WSBA Section Profiles 2021

Sections are established to provide a forum for those members of the WSBA who wish to pursue shared specialized interests. Section membership is voluntary. The current membership year is Jan. 1, 2021 – Dec. 31, 2021. Dues are the same for both WSBA “active members” and “subscribers” (individuals who are not active members of the WSBA, including inactive members and the general public). Section members may join one section for free in their first year of admittance to WSBA. Law students may join any section at a discounted rate as a “subscriber.” For additional information about the WSBA sections, please visit www.wsba.org.

Administrative Law is designed to serve the interests of public- and private-sector legal professionals who work with state and local regulatory agencies. Members include assistant attorneys general, city attorneys, county prosecutors working on regulatory matters, and private practitioners who either contract to represent government entities or represent clients subject to state and local regulatory activities. The section sponsors Mini-CLEs and receptions and publishes deskbooks, supplements, and newsletters. 

Alternative Dispute Resolution Resolution members include lawyers and professionals who work in areas such as real estate and small business transactions. They also sponsor Mini-CLEs and receptions and publish deskbooks and supplements. The section is designed to serve the interest of legal professionals who practice in the areas of real estate, small business transactions, and real estate transactions. 

Animal Law provides a forum for members to exchange ideas, study, and understand laws, regulations, and case law pertaining to all areas of animal law. Animal law has useful applications for practitioners in many fields, including real estate, corporate, criminal, wills and trusts, personal injury and tort claims, nonprofit corporations, agricultural, local government, and administrative law.

Antitrust, Consumer Protection, and Unfair Business Practices is primarily devoted to informing its members about significant developments in the field of antitrust and consumer-protection law. The section also sponsors Mini-CLEs and social gatherings such as the Northwest Securities Institute. Membership includes newsletters and other section publications.

Cannabis Law works to connect, inform, guide, and support practitioners in this fast-growing and highly technical area of law. The benefits of section membership include a list serve, CLE programs, and professional networking opportunities.

Civil Rights Law includes those who are active members of the WSBA, including inactive members and the general public. The section also sponsors Mini-CLEs and receptions and publishes deskbooks and supplements. The section is designed to serve the interests of legal professionals who work with state and local regulatory agencies. Members include assistant attorneys general, city attorneys, county prosecutors working on regulatory matters, and private practitioners who either contract to represent government entities or represent clients subject to state and local regulatory activities. The section sponsors Mini-CLEs and receptions and publishes deskbooks, supplements, and newsletters. 

Civil Rights Law includes those who are active members of the WSBA, including inactive members and the general public. The section also sponsors Mini-CLEs and receptions and publishes deskbooks and supplements. The section is designed to serve the interests of legal professionals who work with state and local regulatory agencies. Members include assistant attorneys general, city attorneys, county prosecutors working on regulatory matters, and private practitioners who either contract to represent government entities or represent clients subject to state and local regulatory activities. The section sponsors Mini-CLEs and receptions and publishes deskbooks, supplements, and newsletters. 

Construction Law members share common interests on a wide variety of issues related to the construction industry and government procurement. The section is geared towards those who have traditionally been denied such rights and equal treatment under the law including, but not limited to, those who are racial, ethnic, or religious minorities, elderly, gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered, immigrants, mentally or physically disabled, impoverished, and homeless. The section sponsors at least one CLE, annual meeting, and reception each year.

Corporate Counsel includes in-house legal counsel, attorneys in private practice who spend a substantial portion of their time working in-house counsel, and other legal professionals who provide legal counsel to corporations, LLCs, or nonprofit enterprises. Quarterly dinner meeting seminars feature speakers on various topics of interest. The section sponsors a number of CLE programs, including the popular Corporate Counsel Institute.

Creditor Debtor Rights provides numerous opportunities for its members to remain current on relevant legal issues, influence legislation, and participate in pro bono activities. Resources include a newsletter and a bankruptcy case law digest. The section sponsors several CLEs each year. Since 2004, the section has maintained an annual grants program to financially assist community-service programs statewide that provide legal services in the area of creditor/debtor law.

Criminal Law provides a forum for prosecutors and defense counsel to exchange ideas and information in the areas of criminal law, correction, procedure, and evidence. Pending legislation is regularly addressed, including the development of statutory enhancements and the potential elimination of justice within the criminal arena. CLE offerings include the annual Criminal Justice Institute and a number of Mini-CLEs throughout the state.

Elder Law focuses on matters related to the representation of the elderly, recognizing that these individuals have unique legal needs and practitioners must work to understand their needs. The section is highly active on legislative issues.

Environmental and Land Use Law helps members keep up with this rapidly developing area of law. The section provides various opportunities through which members can meet, exchange ideas, and learn from others in the field. For example, the section includes a midyear CLE conference, Micro-CLEs, and networking receptions. The CLEs explore hot topics and allow members to socialize and swap ideas.

Family Law represents the interests of legal professionals practicing family law. The section is highly active on proposed legislation affecting the practice of Washington family law and family law lawyers. The section provides a members-only list serve to share insights, ask questions, and develop skills. The section hosts an annual midyear meeting and seminar, including ethics and family law topics. The section also sponsors an annual skills training institute for those new to family law.

Health Law focuses on the business of health-care, including state and federal regulation, fraud and abuse, antitrust, new modes of health-care delivery, insurance, and other issues. Section CLEs offer a forum for both formal and informal discussion.

Indian Law provides a forum for practitioners representing clients with diverse interests affected by Indian law. Federal, tribal, and state laws, including matters affecting Indian children and youth, are discussed. The section also provides a comprehensive and rapidly evolving array of law which affect legal services provided by practitioners. The section schedules one or more CLEs each year, which provide a forum to learn more about Indian law.

Intellectual Property practice areas address patents, trademarks, copyrights, trade secrets, and related matters. The section sponsors CLEs, including the annual Intellectual Property Institute, and members meet with students attending the state’s three law schools throughout the year.

International Practice includes those who are interested in intellectual property law, including the study of foreign and international law. The section sponsors an annual international law symposium and provides a forum for members to exchange ideas and information in the areas of international trade, international taxation, and international regulation. The section is designed to serve the interests of legal professionals who practice in the area of international law.

Labor and Employment Law provides programs for labor and employment law professionals, which provide a forum to exchange ideas in areas of mutual interest. Member benefits include an annual CLE conference as well as a number of Mini-CLEs throughout the state. The section funds labor and employment law summer work internship for a student at each of the three law schools. Members of the section also meet with law students throughout the year.

Legal Assistance to Military Personnel promotes the goals of the WSBA with respect to military matters, including providing information to members of the military community, both active duty and reserve. CLE offerings foster the ability of the membership to provide adequate legal representation for military personnel and their dependents. The section can play a significant role as a liaison between the WSBA and the Armed Forces of the United States in order to better serve the legal needs of military personnel.

Lesbian Gay Biseuaxal and Transgendered Law seeks to enhance an understanding of the legal needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered (LGBT) residents of Washington and ways to best provide services to these residents. The section supports research, education, and collaboration on issues of sexual orientation and gender identification as well as promotes the study of LGBT law, including reporting on changing law and regulations as they affect LGBT individuals and communities.

Ligation is involved in a wide range of activities to serve the interests of those who litigate matters in the superior or federal courts, including research and writing, participation in case management, and policy matters. The section assists in developing and implementing current and future litigation rules, and to provide the best possible education for practitioners.