



Developing the Profession and Your Section's Future

By Brian Halcomb, WSBA Young Lawyers Division Liaison

ASAP, it's time to add one more acronym to your list. This one has great possibility to enhance the education of new attorneys as they move from law school to practice. It also holds great potential for sections to engage with and substantively shape their future members and leaders.

The acronym is NLE – New Lawyer Education. Since 2006, new attorneys have had four hours of mandatory preadmission education. However, the vision for training new attorneys as they enter the profession has grown much larger. WSBA New Lawyer Education aims to develop educational tracks whereby new attorneys can build the fundamental skills of a practice area – family law, criminal law, etc. Leaving law school, a new lawyer could move through a progression: preadmission education, skill training 101, skill training 201, and on to regular section and WSBA-CLE programming.

The definition of an NLE seminar is that **participants can take immediate action from the information and procedures they learn.** This is not “drink from the firehose” CLE programming, where the new attorney is awed and drenched by the presenter's 20+ years of knowledge, tips, and ideas. Rather, these programs will build from the ground up, teaching the foundational skills that develop an attorney's competence and confidence. Think “I can now actually take a deposition” rather than “I know what it looks like for an expert to take a deposition.”

To develop these programs – the end goal is a catalog of 50-60 of them – invites a deep partnership with the 27 sections. The WSBA Education and Outreach Department is devoting substantial resources to New Lawyer Education: staff skilled in instructional design, webcasting and content management technology, and infrastructure to support low-cost programs. We hope the sections will commit to bringing much of the subject matter expertise, to work with us to identify the fundamental skills for your practice area, and figure out how to package and teach those skills to new attorneys.

If you're ready to pick up a shovel, I think we may find in NLE a gold mine to support your section goals. What better way to recruit members, to get on the radar of new attorneys, and to shape the culture of your practice area? I am eager to work with you to build programming for new lawyers that has a lasting impact on the professional landscape. FYI and OMG, NLE is something to keep an eye on.

What's next?

The Family Law and Business Law Sections have worked to transition current programs into the NLE model. On May 6th, members of the Solo and Small Practice Section will help present the first NLE program built from scratch on how to open your own office. The program will be webcast and at the WSBA Conference Center. If your section is interested in partnering to develop an NLE program, please contact brianh@wsba.org or at 206-727-8205 and your section liaison.

Get to Know Your Liaison!

By Joy Eckwood & Paris Seabrook, WSBA Section Leaders Liaisons



WSBA Section Leader Liaisons, Paris Seabrook and Joy Eckwood



2011 Bar Leaders Conference

June 3-5, 2011

Three Rivers Convention Center

Kennewick, WA

*"Eliminating Bias in the Justice System:
Cultivating a Culture of Service"*

For more information, go to:

http://www.wsba.org/barleade_rshomepage.htm#BarLeaders

Inspired by the popular Marcel Proust questionnaire and the interview questions of Bernard Pivot, Paris and Joy answer some fun, informative, and nosy questions!

What is your least favorite word?

Joy: Stupid.

Paris: Using "like" between every word.

What sound or noise do you love?

J: Crickets.

P: Rain tapping on a window.

What do you dislike most about your appearance?

J: My height.

P: My stubby fingers. I'm not asking for Barbara Streisand hands, but a little length would have been nice!

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

J: Completing my B.A. & M.P.A. consecutively while working full-time and raising 6 kids.

P: I wish mine were that amazing, but I'm proud of becoming a certified scuba diver even though the activity petrifies me.

What is your most treasured possession?

J: A ring engraved with "Do Not Fear."

P: A necklace given to me by my parents. It's one of a kind.

Who are your heroes in real life?

J: Anyone who chooses to overcome the odds without harboring bitterness, anger, or shame.

P: My mother.

What is your motto?

J: "You never know unless you try."

P: "Keep calm and carry on."

WSBA Foundation

By Megan McNally, Washington State Bar Foundation Director of Development

The Washington State Bar Foundation is the fundraising arm of WSBA. Our job is to help WSBA fulfill its promise to serve the public and advance justice.

One way we do this is by making it easy for members to give charitably to the WSBA programs you care most about. For example, if you're inspired by how many families Washington lawyers have helped stay in their homes during the foreclosure crisis, now you can simply log on to myWSBA.org, click on the Foundation link, and make a gift designated to the WSBA Home Foreclosure Legal Aid Project. Members can now easily support the WSBA Leadership Institute, the WYLD First Responders Wills Clinic, the WSBA Moderate Means Program, and more online.

Another way the Bar Foundation supports WSBA is by helping sections raise money to support specific, member-driven initiatives. The Elder Law Section's Peter Greenfield Senior Advocacy Summer Internship Fund is one such initiative. Established to honor the distinguished career of a long-time retiring leader, the Fund supports an intern at Columbia Legal Services who will gain hands-on practice serving low-income seniors. The Bar Foundation provides soup-to-nuts support helping the section meet its Fund goal. If your practice section has a member-driven fundraising idea you'd like to explore, simply contact Megan McNally at meganm.foundation@wsba.org.



Two Section Leader Meetings a Year?

By Paris Seabrook, WSBA Section Leaders Liaison

Recapping the Fall Sections Meeting

In the fall of 2010, section leaders were invited to attend the Sections Fall Meeting, which in years past has been an orientation-type event for new leaders. While touching on some nuts-and-bolts items, the primary focus of the meeting on November 3 was to develop a more successful and effective working partnership. Specifically, we shared with section leaders the key foundational elements needed for a section to be a successful section. The four elements are:

- Member outreach: What is the value of your section to its members?
- Plan of action: What are your goals and what are your steps toward achieving these goals?
- Resources: Time and money; your volunteer time and budget.
- Effective Executive Committee: Meet regularly, effective use of your available resources, and a succession plan.

In response to our goals for the meeting, the feedback received was largely positive. It was unanimously thought that the idea of another "check-in" meeting in the spring was a good idea.

Upcoming Sections Spring Meeting

With all of the above in mind, the Sections Team is in the midst of planning for the Sections Spring Meeting to be held on Wednesday, May 25th at the WSBA.

The Sections Spring Meeting comes at an important time in our year. You will be beginning the budget process and there are many things we would like to discuss. How is your section doing? What has worked this year? What are the areas for improvement and what is your plan for the next year? In addition to this conversation, we would like to discuss with you new information about the new WSBA website, the legislative process, and the budget process.

Please look for a "Save the Date" soon! We look forward to seeing you at the Sections Spring Meeting on Wednesday, May 25th!

Managing the Finances of Your Section

By Joy Eckwood, WSBA Section Leaders Liaison



A budget is an important foundation for every section. Everything related to running your section is constantly evolving. A monthly budget review can help you manage these changes. This will keep you on track until it is time for your annual budget review. The monthly financial report is the best tool to use in tracking your flow of expenses and revenue. Tracking your own spending outside of the monthly financial reports can be advantageous as well; you'll have the most up-to-date information on expenses versus budget allocation and be able to make more informed decisions regarding programs and events as they occur.

Monthly financials for the last quarter of each calendar year are available in January. This does not prohibit you from managing your finances. Your budget is the guide to managing your spending. Monthly tracking of your expenses will prevent overspending and help you make informed decisions for spending throughout the rest of the year. It is important to remember that the majority of revenue related to membership dues are generally not seen on the financials until January and February, as many members renew their section fees at the same time as licensing fees. Another important reminder is that if your section conducts a CLE event during the last quarter of the calendar year (October, November, or December) it takes up to 60 days for final expenses and revenue to be processed, so any profit or loss to the section will not be available until after that time. We understand that each section wants to be apprised of their monthly financial picture. Tracking from both the section and the WSBA side is important to accomplishing this goal. The WSBA fiscal year ends September 30th and it takes another 45 – 60 days to complete the closing process, which is followed by an external audit. Please remember this when requesting financial information. We are striving to answer your questions and provide information as quickly as we can.

There are certain areas of your budget which are more likely to see change than others. Income may see fluctuating numbers as membership increases or decreases. Other areas include month-to-month expenses. By taking a close look at your budget at least once a year, you can ensure all of your money is being utilized in the best possible manner. Managing your section begins and ends with maintaining a budget that is a true reflection of section income, obligations, and goals.

The Section Team will be reviewing dates and answering questions related to the budgeting process at the Sections Spring Meeting on May 25th.

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SectionLand**

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Upcoming BOG Meetings:

- **April 29-30:** The Hilton, Bellevue
- **June 3:** Three Rivers Convention Center, Kennewick
- **July 22-23:** Quinalt Beach Resort, Ocean Shores
- **September 22-23:** WSBA

The FY12 **Budget Planning Season** is coming up soon!

Important Dates

May 20	Budget materials distributed to sections
July 15	Section budgets due
July 26 – Aug 16	Conference call meetings with section Treasurers/ExComm to review budgets (if needed)
Aug 16	Final budget revision from sections due
Sep 23	BOG reviews & approves final section budgets
Sep 30	Sections receive final budgets and G/L codes