

WASHINGTON STATE B A R A S S O C I A T I O N

SECTION ANNUAL REPORT – 2019

Deadline: Friday, December 6, 2019

Email Annual Report to: sections@wsba.org

Name of the Section:	CREDITOR DEBTOR RIGHTS	
Chair:	Kevin D. O'Rourke	
Section Information: <i>*To be completed by WSBA*</i>	Membership Size: <i>(As of December 15, 2019)</i>	488
	Staff Lead:	Patrick Meade
	BOG Liaison:	Alec Stephens
	FY19 revenue (\$): <i>As of September 30, 2019</i>	\$14,656.16
	FY19 direct expenses (\$): <i>(As of September 30, 2019; does not include the Per-Member-Charge)</i>	\$5,781.85
Purpose:	<p>Provide continuing legal education programs on topics of interest to the section membership with the purpose of devoting revenue generated from said programs to debt related legal clinics or debt related education organizations;</p> <p>Provide communication amongst members of the section;</p> <p>Review and comment on proposed creditor-debtor legislation.</p>	
2019 Accomplishments and Work in Progress:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Provide grant funding of \$5,000.00 to various low income legal clinics across Washington; 2) Provide quality CLE programs, including co-sponsorship of the annual Northwest Bankruptcy Institute (NWBI); 3) Review and comment on proposed creditor-debtor related legislation referred to section executive committee by the WSBA lobbyist; 4) Publication of the section's semi-annual newsletter; and 5) Maintain active discussions amongst section members via the section's list serve. Expansion Proposal 	

<p>Please quantify your section's current member benefits:</p> <p><i>For example:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$3000 Scholarships, donations, grants awarded; • 4 mini-CLEs produced 	Quantity	Member Benefit
	\$5,000	Scholarships, donations, grants awarded
	0	Law school outreach events/benefits hosted
	numerous	Legislative bills reviewed/drafted
	1	Newsletters produced
	0	Mini-CLEs produced
	2	Co-sponsored half/day to multi-day CLEs with WSBA
	0	Receptions/forums hosted
	0	Awards given
	1	New Lawyer Outreach events/benefits
	1	Other (please describe):
<p>2020 Goals & Priorities (Top 5)</p>	1	Continue high quality legal education seminar presentations.
	2	Continue grant programs that provide low income persons access to creditor debtor related legal assistance.
	3	Review and comment when appropriate on proposed creditor-debtor related legislation.
	4	Publication of semi-annual section newsletter.
	5	Improve and continue list serve discussions amongst section membership.
<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>		

The Creditor Debtor Section's Executive Committee is aware of the need to be inclusive in all our activities. We are inherently diverse in that some of us represent creditors, some of us represent debtors, and others represent both. As lawyers, our primary objective is to address the substantive areas of the law and substantive legal problems facing our clients. As lawyers, it is our nature to judge others on the basis of their behavior and not on their race, color, creed or other inappropriate criteria. What is more difficult to discern and avoid are the more subtle forms of discriminatory habits we have developed over our lives which can result in implicit bias. We strive to take positive steps to deal with those issues and the Section welcomes any member of the Bar that is interested in a substantive area of practice that we are involved with. We also strive to embrace the cultural differences that make interaction amongst us more interesting. The Section has not utilized the services of the WSBA Diversity Specialist and have not had any contact with or from that person. The Executive Committee continues to keep its focus on the issues of diversity and inclusion, together with the issue of avoiding inappropriate discrimination in our activities.

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?)

Professionalism is an issue that is addressed regularly in the Continuing Legal Education seminars we sponsor and co-sponsor. Our efforts in this area are ongoing and will continue. It is apparent to most lawyers practicing in the creditor-debtor area that a high degree of professionalism is in their economic best interest as those practicing in this area will encounter other section members on a regular basis throughout the course of their practice.

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?)

- 1) The Section receives excellent support from the Bar staff.
- 2) Board of Governors: The Section has not been directly involved with the Board of Governors, but welcomes its relationship with our assigned BOG liaison.
- 3) Ideas: In light of the issues raised in connection with Sections workgroup during the past year, it is our hope that the BOG will include Section executive committee members in their efforts to address issues that arise and which affect the Sections. The Section members and their respective executive committees are some of the best supporters of the WSBA and should be viewed by the BOG and the WSBA staff as resources that benefit the WSBA as a whole.

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.*

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Note: Annual Reports will be provided to the WSBA Executive Director, Board of Governors and 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 2020 BOG Meeting Materials.

Return by December 6, 2019 to sections@wsba.org