

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

WSBA ENTITY ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2022: October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022

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 Boards¹), 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, 2021 – September 30, 2022. 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 Monday, October 17: Please submit by emailing to Sections Program Specialist Carolyn MacGregor at carolynm@wsba.org.

Name of Entity:	Dispute Resolution Section
Chair or Co-Chairs:	Mel Simburg
Staff Liaison: <i>(include name, job title, and department if known)</i>	Carolyn MacGregor
Board of Governors Liaison:	Alec Stephens, Jr.
Purpose of Entity: <i>May be stated in Bylaws, Charter, Court Rule, etc.</i>	
	The Section promotes the use of appropriate dispute prevention and resolution processes.
Strategy to Fulfill Purpose:	
	By providing resources, developing programs, and addressing issues to: •Enhance the skills of dispute resolution practitioners; •Educate the public in the availability and use of party-determined solutions; • Assist the growth and development of dispute resolution services in the State of Washington.
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”?	
	Educating members of the Bar and the public about Dispute Resolution serves to bring awareness to nonlitigation methods of resolving disputes. These methods can be more efficient, less expensive, faster, allow party control of the process, provide for the use of experts in the subject matter as

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decision-makers, and allow privacy in the dispute resolution process. We also serve members of the Bar by bringing CLE opportunities in DR subjects and procedures, by holding networking events, and by providing channels to communicate with other Section Members and with other DR professionals or interested parties. We also monitor legislation and comment on legislation to further ensure the integrity and utility of DR processes.

2021 -2022 Entity Accomplishments:

We began the fiscal year with an Executive Committee Zoom retreat with the theme of addressing “Issues of Concern to the Profession; Matters of Policy.” That event started the process of revising our Section Mission Statement, which concluded in August 2022 with adoption of a revised Mission Statement. We amended the Bylaws in 2022 to change the name by dropping “Alternative” and becoming the “Dispute Resolution” Section. The Bylaw amendments also included adding “Inactive Members” of WSBA as eligible Members of the Section. We discussed issues of DEI in dispute resolution and in operating the Section. The Executive Committee held two mini-retreats on DEI and has added to its monthly agenda time for focusing on an aspect of DEI each month. In October 2021, we held a successful online conference with several partners outside the State of Washington, including participants from British Columbia, entitled “Northwest Collaborative Futures Conference: Deconstructing Artificial Borders.” We collaborating on the repeat presentation of a WSBA-CLE presentation on Arbitrator Ethics, which took place on December 1, 2021. And we supported the International Practice Section on a CLE that took place December 8, 2021 entitled “Tips to Resolving Disputes Cross Border.” We have resumed the “Happy Hour NW,” which is a Thursday evening open-ended Zoom discussion and networking opportunity for our Members. We are continuing to work cooperatively with the law schools in Washington State to provide DR training and to help with moot DR presentations/competitions. We provided comment to legislators about our concern that the new statute prohibiting confidentiality in resolution of discrimination and abuse matters could affect the confidentiality provisions of the employer-employee mediations, but no exception was made for confidentiality in mediation submission agreements. We continue to work on transition of our website and on making more use of the Listserv, which our Members seem to be doing and appreciating. We have added an option for Members to opt-in to receive a newsletter curated by Lexology that provides summaries of recent developments and cases involving arbitration and mediation. We have scheduled for November 10, 2022 a free CLE in “Collaborative Law Outside of Family Law.” And we are looking into the feasibility of resuming the Northwest Dispute Resolution Conference.

Looking Ahead: 2022-2023 Top Goals & Priorities:

1	Investigate the feasibility of resuming the Northwest Dispute Resolution Conference.
2	Continue cooperation with other organizations to present a major Northwest Dispute Resolution Conference annually and other DR CLEs and networking opportunities.
3	Outreach to Section Members and beyond our Section.
4	Integrate DEI into our outreach, in addition to age and geographic diversity.

5	Click or tap here to enter text.	
<p>Please describe how this entity is addressing diversity, equity, and inclusion: <i>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?</i></p>		
<p>We have held two mini-retreats to discuss DEI issues. We have added DEI to our monthly Executive Committee meetings to discuss an aspect of DEI each month. We are bringing out information about each other and our individual backgrounds to better appreciate the diversity we have. We are seeking ways to add DEI to our outreach efforts to WSBA members across the State and to others outside of WSBA.</p>		
<p>Please share feedback regarding the support and engagement provided by WSBA. <i>For example:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Quality of WSBA staff support/services, including technology solutions</i> • <i>Involvement with Board of Governors, including assigned BOG liaison</i> • <i>Ideas you have on ways WSBA can continue to strengthen/support your entity.</i> 		
<p>We have enjoyed close communications with and great support from our WSBA staff liaison and other WSBA personnel. They have helped us accomplish our projects and helped us negotiate WSBA filings and permissions. Our staff liaison does attend our monthly meetings when she can.</p>		
<p>SECTIONS ONLY: Please quantify your section's 2021-2022 member benefits:</p> <p><i>For example:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>\$3000 Scholarships, donations, grants awarded;</i> • <i>4 mini-CLEs produced</i> 	<p>We post content and blogs on our website. We are expanding use of our listserv.</p>	<p>Newsletters/publications produced</p>
	<p>Mini-Cle scheduled for Nov. 10, 2022.</p>	<p>Mini-CLEs produced</p>
	<p>We cooperated on one half-day and one 1.5-hour CLE that took place in December 2021.</p>	<p>Co-sponsored half-day, full-day and/or multi-day CLE seminars with WSBA</p>
	<p>In October 2021 we held a two-day CLE with multiple sponsoring organizations.</p>	<p>Co-sponsored half-day, full-day and/or multi-day CLE seminars with <i>non</i>-WSBA entity</p>
	<p>Click or tap here to enter text.</p>	<p>Receptions/forums hosted or co-hosted</p>

	Click or tap here to enter text.	Recognitions/Awards given
	We have cooperated with the law schools on events and ADR competitions.	New Lawyer Outreach events/benefits
	Monthly “Happy Hour” web conferences.	Other (please describe):
	Click or tap here to enter text.	Other (please describe):
SECTIONS ONLY: Please quantify your section’s 2021-2022 legislative activity.	HB 1795	Bills reviewed
	Click or tap here to enter text.	Bills tracked
	HB 1795	Comments proposed
	Click or tap here to enter text.	Bills proposed/drafted

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

Size of Entity:	14
Membership Size: (for Sections Only) <i>(As of September 30, 2022)</i>	323
Number of Applicants for FY23 <i>(October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022)</i>	8
Number of current volunteer vacancies for this entity	3
FY22 Revenue (\$): For Sections Only: <i>As of September 30, 2022</i>	\$14,440.86
Direct Expenses: <i>As of September 30, 2022. For Sections, this does not include the Per-Member-Charge.</i>	\$20,434.48

ⁱ Supreme Court Boards (Access to Justice Board, Disciplinary Board, LLLT Board, Limited Practice Board, MCLE Board and Practice of Law Board) provide annual reports to WSBA to support its responsibility under [GR 12.3](#), to provide oversight and monitor compliance with applicable rules and orders. Boards have the option to use the WSBA template or to share their annual reports to the Washington Supreme Court.