

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

WSBA ENTITY ANNUAL REPORT FORM

FY 2023: October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023

The mission of the Washington State Bar Association is to serve the public and the members of the Bar, to ensure integrity of the legal profession, and to champion justice.

Instructions: In accordance with the WSBA Bylaws, Committees, Other Bar Entities (excluding Regulatory Boards¹), Councils, and Sections must submit an annual report to the Executive Director. The information below should reflect the activities and outcomes from the fiscal year FY2023 (October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023). Information in the annual report will be provided to the Executive Director and Board of Governors, and may be published for other purposes, such as *Bar News*, volunteer recruitment messaging, and other WSBA activity-based reporting.

It is recommended that completion of the annual report be a collaborative effort with members of your entity, the BOG liaison, and the staff liaison.

Submission Deadline is Friday, October 13: please submit by emailing barleaders@wsba.org or requesting that your staff liaison submit the report internally.

Name of Entity:	Dispute Resolution Section
Entity Size: <i>Total Number of Entity/Section Executive Committee Positions</i>	13 formal positions, plus 2 non-voting advisors
Chair or Co-Chairs:	Courtland Shafer
Staff Liaison: <i>Include name, job title, and department if known</i>	Carolyn MacGregor, Sections Program Coordinator
Board of Governors Liaison(s):	Kristina Larry
Purpose of Entity: <i>May be stated in Bylaws, Charter, Court Rule, etc.</i>	
The Section promotes the use of appropriate dispute prevention and resolution processes.	
Strategy to Fulfill Purpose:	

The Dispute Resolution Section of the Washington State Bar Association promotes the use of appropriate dispute prevention and resolution processes, by providing resources, developing programs, and addressing issues to: 1) enhance the skills of dispute resolution practitioners; 2) educate the public in the availability and use of party-determined solutions; and 3) assist the growth and development of dispute resolution services in the State of Washington.

How does the entity’s purpose help further the mission of the WSBA “to serve the public and the members of the Bar, to ensure integrity of the legal profession, and to champion justice”?

Educating members of the Bar and the public about Dispute Resolution serves to bring awareness to nonlitigation methods of resolving disputes. These methods can be more efficient, less expensive, faster, allow party control of the process, provide for the use of experts in the subject matter as decision-makers, and allow privacy in the dispute resolution process. We also serve members of the Bar by bringing CLE opportunities in DR subjects and procedures, by holding networking events, and by providing channels to communicate with other Section Members and with other DR professionals or interested parties. Additionally, we monitor legislation and comment on legislation to further ensure the integrity and utility of DR processes.

2022-2023 Entity Accomplishments:

We began the fiscal year with an Executive Committee retreat focused on incorporating recent changes to our Mission Statement (dropping the word “Alternative”) and Bylaws (adding “Inactive Members” of WSBA as eligible Members of the Section) more deeply into our strategy and plans to meet member’s needs. Deep discussions on 1) better understanding our Section Members needs from the Executive Committee; 2) a desire to broaden, deepen and diversify the pool of potential Executive Committee members, and 3) a recognition on the breadth of the practice of mediation and related conflict resolution practices by those in other professions in Washington, led the Section to commit to bringing back the Northwest Dispute Resolution Conference (<https://nwdrconference.org/#home>). Following the example of other Sections, we launched a groups.io online community to expand collaboration with DR practitioners who are not members of WSBA or eligible for WSBA. We continued the “Happy Hour NW,” which is a Thursday evening open-ended Zoom discussion and networking opportunity for our Members, as well as an online book club and continue to discuss how we may choose to evolve member engagement in both in-person and virtual forums. Recognizing the value in collaborating with other sections, we have supported and promoted events led by other sections (e.g., Collaborative Law) and larger sections (e.g., Family Law). Examples of this work are the November. 10 CLE – Beyond Theory: Using Collaborative Law for Non-Matrimonial Civil Disputes, the July 25th, Legal Lunchbox Series Early Family Law Mediation event and promoting the upcoming Family Law Section event to help practitioners meet the requirements under Washington’s new Uniform Family Law Arbitration Act. We continue to work cooperatively with the law schools in Washington State to provide DR training and to help with DR presentations/competitions.

Looking Ahead: 2023-2024 Top Goals & Priorities:

1	Deliver an outstanding Northwest Dispute Resolution Conference, March 21-22, 2024
2	Grow and deepen DR conversations across professions in the groups.io community

3	Continue to deepen our awareness and strive to authentically integrate diversity, equity and inclusion into the work of our section.	
4	Click or tap here to enter text.	
5	Click or tap here to enter text.	
Please describe how this entity is addressing diversity, equity, and inclusion:		
As the second oldest Section (in terms of the median age of our members), the DR Section has both unique challenges and opportunities in addressing systemic inequalities. To further our personal growth, we have added a DEI topic to our monthly Executive Committee meetings and seek insights and information to share that knowledge with our community through the listserv and more broadly through our groups.io. DEI topics are top of mind as the conference planning committee solicits and reviews presenter proposals.		
Please share feedback regarding the support and engagement provided by WSBA. <i>For example:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Quality of WSBA staff support/services, including technology solutions</i> • <i>Involvement with Board of Governors, including assigned BOG liaison(s)</i> • <i>Ideas you have for ways WSBA can continue to strengthen/support your entity.</i> 		
We have enjoyed close communications with and great support from our WSBA staff liaison and other WSBA personnel. They have helped us accomplish our projects and helped us negotiate WSBA filings and permissions. Carolyn frequently attends our monthly Executive Committee meetings.		
SECTIONS ONLY: Please quantify your section's 2022-2023 member benefits: <i>For example:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>\$3000 Scholarships, donations, grants awarded;</i> • <i>4 mini-CLEs produced</i> 	We post content and blogs on our website. We are expanding use of our listserv.	Newsletters/publications produced
	2	Mini-CLEs produced
	Click or tap here to enter text.	Co-sponsored half-day, full-day and/or multi-day CLE seminars with WSBA
	Click or tap here to enter text.	Co-sponsored half-day, full-day and/or multi-day CLE seminars with <i>non-WSBA</i> entity
	Click or tap here to enter text.	Receptions/forums hosted or co-hosted
	Click or tap here to enter text.	Scholarships, Donations, & Grants
	We support the law schools on	New Lawyer Outreach events/benefits

	trainings, events and ADR competitions.	
	Click or tap here to enter text.	Other (please describe): Click or tap here to enter text.
SECTIONS ONLY: Please quantify your section's 2022-2023 legislative activity.	HB1088	Bills Reviewed
	HB1088	Bills tracked
	HB1088	Comments proposed
	Click or tap here to enter text.	Bills proposed/drafted
Entity Detail Report: To Be Completed by WSBA Staff		
Number of Entity Members/Section Executive Committee Members:	11	
Number of Section Members: <i>As of September 1, 2023. Note: The Section Membership year runs on the calendar year.</i>	320	
Number of Applicants for FY24 Positions: <i>October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024</i>	4	
Do you have vacant positions for the coming year, FY24?	Yes - 4	
FY23 Budgeted Direct Expenses: <i>As of September 30, 2023. For Sections, this does not include the Per-Member-Charge.</i>	\$16,604	
FY23 Total Direct Expenses: <i>Draft estimate as of Dec. 1, 2023 For Sections, this does not include the Per-Member-Charge.</i>	\$6,157	

ⁱ Supreme Court Boards (Access to Justice Board, Disciplinary Board, LLLT Board, Limited Practice Board, MCLE Board and Practice of Law Board) provide annual reports to WSBA to support its responsibility under [GR 12.3](#), to provide oversight and monitor compliance with applicable rules and orders. Boards have the option to use the WSBA template or to share their annual reports to the Washington Supreme Court.