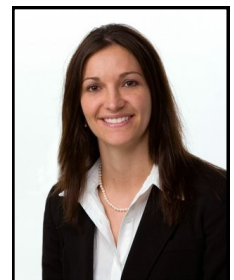




Referendum: Restructuring the Young Lawyers Division into a Committee

By Beth Bratton, Chair, WSBA Young Lawyer Committee

As a result of a significant amount of review and consideration, including consideration of the changed conditions brought about by the license referendum and resultant loss of funding for WSBA, the Washington Young Lawyers Division (WYLD) has transitioned to the Washington Young Lawyers Committee (WYLC). The committee consists of 18 members who represent particular congressional districts throughout the state of Washington. The unique aspect of the WYLC is the diversity of young lawyers' voices from every part of our state.



Beth Bratton, Chair
of the WYLC

The WYLC's purpose is to serve as ambassadors for the Washington State Bar Association in helping to connect young lawyers with resources, support, and networking opportunities. More importantly, the WYLC provides young lawyers with a stepping stone to leadership, and ultimately supports them in becoming future leaders of the legal profession.

The instrumental programming that was created by the WYLD has mostly been incorporated within the WSBA. The WYLC is collaborating intensively on many levels with the WSBA to provide a direct channel for young lawyers to be more involved with these programs and the WSBA.

The WYLC is very excited to have the opportunity to work with the sections and provide a liaison program for young lawyers. Every year, the WYLC will work with every interested section to select a young lawyer to become the liaison between the section and the WYLC. This is an amazing opportunity for sections as it allows sections to incorporate more young lawyers who are the future of our bar. This program also allows sections to hear from young lawyers and provides a channel of communication to the WYLC to assist the sections with recruitment of young lawyers.

The WYLC section liaisons are introducing themselves to their respective sections and to date, the experiences have been positive:

Quinn Dalan is the liaison to the Criminal Law Section. She indicated that, *"I've met with my committee. It was great!"*

Vanessa Waldref is the liaison to the Labor and Employment Law Section. Vanessa relayed that, *"I am working on Section programming in Spokane, and I joined the Section's networking committee, which is a wonderful opportunity to meet attorneys in my practice area and learn more from other young attorneys about how the section can best provide programming that meets their needs."*

As part of this section liaison program, the WYLC with the assistance of the sections, will be hosting the Third Annual Open Section Night on Jan. 23, 2013, at the WSBA Conference Center in Seattle. This event has grown every year and provides an amazing opportunity for the sections to expand their membership and for individuals, including many young lawyers to learn more about each

particular section.

The WYLC is also working with the WSBA New Lawyer Education on creating relevant CLE's for young lawyers as well as a library of short videos called *Just the FAQs* that young lawyers may use for references in their practice areas. This ground-work provides young lawyers with helpful resources in their practice areas and also helps them feel more comfortable when volunteering or assisting on cases with the WSBA Moderate Means program.

The transition from the WYLD to the WYLC is an on-going process. The WYLC has, with a lot of positive energy, embraced the decision that was made as a result of the referendum. Most importantly, the WYLC members are committed to supporting young lawyers and providing them opportunities that will help them with their careers in the legal profession.

Save the Date!

Join us for Open Sections Night on January 23, 2012 at the WSBA-CLE Conference Center (1501 4th Ave., Ste. 308, Seattle). More information will be disseminated soon.

The WSBA Blog: An Opportunity for Sections

By Julia Nardelli-Gross, Online Communications Specialist

In October, WSBA launched a new blog, [NWSidebar](#). NWSidebar is a tool for the legal community to engage and interact through sharing thoughts, opinions, and ideas in a less formal format. WSBA staff are providing some content, but members are contributing most content. All members are encouraged to submit material to the blog, comment on posts, or just follow the blog.



[NWSidebar](#) presents an excellent opportunity for sections to reach members of the legal community. By contributing a post that shows off your expertise and the benefits of section membership, you can provide value to your members and grow your membership.

We encourage every section to contribute to the blog! What should you write about? Write something that you would want to read, like a case law update or tips pertinent to your practice area. You can include a pitch about section membership or a section event, and we'll include branding for your section. Check out how the Health Law Section is contributing to [NWSidebar](#).

If your section is interested in contributing to [NWSidebar](#), please review the submission guidelines and email your submissions to blog@wsba.org.

In case you missed it!

John Rizzardi, Chair of the Creditor Debtor Rights Section, was featured in the August 2012 issue of the *Bar News*, soon-to-be *Northwest Lawyer*, as one of the "Voices of the Bar." [Read the article.](#)



Look what we found! Here's a [cute video](#) we came across showing how the North Carolina Bar Association promotes their sections. Bon Appétit!

Section Leaders' Meeting: Materials and Save the Date

Thank you to those who attended our November 7th Fall Section Leaders Meeting. For those who were unable to attend, we have posted the materials on the [Section Leaders' Toolbox](#). We hope you find this information useful, and please do not hesitate in following up with the Sections Team regarding any questions or clarifications

Please **Save the Date** for our Spring Leaders' meeting being held on **May 1, 2012** at the WSBA offices.

Feedback Loop: Immediate Past Chairs

By Stacy Holmes, Senior Section Leaders Liaison and Paris Seabrook, Section Leaders Liaison

We recently met with several section immediate-past chairs as part of a concerted effort to capture their insight, guidance, and recommendation - all of which are critical to understanding the needs and expectations of section leaders.

As part of the process, all immediate-past chairs were asked to participate in a survey and then were invited to attending a follow-up lunch discussion. The survey asked immediate-past chairs to provide feedback on the benefits of section membership, the experience of being a chair, the importance of existing resources/tools, and overall feedback or suggestions. Results from the survey include the following:

- **Professional networking and CLE's** were identified as the greatest benefits of becoming a member of a WSBA section.
- **Camaraderie and accomplishing the group's goals** were identified as the greatest benefits of serving on the Executive Committee (followed by leadership experience and increased skills in educational programming/content expertise).
- Some of the **challenges** experienced as Chair included: negotiating various issues with the WSBA CLE department, engaging members across the state, keeping the other Executive Committee members engaged, and managing the increased workload of section business.
- The **opportunity to serve the profession** was the most frequent motivation cited for joining the Executive Committee.
- **Engaging section members, communication tools, and BOG relationships** were the top three subjects on which respondents would have liked more support during their time on the Executive Committee.
- When asked why attorneys might choose to join a WSBA section in addition to and/or instead of other associations, the strongest theme across all responses appears to be **statewide coverage/broader access**.

During the follow-up lunch, there was also lively discussion around ideas to improve communication among the leadership of different sections. The idea of a quarterly brown bag lunch was introduced by an immediate-past chair. If we move forward, this would mean that the Sections Team would provide space at the WSBA offices for current chairs and chair-elects to bring their lunches and chat with their counterparts in other sections about section-related matters, challenges, and successes. If you have any feedback about this idea, please contact your liaison.

We look forward to the continued implementation of the immediate-past chair exit survey and the continued improvement of the support, resources and tools provided to section leaders by the WSBA.



thank
you!

A big thank you to all of our Immediate Past Chairs for their hard-work and dedication in their role as chairs.

Success Stories: Health Law

By Paris Seabrook, Section Leaders Liaison

Last fall, the WSBA Health Law Section was at a cross-roads—should it continue as a Section or fold due to relative inactivity and too few volunteers? As election season approached, the Section sent a letter to each section member explaining the dilemma. Members were asked to participate in a conference call to discuss the goals and future of the Section. Participants in this call agreed that the Section was important and its practice area very relevant to the legal community. Several participants stepped up to fill leadership positions and an interim executive committee was formed. With the assistance of past leaders, the Section executive committee established a consistent meeting schedule, sponsored a mini-CLE with a reception afterwards, continued the tradition of an annual CLE program, and held elections for the current year that filled each position on the executive committee. The Section is looking forward to hosting more mini-CLEs and sponsoring a full-day CLE program. It has even published a post on the WSBA's new blog, [NWSidebar](#). The Health Law Section has come a long way in a short time, and we are very excited to see what they will do next! Congratulations to them for their perseverance.



**The
Sections
Team
wishes you
a happy
holiday
season!**

Nominal Sponsorships: WSBA-CLE and WSBA Sections Working Together

By Sue Strachan, Seminar Development Specialist, WSBA-CLE

How can your section increase visibility and develop community among Washington's 35,000 active attorneys? A great way is with a "nominal sponsorship" of a WSBA CLE program. A section may become a nominal sponsor if it helps to develop a CLE seminar by recommending faculty or suggesting a topic for a session within a program. The section will be recognized on the marketing materials and acknowledged as contributing to the event. WSBA-CLE Seminar Development Specialists often reach out to section leaders as we plan CLE programs. After all, you are the subject matter experts and are up-to-date on recent developments in your particular area of practice. We can also work with shorter programs that do not fit within your annual programming. If your section is interested in becoming a nominal sponsor, please contact Chris Cellars at christopherc@wsba.org or Sue Strachan at susanst@wsba.org. We are always looking for new and topical program ideas.

WSBA • SectionLand

EDITORS

Margaret Morgan
Debra Carnes
Melina Lambuth
Paris Seabrook
Stacy Holmes

LAYOUT/DESIGN

Melina Lambuth

CONTRIBUTORS

Beth Bratton
Melina Lambuth
Paris Seabrook
Sue Strachan
Stacy Holmes
Julia Nardelli-Gross

PHOTOGRAPHY

Mikaron Fortier

Upcoming BOG Meetings

**January 17-18:
Red Lion, Olympia**

**March 8-9:
Hilton, Vancouver**

**April 26-27:
Davenport, Spokane**