



WSBA Sections

WSBA SECTION ANNUAL REPORT – FY18

Name of the Section:	<i>Family Law Section</i>	
Chair:	<i>James Lutes</i>	
Section Information: <i>As of September 30, 2018</i> <i>*To be completed by WSBA*</i>	Membership Size:	1,161
	Staff Lead:	Eleen Trang
	BOG Liaison:	Brian Tollefson
	FY18 revenue: \$	\$42,587.25 (as of 8/31/18)
	FY18 direct expenses: \$ <i>(does not include the Per-Member-Charge)</i>	\$28,906.07 (as of 8/31/18)
Purpose:	<p>The purpose of the 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. By providing the opportunity and forum for the interchange of ideas in all areas of law affecting families and juveniles; b. By initiating and implementing common projects, including but not limited to an annual meeting; c. By 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; d. By hosting CLEs to improve the quality of family law practice; and e. By undertaking such other service as may be of benefit to the members, the legal profession, and the public. 	

<p>2017-2018 Accomplishments and Work in Progress:</p>	<p>Legislation: We have a renewed emphasis on reviewing pending legislation and providing input to WSBA and stakeholders as appropriate.</p> <p>Board of Governors: We are working well with the current Board of Governors and have established an open and healthy line of communication to address questions posed by the Section.</p> <p>Workgroups: We are placing a liaison with the Washington State 2019 Child Support Workgroup.</p> <p>Midyear CLE: We are working to map out several years' worth of midyear CLE locations.</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>\$2,000 (approx.)</p>	<p>Scholarships, donations, grants awarded</p>
		<p>Law school outreach events/benefits hosted</p>
	<p>Unknown</p>	<p>Legislative bills reviewed/drafted</p>
	<p>1 (in progress)</p>	<p>Newsletters produced</p>
	<p>1</p>	<p>Mini-CLEs produced</p>
	<p>2</p>	<p>Co-sponsored half/day to multi-day CLEs with WSBA</p>
	<p>1</p>	<p>Receptions/forums hosted</p>
	<p>3</p>	<p>Awards given</p>
		<p>New Lawyer Outreach events/benefits</p>
		<p>Other (please describe):</p>
<p>2018-2019 Goals & Priorities (Top 5)</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>Continued CLEs. We are putting together a strong CLE, have renewed our Spring Skills Training Seminar for new lawyers, and are continuing to host our year-end, single-day December CLE in King County.</p>
	<p>2</p>	<p>Review Legislation. Work with the Board of Governors and WSBA generally to appropriately provide feedback to improve legislation touching on family law.</p>

	3	Improve Diversity. We have placed an emphasis on identifying diverse potential FLEC members. We are also working to ensure that our future CLEs appropriately accommodate those with disabilities.
	4	Continue BOG Relationship. FLEC has worked well with the Board of Governors in recent years, and we hope to continue improving that relationship.
	5	Emphasize Public Service. We recognize there is a gap for low-income families needing family law assistance. There are county clinics throughout the state that provide services to those underserved communities. Those clinics' survival is rooted in the active participation of local lawyers, which we seek to encourage.

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?)

We have placed an emphasis on identifying diverse potential Family Law Executive Committee (FLEC) members. We are also working to ensure that our future CLEs appropriately accommodate those with disabilities. In doing so we believe outreach to diverse FLEC candidates is important, and this is an emphasis on our 2018/2019 efforts.

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?)

We participate annually in a joint meeting with the Family and Juvenile Law Subcommittee of the Superior Court Judges' Association. This meeting provides an opportunity for Family Law and Juvenile Judges and Family Law Practitioners to share ideas and concerns in an informal setting. Discussions span the gamut of professionalism, forms, court appearances, consistency, dealing with pro ses, and every manner of issue facing family law professionals. In addition, there is increased understanding between the judiciary and practitioners.

We regularly include ethics issues in our CLE presentations and skills training, to keep up with evolving issues and to share them with the membership and others.

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?)

We work closely with our Young Lawyer Liaison – Amanda Gamble. Her involvement with FLEC has been so significant that we recently appointed her to serve out a vacant term. Further, the current chair (this writer) is also a young lawyer, and FLEC has been very supportive of giving new lawyers input and opportunities in the committee's decision-making processes.

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 years we have maintained a regular presence at the Board of Governors meetings. Our current Liaison – Nancy Hawkins – has continued a strong presence at the meetings. We are identifying goals for communication with the BOG and appear to be moving in a positive direction.

We work 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 have, and in fact, Kevin Plachy will be attending our next meeting to discuss the new CLE pricing models.