

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:	Low Bono Section
Chair or Co-Chairs:	Marya Noyes
Staff Liaison: <i>(include name, job title, and department if known)</i>	Carolyn MacGregor
Board of Governors Liaison:	Brett Purtzer
Purpose of Entity: <i>May be stated in Bylaws, Charter, Court Rule, etc.</i>	
The underlying purpose of “low bono” is to increase the availability of legal representation and legal services to clients of moderate means. Clients of moderate means are individuals who have a need or a want for legal representation or legal services, but who cannot qualify or pro bono legal assistance and who typically cannot afford the cost of traditional law firm representation or legal services. These individuals comprise the majority of those seeking resolution of, or planning for, legal issues and legal matters. The Low Bono Section is a community of lawyers, LLLTs, other legal professionals, and law students committed to identifying solutions, creating systems, and developing projects to increase the overall availability and affordability of legal representation and legal services.	
Strategy to Fulfill Purpose:	
See Bylaws 2.1 Developing and providing resources for members, regardless of field or area of practice, who are dedicated and committed to providing low bono legal services, defined as legal and law-related services provided with the intent to increase accessibility of legal services for people of	

October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022 (FY22)

moderate financial means. 2.2 Providing a forum and opportunity for education, training, and sharing of forms, practice tips, client counseling techniques, alternative forms of conflict resolution, and other resources to and among members of the Section. 2.3 Developing “best practices” and “alternative practices” for providing competent, current, efficient, and economical professional services while being mindful of the clients’ moderate means.

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 Low Bono Section provides a forum and opportunity for education, training, sharing of forms, practice tips, client counseling techniques, and alternative techniques for conflict resolution. The section provides its members with free mentorship opportunities, discounted admission to low-bono-oriented CLEs, networking and referral opportunities with other low bono professionals, leadership development opportunities, and more.

2021 -2022 Entity Accomplishments:

1. Developed and conducted CLE on Minor Guardianships.
2. Reviewed and publicly commented on Senate Bill regarding parenting plan changes.
3. Expanded social media sites and actively posted about the section and its events.
4. Published three “Access to Justice Champions” newsletters, with articles written by lawyers, LLLTs, and members of the public.
5. Kept membership steady during the pandemic.
6. Held virtual monthly meetings with social hour afterwards.
7. Increased use of section list-serve.

Looking Ahead: 2022-2023 Top Goals & Priorities:

1	Continue to increase membership, with a focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion.
2	Improve outreach and communications about the section.
3	Develop and conduct CLE on protection order statute and other topics.
4	Increase law student and young lawyer/LLLT membership and participation.
5	Increase active engagement on relevant legislation.

Please describe 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 Low Bono Section has been created to increase diversity and inclusion into the legal community as well as public participation in the legal system. Our Executive Committee continues to encourage participation by a diverse group of people. All meetings are accessible remotely, with meeting information published in advance. Executive Committee meetings are held at a later hour of the day, typically on the second Wednesday of the month to encourage more people to participate, including members with small children who may have trouble meeting during workday hours. We continue to host social time after these meetings and invite all Section Members to the meetings and to the post-

meeting socials. The Executive Committee plans to hold several in-person meetings in 2023 to bolster interpersonal communications and provide greater networking opportunities.

Please share feedback regarding the support and engagement provided by WSBA.

For example:

- *Quality of WSBA staff support/services, including technology solutions*
- *Involvement with Board of Governors, including assigned BOG liaison*
- *Ideas you have on ways WSBA can continue to strengthen/support your entity.*

The section receives excellent support from WSBA staff.

SECTIONS ONLY: Please quantify your section's 2021-2022 member benefits:

For example:

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

3	Newsletters/publications produced
1	Mini-CLEs produced
Click or tap here to enter text.	Co-sponsored half-day, full-day and/or multi-day CLE seminars with WSBA
Click or tap here to enter text.	Co-sponsored half-day, full-day and/or multi-day CLE seminars with <i>non</i> -WSBA entity
Click or tap here to enter text.	Receptions/forums hosted or co-hosted
Click or tap here to enter text.	Recognitions/Awards given
Click or tap here to enter text.	New Lawyer Outreach events/benefits
12	Other (please describe): Monthly meetings with post-meeting happy hour
Click or tap here to enter text.	Other (please describe): Increased list-serve and social media outreach

SECTIONS ONLY: Please quantify your section's 2021-2022 legislative activity.

1	Bills reviewed
2	Bills tracked
Click or tap here to enter text.	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:	8
Membership Size: (for Sections Only) <i>(As of September 30, 2022)</i>	77
Number of Applicants for FY23 <i>(October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022)</i>	3
Number of current volunteer vacancies for this entity	0
FY22 Revenue (\$): For Sections Only: <i>As of September 30, 2022</i>	\$4,523.09
Direct Expenses: <i>As of September 30, 2022. For Sections, this does not include the Per-Member- Charge.</i>	\$2,005.50

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.