Deadline: October 4, 2013

**Section:** SOGILI  
**Submitted by:** Rachel da Silva  
**Section position:** 2012-2013 Chair  
**Date submitted:** Oct. 4, 2013

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

- **CLEs:** Our Education committee did a great job, again, this year. In December 2012, at the section's annual meeting, David Ward spoke about the results of the *2012 Elections and Referendum 74*. Our Winter CLE on Feb. 14 was a very well-attended panel presentation on *Working with LGBTQ Clients: Best Practices*. Our summer CLE was on *Employer –Employee Relations: How to Be Out in the Workplace* and featured four speakers. We are very proud that we have successfully implemented our goal of providing more information and education about transgender legal issues.
- **Member outreach events** – We tabled at the Open Sections Night in January, meeting other section leaders and WSBA staff. Our annual section party/social event took place at Seattle's Fado Irish Pub in March was a lot of fun.
- **Annual retreat:** The section's annual retreat was held at a new location in Seattle, (thanks to Lane Powell!) in March. We had a packed agenda and capped off the day with our Fado event.
- **Section budget:** Our new Treasurer, Joyce Schwensen, led us through a revamping of our finances in order to more successfully achieve section goals. We are excited to now have a clearer focus on our student outreach events and other section initiatives.
- **Student Outreach:** We began planning our first student outreach event with Gonzaga's GSA group. Collaboration with Seattle U and UW LGBT groups will follow on this model.
- **Dues:** We increased section dues to \$30.
- **Our regular monthly meetings of the Executive Committee** were positive and productive. Some section members, law students and WSBA staff attended occasionally. We found that the schedule of a winter retreat followed by several CLEs during the year provides ample opportunity for section leadership to bond as well as to help move the section toward its goals.

**2. The section's current member benefits include:**

- Members-only list serve, website, Facebook page
- New member outreach and discounted dues for students
- Annual Social events
- Resources on our section page
- A presence for LGBT attorneys and issues within WSBA

**3. Please describe your section's current partnerships with other entities:**

- We have a close relationship with QLAW and will be collaborating on a half-day seminar soon.
- Two section events – our March retreat and our summer CLE – were held at Seattle law firms. We look forward to these partnerships expanding in the future.
- Other sections have supported SOGILI by inviting their members to our CLEs and we have done the same for other sections.

**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:**

- Hold law school outreach events at Gonzaga, Seattle U and UW in partnership with their LGBT student groups
- Hold 3 CLEs over the next year
- Collaborate with QLaw to host a half-day seminar
- Evaluate the opportunity we have to collaborate with the Ingersoll Gender Center to build a group to support lawyers working with gender identity legal issues
- Raise our section profile through more publications and communications
- Continue to participate in WSBA's educational meetings for section leaders and open sections night events.
- Increase communication with section members, more targeted invitations to participate in committees and monthly meetings
- Promote our annual social event better this year

**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:**

- Raising the profile of LGBT legal issues within the profession expands access to justice by educating attorneys and the public as to their rights and the range of legal professionals available to them. Likewise, education through CLEs and other events promotes diversity, equality, and cultural understanding in the legal community.
- The public's understanding of the rule of law and its confidence in the legal system is enhanced when organizations like SOGILI address concrete legal needs of individuals and help educate both the profession and the public.

**6. Please describe your Executive Committee's relationship with WSBA staff and the Board of Governors.**

- SOGILI continues to have a great relationship with WSBA staff. We participated in the Special Meeting on CLE Programming in March as well as the annual meeting for section leaders that is always very helpful. We look forward to the changes that WSBA is implementing to streamline the planning and implementation of CLEs. We value staff support as we work to strengthen the section and meet our members' needs more fully.

**7. Additional information, comments and suggestions.**

- SOGILI continues to grow and develop as a section. The EC is eager to offer even more excellent CLE programming , as we see that as our main mission as a section.

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**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](mailto:raelaniv@wsba.org).

***Thank You!***