

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 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, 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.

Name of Entity:	Real Property, Probate and Trust
Chair or Co-Chairs:	Tiffany R. Gorton October 2021-October 2022
Staff Liaison: <i>(include name, job title, and department if known)</i>	Click or tap here to enter text.
Board of Governors Liaison:	Brent Williams-Ruth
Purpose of Entity: <i>May be stated in Bylaws, Charter, Court Rule, etc.</i>	
The purpose of the Section is to: a. Assist our members in achieving the highest standards of competence, professionalism, and ethics in their practices, b. Assist the Legislature in the enactment and improvement of the laws affecting real property, probate, trusts, and estates and to assist the Judiciary in the just administration of those laws, c. Support the WSBA with regard to those matters which concern the practice of law in the areas of real property, probate, trusts and estates, and d. Otherwise serve our members by helping them realize their professional goals.	
Strategy to Fulfill Purpose:	
For FY 2021-2022, the RPPT Section will continue to work with the WSBA to engage and educate members and lawyers in general with high quality CLEs and timely newsletter articles and opportunities for members and lawyers in the community to get involved with education, legislation	

and other members of the legal community. The Section will continue to work closely with legislative leaders, the Section’s legislative subcommittee and executive committee to ensure that the laws affecting real property, probate, trusts and estate continue to evolve with the practice and provide a good framework for practitioners and meet the needs of the state’s general population.

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”?

Through member engagement and education, the RPPT Section provides opportunities for mentoring and practical support for its members and Washington lawyers in general with an emphasis on providing timely resources for the ever-changing practice of law, working on legislation to address access to justice issues and developing the next generation of practitioners.

2020-2021 Entity Accomplishments:

The RPPT Section (and the WSBA leaders and other section leaders) worked together throughout the pandemic to continue to provide some normalcy to the practice of law and to maintain its consistent goal of delivering high-quality CLEs during a time when the practice was rapidly changing. The Section pivoted immediately with the shutdown to participate in free online seminars to ensure that practitioners had the resources needed to continue to serve their clients in a world that was completely different, seemingly overnight. This pandemic-centric education included working closely with the WSBA coronavirus task force to ensure that members had resources and were quickly educated following the various proclamations from the Governor, including accelerating effectiveness of legislation effecting the practice area too allow practitioners to continue to serve their clients. This included putting together spring seminar in April 2020 regarding best practices for estate planners during COVID 19. In addition, the Section hosted, virtually, its annual Midyear Meetings in June 2020 and June 2021 as well as its annual fall probate and trust seminar and real property seminar both in December 2020. Section leaders and members also worked together with WSBA leaders and legislators on multiple legislative subcommittees to assist with the review, comment and drafting of the Omnibus Bill that was passed in 2021. The RPPT Section also published four (4) high-quality newsletters by our dedicated group of lawyers who sit on our Newsletter Committee. The RPPT Section continues to engage new and young lawyers through the Fellow Program and fosters those relationships and mentors the newer practitioners who frequently serve as executive committee members for the Section following completion of their service as Fellows.

Looking Ahead: 2021-2022 Top Goals & Priorities:

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| 1 | Continue to work closely with legislators and WSBA staff to assist in changes to laws relating to the areas of real property, probate, trusts and estates. |
| 2 | Continue mentoring and engaging new and young lawyers through the Fellows program, offering scholarships to the Midyear and opportunities for participation as seminar speakers and newsletter authors. |
| 3 | Continue to lead practitioners by providing resources in a changing and dynamic practice area. |

4 Continue to maintain high standards and produce high-quality, relevant CLE programs and newsletter articles for the education and benefit of members, practitioners and Washingtonians.

5 Continue to work closely with WSBA leaders and staff to ensure a robust partnership for the benefit of Washington lawyers and the public.

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?

Diversity continues to be an important issue to RPPT and the RPPT is intentional in ensuring that diversity is a top priority in leadership and engagement for CLEs and newsletter articles. When recruiting individuals to serve on the RPPT executive committee, join the Section, serve as seminar speakers and newsletter authors, RPPT makes significant efforts to be inclusive. As a result of these efforts RPPT is doing very well in maintaining diversity in areas it can control: gender, age, ethnicity, small firm/large firm, geography.

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 consistently worked close with the WSBA staff, including new relationships as a result of changing roles within the WSBA. In this FY, we worked particularly closely with the WSBA leadership and staff on the coronavirus task force to ensure that practitioners had the resources they needed in light of the quick changes to our practices in light of the pandemic. We are thrilled to be working with Brent Williams-Ruth as our BOG liaison as he has been very engaged with the Section and has helped the Section stay abreast of important BOG decisions and the work they are doing.

<p>SECTIONS ONLY: Please quantify your section’s 2020-2021 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> 	4	Newsletters/publications produced
	Click or tap here to enter text.	Mini-CLEs produced
	4	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
	Click or tap here to enter text.	Other (please describe):

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

Size of Entity:	14 (including Young Lawyer Liaison)
Membership Size: (for Sections Only) <i>(As of September 30, 2021)</i>	2,322
Number of Applicants for FY22 Positions <i>(October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022)</i>	6
How many current volunteer position vacancies for this entity?	1
FY21 Revenue (\$): For Sections Only: <i>As of September 30, 2021</i>	\$129,243
Direct Expenses: <i>As of September 30, 2021. For Sections, this does not include the Per-Member- Charge.</i>	\$9,296

ⁱ 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.