

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

2020 SECTION ANNUAL REPORT

January 1 - December 31, 2020

Deadline: Friday, December 4, 2020

Name of the Section:	<i>Family Law</i>	
Chair:	<i>Patrick Rawnsley</i>	
Section Information: <i>*To be completed by WSBA Staff*</i>	Membership Size: <i>(As of December 1, 2020)</i>	981
	Staff Lead:	Eleen Trang
	BOG Liaison:	Brent Williams-Ruth
	FY20 revenue (\$): <i>As of September 30, 2020</i>	\$49,251.55
	FY20 direct expenses (\$): <i>(As of September 30, 2020; does not include the Per-Member-Charge)</i>	\$6,437.27
Purpose: <i>(Usually stated in the Section's Bylaws)</i>	<p>The purpose of the Family Law Section is to improve the practice of family law in Washington and to involve all interested members of the WSBA in cooperation with state and local bar associations in order to benefit its members, their clients, and the general public by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing the opportunity and forum for the interchange of ideas in all areas of law affecting families and juveniles; • Initiating and implementing common projects, including but not limited to an annual meeting; • Reviewing pending legislation, providing input and timely responses to pending and proposed legislation and development of proposed statutory enactments to improve and to facilitate the administration of justice within the Section's area of interest and expertise; • Hosting CLE's to improve the quality of family law practice; and • Undertaking such other service as may be of benefit to the members, the legal profession, and the public. 	

<p>2020 Accomplishments and Work in Progress:</p>	<p>Legislation: FLEC continues to rebuild its relationship with legislators notwithstanding current WSBA/BOG legislative policy which limits the ability of the section to perform its legislative duties outlined above. With the recent departure of Mr. Walvekar, FLEC remains optimistic in fostering a close relationship with his successor, Mr. Johnson.</p> <p>Board of Governors: FLEC’s BOG liaison continues to attend most, if not all, BOG meetings and has developed what FLEC considers to be effective and meaningful relationships with the current BOG members.</p> <p>Workgroups: Jacqueline Jeske served on the DV Risk Assessment Work Group in exemplary fashion. Shelley Brandt served and continues to serve on the Pattern Forms Committee/Workgroup</p> <p>Midyear CLE: Despite a global pandemic, FLEC pulled off the 2020 Family Law Midyear with the assistance of WSBA technical staff. Being able to conduct the Midyear in and of itself was a success but more importantly it was a success both educationally as well as financially.</p>	
<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 	<p>Quantity</p>	<p>Member Benefit</p>
	<p>0</p>	<p>Scholarships, donations, grants awarded (\$ amount)</p>
	<p>0</p>	<p>Law school outreach events/benefits hosted</p>
	<p>*</p>	<p>Legislative bills reviewed/drafted – Many bills were reviewed and several were discussed with legislators directly. The section did not draft any proposed legislation.</p>
	<p>0</p>	<p>Newsletters/publications produced</p>
	<p>0</p>	<p>Mini-CLEs produced</p>
	<p>1</p>	<p>Co-sponsored half-day, full-day and/or multi-day CLE seminars with WSBA</p>
	<p>0</p>	<p>Co-sponsored half-day, full-day and/or multi-day CLE seminars with non-WSBA entity</p>
	<p>0</p>	<p>Receptions/forums hosted or co-hosted</p>
	<p>0</p>	<p>Recognitions/Awards given</p>
	<p>0</p>	<p>New Lawyer Outreach events/benefits</p>

	n/a	Other (please describe):
Looking Ahead: Goals & Priorities for 2021 (Top 5)	1	Improve efficiency of communication with the WSBA Legislative Affairs Manager during legislative session
	2	Continue to provide high quality CLE's
	3	Continue to review, comment and testify regarding family-law related legislation
	4	Continue to emphasize equity, diversity and inclusion not only as to FLEC itself but also with respect to all FLEC activities
	5	Improve FLEC's relationship with BOG. FLEC's liaison to BOG has worked hard to improve the existing relationship and those efforts will continue.

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?)

FLEC recruits members of diverse background, including age or length of time in the profession. We encourage lawyers of all ages to participate in section leadership. This past year a particular effort was made to contact individual minority bar sections and individual members in geographically distant locales from the Puget Sound to enhance participation.

As discussed above, the Section maintains two listservs, which provides a safe forum for practitioners to seek advice or information from other lawyers – this has been a wonderful way of building community. Our general listserv is for Section members to discuss legal issues and procedures; our second listserv is for Section members to discuss issues involved in the business side of a law practice.

The section provides an annual Skills Training aimed at new lawyers, or lawyers new to family law.

FLEC is happy to have a Young Lawyer Liaison every year. We believe it is important to have a wide range of viewpoints, including the view from new, midrange and “seasoned” practitioners.

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?)

Each November, FLEC attends a joint meeting with the Family and Juvenile Law Subcommittee of the Superior Court Judges' Association. This meeting provides an opportunity for Family and Juvenile Court judicial officers and family law practitioners to share ideas and concerns in an informal setting. This year the meeting was held by zoom and focused in particular on the implementation of the UGA and how to assist practitioners with the varying Superior Court responses throughout the states. We believe this effort contributed to professionalism, collegiality and improving relations between the bar and the judiciary. We regularly include professionalism

and ethics in our CLE presentations and our Basic Skills seminar for new attorneys which keeps members current on evolving ethical and professional issues.

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?)

FLEC recruits members of diverse background, including age or length of time in the profession. We encourage lawyers of all ages to participate in section leadership. This effort was successful in 2019 and resulted in a number of newer younger members being elected to the Committee.

As discussed above, the Section maintains two listservs, which provides a safe forum for practitioners to seek advice or information from other lawyers – this has been a wonderful way of building community. Our general listserv is for Section members to discuss legal issues and procedures; our second listserv is for Section members to discuss issues involved in the business side of a law practice. The section provides an annual Skills Training aimed at new lawyers, or lawyers new to family law.

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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.*

For the most part since the inception of the Family Law Section, FLEC has maintained a regular presence at the Board of Governors meetings. Our current Liaison – Nancy Hawkins – has continued a strong Family Law Section presence at the meetings.

We are pleased with the improvements we have seen in our relationship with the BOG; we are definitely moving in a positive direction.

FLEC works extremely well with WSBA staff. They are extremely helpful in identifying CLE locations, obtaining BEOs, and handling administrative issues we otherwise would struggle with. They are friendly and timely in responding to any questions we may come up with (and we do ask a lot of questions). WSBA staff played a critical role in the success of the Midyear CLE which was handled remotely. They have also been responsive to feedback from our Section regarding WSBA policies and how they impact the Section, membership recruitment and participation. This past year we held a joint meeting with FLEC and BOG representatives to share perspectives about the interplay between leadership and section impacts.

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