

# WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

## WSBA ENTITY ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2021: October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021

*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 Boards<sup>1</sup>), 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 October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021. 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 staff liaison.

**Submission Deadline is Friday, December 3:** please submit by emailing to Sections Program Specialist Carolyn MacGregor [carolynm@wsba.org](mailto:carolynm@wsba.org).

<b>Name of Entity:</b>	Business Law Section
<b>Chair or Co-Chairs:</b>	Diane Lourdes Dick
<b>Staff Liaison:</b> <i>(include name, job title, and department if known)</i>	Carolyn MacGregor
<b>Board of Governors Liaison:</b>	Bryn Peterson
<b>Purpose of Entity:</b> <i>May be stated in Bylaws, Charter, Court Rule, etc.</i>	
The purpose of the Section is to benefit the members of the Section and their clients: (a) by encouraging research and study, and the development of best practices, in the area of business law in the State of Washington, and sharing these efforts through continuing legal education where possible and appropriate; (b) by participating in the development of state legislation and regulations in order to improve and facilitate the administration of justice in the area of business law; and (c) by undertaking such other services relating to the area of business law as may be of benefit to members of the Section, members of the Bar, and the greater public.	
<b>Strategy to Fulfill Purpose:</b>	
We spent a considerable amount of time this year restructuring the Section to best meet the current and future needs of our members. First, we formed a new Young Business Lawyers Committee to provide social and networking opportunities for new and young business lawyers in Washington. We hope that this new committee will benefit our newest members by providing some much-needed	

opportunities for human connection; looking into the future, we hope it will help to grow our membership and nurture future leaders. We also repurposed our existing Law of Commerce in Cyberspace Committee into a Privacy and Data Security Law Committee. We are very excited to pass the baton to a new generation of lawyers working at the intersection of business and technology and we look forward to seeing the committee develop initiatives focused on this exciting and dynamic practice area. Finally, we conducted a member survey this spring to gather insights to help shape our programming over the next few years.

**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”?**

The Section seeks to promote professionalism among our members by helping to build and foster personal relationships among business attorneys across the state and by providing a forum for the discussion and exchange of ideas leading to the improvement of the laws relating to these areas of law.

**2020-2021 Entity Accomplishments:**

In May, we conducted our first-ever virtual annual meeting, which included a free CLE program on privacy law. We had over 240 people in attendance. It was a wonderful way to update members on section initiatives and provide an opportunity to learn about an important area of substantive law that increasingly impacts business lawyers and their clients. The Securities Committee’s annual co-sponsored program, the Northwest Securities Institute, was also held virtually in May under the supervision of the Oregon State Bar Association. Meanwhile, the Section has continued its tradition of strong legislative involvement, with the active review of numerous proposed bills throughout the legislative session. Specifically, the Section supported proposals by the Partnerships and LLC Law Committee and Corporate Act Revisions Committee for legislation updating various provisions of the LLC Act, the Uniform Limited Partnership Act, and the Washington Business Corporation Act.

**Looking Ahead: 2021-2022 Top Goals & Priorities:**

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| <b>1</b> | <b>Continue the Section’s strong tradition of legislative participation.</b>  |
| <b>2</b> | <b>Use insights from our recent member survey to determine whether, how, and to what extent we should proceed with virtual programming initiatives during the pandemic.</b>                       |
| <b>3</b> | <b>Continue to improve upon the programming initiatives from recent years, including the new format of the mid-year meeting and collaborative programming with the Corporate Counsel Section.</b> |
| <b>4</b> | <b>Continue the publication of our semi-annual newsletter and improve the content and member benefits on our WSBA-hosted website.</b>   |
| <b>5</b> | <b>Actively recruit more members to participate in the Section.</b>   |

**Please report how this entity is addressing diversity, equity, and inclusion:**

*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 committee/board done to promote equitable conditions for members from historically underrepresented backgrounds to enter, stay, thrive, and eventually lead the profession? Other?*

Even as compared to other segments of the legal profession, the business law bar is historically lacking in diversity. The Section has tried to promote a culture of diversity, equity, and inclusion, particularly with respect to the constitution of our executive committee. Women and racial and ethnic minorities currently represent almost 50% of our executive committee. We continue to actively solicit minority bar associations for their involvement within the Section. We have also sought out opportunities to participate in business law-tailored events in the community that focus on the inclusion and participation of underrepresented segments of the business law bar.

**Please describe the relationship with WSBA staff and the Board of Governors.**

*For example:*

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

We believe the Section’s relationship with the WSBA staff and governors has been fruitful. The WSBA staff has always been willing to help. We appreciate the lengths to which the WSBA staff always goes to acknowledge the contributions of the section leaders, we appreciate the WSBA leadership’s willingness to consider questions of section support and autonomy, and we appreciate the WSBA’s willingness to revisit the financial terms of CLE programming.

**SECTIONS ONLY: Please quantify your section’s 2020-2021 member benefits:**

*For example:*

- *\$3000 Scholarships, donations, grants awarded;*
- *4 mini-CLEs produced*

2 per year	Newsletters/publications produced
1	Mini-CLEs produced
Click or tap here to enter text.	Co-sponsored half-day, full-day and/or multi-day CLE seminars with WSBA
1	Co-sponsored half-day, full-day and/or multi-day CLE seminars with <i>non</i> -WSBA entity
1	Receptions/forums hosted or co-hosted
Click or tap here to enter text.	Recognitions/Awards given
Click or tap here to enter text.	New Lawyer Outreach events/benefits
Click or tap here to enter text.	Other (please describe):

**Entity Detail & Demographics Report:  
To Be Completed by WSBA Staff**

**Size of Entity:**

Click or tap here to enter text.

<b>Membership Size: (for Sections Only)</b> <i>(As of September 30, 2021)</i>	Click or tap here to enter text.																																																		
<b>Number of Applicants for FY22</b> <i>(October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022)</i>	Click or tap here to enter text.																																																		
<b>How many current volunteer position vacancies for this entity?</b>	Click or tap here to enter text.																																																		
<b>FY21 Revenue (\$): For Sections Only:</b> <i>As of September 30, 2021</i>	Click or tap here to enter text.																																																		
<b>Direct Expenses:</b> <i>As of September 30, 2021. For Sections, this does not include the Per-Member-Charge.</i>	Click or tap here to enter text.																																																		
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<p><b>FY21 Demographics:</b>  The WSBA promotes diversity, equality, and cultural competence in the courts, legal profession, and the bar, and is committed to ensuring that its committees, boards, and panels reflect the diversity of its membership.</p> <p>Aside from the factors marked (*), demographic information was provided voluntarily and individuals had the option to not respond to any or all of the factors below.</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="196 1102 1425 1942"> <tr> <td><b>Disability:</b></td> <td>Yes:</td> <td>No:</td> <td colspan="2">No Response:</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Ethnicity:</b></td> <td>American Indian/Native American/Alaskan Native:</td> <td>Asian:</td> <td>Black/African-American/African Descent:</td> <td>Hispanic/Latinx:</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Middle-Eastern Descent:</td> <td>Multi-Racial/Biracial:</td> <td>Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian:</td> <td>White/European Descent:</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Not Listed:</td> <td colspan="3">No response:</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Gender:</b></td> <td>Female:</td> <td>Male:</td> <td>Non-Binary:</td> <td>Transgender:</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Two-spirit:</td> <td>Not Listed:</td> <td colspan="2">No Response:</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Geographic*:</b></td> <td>District 1:</td> <td>District 2:</td> <td>District 3:</td> <td>District 4:</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>District 5:</td> <td>District 6:</td> <td>District 7S:</td> <td>District 7N:</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>District 8:</td> <td>District 9:</td> <td>District 10:</td> <td>Other:</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>New/Young Lawyer*:</b></td> <td>Yes:</td> <td>No:</td> <td colspan="2"></td> </tr> </table>		<b>Disability:</b>	Yes:	No:	No Response:		<b>Ethnicity:</b>	American Indian/Native American/Alaskan Native:	Asian:	Black/African-American/African Descent:	Hispanic/Latinx:		Middle-Eastern Descent:	Multi-Racial/Biracial:	Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian:	White/European Descent:		Not Listed:	No response:			<b>Gender:</b>	Female:	Male:	Non-Binary:	Transgender:		Two-spirit:	Not Listed:	No Response:		<b>Geographic*:</b>	District 1:	District 2:	District 3:	District 4:		District 5:	District 6:	District 7S:	District 7N:		District 8:	District 9:	District 10:	Other:	<b>New/Young Lawyer*:</b>	Yes:	No:		
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<b>Sexual Orientation:</b>	Asexual:	Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Pansexual, or Queer:	Heterosexual:	Two-spirit:
	Not Listed:	No Response:		

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<sup>i</sup> The Access to Justice Board (not regulatory, but applicable to the distinction herein) and Regulatory Boards (Disciplinary Board, LLLT Board, Limited Practice Board, MCLE Board and Practice of Law Board) are not required by Bylaws or Court Rule submit an annual report to WSBA. However, as part of the administration of monitoring of Regulatory Boards, the Boards listed herein typically provide an annual report to the Court and WSBA should be provided this same report an annual basis.