

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

2020 SECTION ANNUAL REPORT

January 1 - December 31, 2020

Deadline: Friday, December 4, 2020

Name of the Section:	<i>Alternative Dispute Resolution</i>	
Chair:	<i>Joanna Roth, outgoing chair/Mel Simburg, incoming chair</i>	
Section Information: <i>*To be completed by WSBA Staff*</i>	Membership Size: <i>(As of December 1, 2020)</i>	328
	Staff Lead:	Eleen Trang
	BOG Liaison:	Brett Purtzer
	FY20 revenue (\$): <i>As of September 30, 2020</i>	\$11,483.94
	FY20 direct expenses (\$): <i>(As of September 30, 2020; does not include the Per-Member-Charge)</i>	\$ (411.55) Negative expenses due to the section receiving a credit for a deposit that was accounted for in FY2019.
Purpose: <i>(Usually stated in the Section's Bylaws)</i>	<p>The Alternative Dispute Resolution Section of the Washington State Bar Association promotes the informed use and best practices of alternative dispute resolution processes by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing resources; • educating members of the bar and the public; and • addressing issues relating to the growth and development of alternative dispute resolution services in the State of Washington. 	
2020 Accomplishments and Work in Progress:	<p>The ADR Section leadership is at the forefront of developments in Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) generally, and specifically in its application to family, workplace, and real estate conflict. With the advent of Covid-19, we were called upon to help WSBA membership adapt to the realities of virtual practice.</p> <p>Through a series of well-attended workshops, we helped attendees get comfortable using Zoom and related</p>	

videoconferencing tools, with a focus on navigating confidentiality and ethics issues that arise in online practice. As more trainings became available through third parties, we shifted to providing regular, free online best practices forums in which attendees share experiences and improvised solutions to unexpected calamities, both technological and technically in terms of procedures and documents tailored for online practice. Drawing on relationships with legal and dispute resolution organizations in British Columbia and California, WSBA members now can access free online best practices forums every month.

We also collaborated with the Real Property and Probate Section in making presentations on the residential and commercial eviction moratoria. These events were well attended and received. They were done on short notice and connected members our respective sections in new ways. The lively knowledge share has been rewarding and of significant value to practitioners and their clients during the pandemic crisis.

These events came to the attention of the WSBA CLE team, who (again on very short notice) asked us to develop a Legal Lunchbox program tying the themes of ODR, the pandemic, and the future of the legal profession. On June 30, an extraordinary panel of thought leaders and program managers spoke to those issues. The CLE team reported that this event may have set a record for attendance, with advance registration exceeding 2,000 WSBA members. The program is now available as a webinar through WSBA.

We also continued efforts that began in 2017 to promote interdisciplinary, ODR-driven innovation in eviction and homelessness prevention. Our committee's experience in this area is well known, yet our efforts to foster dialogue with the courts and other key stakeholders have been blocked, to the detriment of the community and our membership. We need help from WSBA leadership to make our experience available in these critical times.

This fall we sent a survey to our Section membership and we are prioritizing 2021 actions based on the survey results.

Please quantify your section's current member benefits: <i>For example:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$3000 Scholarships, 	Quantity	Member Benefit
		Scholarships, donations, grants awarded (\$ amount)
		Law school outreach events/benefits hosted
	2	Legislative bills reviewed/drafted
		Newsletters/publications produced

<i>donations, grants awarded;</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 mini-CLEs produced 	3	Mini-CLEs produced
		Co-sponsored half-day, full-day and/or multi-day CLE seminars with WSBA
		Co-sponsored half-day, full-day and/or multi-day CLE seminars with non-WSBA entity
	2	Receptions/forums hosted or co-hosted
		Recognitions/Awards given
		New Lawyer Outreach events/benefits
		Other (please describe):
Looking Ahead: Goals & Priorities for 2021 (Top 5)	1	Communicate with and address the interests of our Section members, including focused outreach beyond King-Pierce-Snohomish Counties.
	2	Improve the usefulness and use of our website and list-serve.
	3	Continue outreach to law schools and young lawyers. Consider mentoring programs, including peer mentoring. Look into collaborations with other Sections and Minority Bar Associations.
	4	Monitor and actively contribute to legislation and potential legislation regarding ADR and early dispute resolution.
	5	Plan CLE programs that fit our members preferences. Collaborate regionally on ADR programs. Restart the Northwest Dispute Resolution Conference in a way that works with current online and remote practices.
<p>Please report how this section is addressing diversity: (Are you using any of the tools provided by WSBA and if so, how? Have you sought out training or consultation from the Diversity Specialist? How have you elicited input from a variety of perspectives in your decision-making? What have you done to promote a culture of inclusion within the board or committee? What has your section done to promote equitable conditions for members from historically underrepresented backgrounds to enter, stay, thrive, and eventually lead the profession?)</p> <p>Our executive committee has increased membership outside King county, aided by our practice of conducting all business virtually. We are interested in coordinating with the Diversity Specialist as we consider how to increase other measures of diversity in member engagement.</p>		
<p>Please report how this section is addressing professionalism: (Does the section’s work promote respect and civility within the legal community? Does it seek to improve relationships between and among lawyers, judges, staff and clients? Does it raise awareness about the causes and/or consequences of unprofessional behavior?)</p>		

Professionalism is a foundational notion in all our activities.

Please report how this section is integrating new and young lawyers into its work:

(How have you brought new and young lawyers into your decision making process? Has the section supported new and young lawyers by (for example) helping to find and prepare them for employment, assisting with debt management, building community, and providing leadership opportunities?)

Our intentions to coordinate with law schools were disrupted by the pandemic, and we anticipate resuming those efforts in the coming section year. We are engaged in a long-term effort to provide mediation training and curriculum with Gonzaga Law School. We have consistently participated in open sections night, and intend to participate if that event resumes.

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

For example:

- *Quality of WSBA staff support/services provided to Section Executive Committee*
- *Involvement with Board of Governors, including assigned BOG liaison*
- *Ideas you have on ways WSBA can continue to strengthen/support services to sections.*

We felt compelled to provide rapid programming and content to members in the pandemic, and were often unable to qualify for CLE credits, in part due to the quick turnaround times. We wonder if the complete transition to a virtual learning environment can result in reduced prices per credit. Alternatively, a greater array of options for CLE credits would be helpful, as we are likely to continue to respond to rapid changes with programming.

Note: Annual Reports will be provided to the WSBA Executive Director and Board of Governors and will be posted on your section's webpage. We encourage you to share the Annual Report with your BOG liaison and section membership.

Reports are scheduled to be included in the January 2021 BOG Meeting Materials.

Return by December 4, 2020 to eleent@wsba.org