

# 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>	Environmental and Land Use Law Section
<b>Chair or Co-Chairs:</b>	Pat Spurgin (2020-2021); Kyler Danielson (2021-2022)
<b>Staff Liaison:</b> <i>(include name, job title, and department if known)</i>	Carolyn MacGregor, Sections Program Specialist
<b>Board of Governors Liaison:</b>	Dan Clark
<b>Purpose of Entity:</b> <i>May be stated in Bylaws, Charter, Court Rule, etc.</i>	
The ELUL Section is a formal association of attorneys, other professionals, and law students who share a common focus and interest in the practice of environmental and land use law. Our Section represents a diverse membership with individuals, drawn from law firms, solo practice, government, private industry, and public interest groups, who often represent different sides of an issue, but who are all committed to civil and professional cooperation for the benefit, protection, and enhancement of our communities and Washington State. Accordingly, our Section endeavors to continually and regularly provide opportunities and forums for the interchange of ideas surrounding environmental and land use law.	

**Strategy to Fulfill Purpose:**

ELUL section activities fulfill the Section’s purpose in the following ways:

- We support the environmental and land use bar’s need to maintain current understanding of legal developments by hosting educational (CLE) events and gatherings for lawyers, law students, and professionals to provide opportunities for communication and collaboration. Our CLEs often include individuals with differing opinions on issues, to show various sides of land use or environmental issues and legal positions. Our networking events strive to engage members in a fun and casual manner so that the person behind the client is known. Our educational events also frequently include a “view from the bench,” which provides practitioners with insight into what our court and administrative judges need and wish to see to effect justice.
- We provide opportunities for our membership to discuss and debate current issues through the use of our website (blog), social media accounts (Facebook and LinkedIn), and our email ListSERV.
- We share information about bills in the Washington Legislature that are relevant to environmental and land use law, to keep our members up-to-date on relevant bills as a resource to further collaboration and discussion.
- To ensure that law students can contribute and learn through the section, we co-host a social event for the students with law students and practitioners. We also support law student internships/fellowships with scholarships. Not only does this expose students to the field, but it promotes involvement by attorneys and furthers civility and professionalism by creating an environment of inclusion and open communication.
- Finally, we offer social events designed to support camaraderie and the Bar’s professional networking needs.

**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 ELUL Section furthers WSBA’s mission to serve the public and members of the bar by supporting communication and collaboration between them. In practice, the ELUL Section supports this communication through our newsletter and events, which are open anyone – members and the general public. We also provide email updates on legislative bills, which are shared as a member benefit.

The ELUL Section ensures integrity of the legal profession by providing formal spaces for educational opportunities and civil discourse on ethics and environmental and land use legal issues. Due to our membership’s strong disagreements on legal issues, professionalism is essential to our Section’s continued success in supporting communication and collaboration. Our educational events also frequently include a “view from the bench” to provide opportunities for the court and administrative judges to share insights with practitioners.

Finally, we champion justice by our dedication to uplift law students. In practice, this effort is clear through our scholarship grants for students who take unpaid legal internships in environmental or land use law and our continued efforts to provide students with opportunities to learn from lawyers

and professionals. It is also clear through our decision to cohost an event with the Civil Rights Section in 2020 that was specifically focused on environmental justice.

**2020-2021 Entity Accomplishments:**

Typically, ELUL’s main event is a three-day Midyear Conference and Membership Meeting held each spring. The ELUL Section also typically holds an in-person mini-CLE that includes ethics credit.

Due to COVID-19 concerns, the 2021 Midyear Conference and December mini-CLE were converted to a one-day webcast and webinars.

This year the Section continued providing articles with its user-friendly on-line newsletter and social media.

We have also continued to provide legislative updates this past legislative session with targeted environmental and land use bill information sent to members by the list-serve so members can keep up with the ever-changing legislative sessions. Given the diversity of membership, the Section does not take positions on any particular bill.

For our soon-to-be and young lawyers, we have typically held annual networking receptions in both Seattle and Spokane. This year—again because of COVID-19 concerns—we experimented a networking session using an online meeting platform. We once again were deeply appreciative of the number of practicing attorneys who took time out of their busy schedules to network and encourage those new to the field for the online event.

Finally, this year we were able to substantially increase our highly successful grant program that awards funds to students who participate in activities that further their interest and commitment to the practice of environmental or land use law. Due to the increased number and amount of grants offered, we had a significantly higher number of applicants than the previous year.

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

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|----------|---|
| <b>1</b> | Maintain our record of providing events and CLEs to our membership using the appropriate delivery platform (in light of state and local health and safety recommendations)  |
| <b>2</b> | Identify and improve opportunities for networking and communicating with Section membership   |
| <b>3</b> | Endeavor to increase membership and diversity in the Section in terms of individual attributes, practice areas, and geographic location, among others, potentially through additional partnerships with other organizations or WSBA Sections. |
| <b>4</b> | Continue efforts to provide pertinent and timely legal issues analyses through online platforms.  |
| <b>5</b> | Maintain fiscal and financial responsibility, which will allow continued development of programming as well as additional outreach and grants.  |

**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?*

The ELUL Section provides law student scholarships/grants to students working on an unpaid internship position each year. This year, we significantly increased the number and amount of the grants to provide additional support for new members of the profession.

Additionally, our 2021 law student networking event was co-hosted with WSBA’s Civil Rights Law Section and the AGO’s Environmental Protection Division. Discussion at the event focused on environmental justice as a celebration of Earth Day.

**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 have established good working relationships and appreciated the role served by the WSBA staff member and BOG liaison assigned to our section. WSBA staff has been particularly helpful in addressing financial issues and requirements and in innovating our CLE approaches in the face of the current public health issues in Washington. We include WSBA staff on our meeting and event invitations, and regularly communicate any updates for our Section.

Overall, we are interested in upgrading the level of communications between the Board of Governors and the committee. A written update from the BOG regarding information relevant to the Sections would be useful.

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

*For example:*

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

5	Newsletters/publications produced
2	Mini-CLEs produced
1	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 <i>non</i> -WSBA entity
1	Receptions/forums hosted or co-hosted
	Recognitions/Awards given
1	New Lawyer Outreach events/benefits



<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:		
<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.