



To: Board of Governors

From: Sections Policy Workgroup

Re: Updated Workgroup Composition, Process, Priority Areas, and Timeline

Date: February 24, 2016

The Workgroup has held two meetings since the Board's January 26, 2016, unanimous authorization to review and make any adjustments to the schedule and/or process, which will ultimately culminate in its final policy recommendations to the Board.

On February 4, the Workgroup held a section feedback forum that was very well attended by section leaders (in-person and by webcast). Following a brief overview of the Workgroup's purpose, the discussion draft proposals, and section feedback received, section leaders asked questions and provided extensive feedback about the Workgroup's process and the discussion drafts.

The Workgroup held a working session on February 19 to discuss section feedback. The work session was well attended by section leaders. At this meeting, the Workgroup affirmed that feedback received did not alter its original scope of work, which is to:

- Review current WSBA policies related to sections,
- Obtain input from sections and other stakeholders,
- Recommend any proposed changes to the Board of Governors,
- Disseminate and publish proposed changes for public comment, and
- Incorporate feedback and present to Board of Governors for approval.

The Workgroup also affirmed that the feedback received did not alter its core principles:

- We are a WSBA-leadership-team-driven initiative to improve WSBA and its sections,
- The overall health and mission of the whole is greater than any individual section,
- It is critical to carry and stand by the same message,
- All sections should offer core member benefits (educational, networking, and leadership opportunities; and direct communication to members),
- Barriers to member participation in sections should be reduced, sections should have greater alignment with WSBA and its mission,
- Greater consistency among sections will enable us to streamline support and advance the WSBA mission more effectively,
- Collaboration among and between sections and WSBA strategic partners should be promoted, and
- Transparency and participation through the process is critical.

The Workgroup then discussed, and consider additional input from section leaders in attendance, and made the following decisions regarding the Workgroup composition, the process to add new members, the priority areas, and the timeline moving forward.

- 1. Workgroup Composition.** The Workgroup agreed that it is important to add section leaders to the Workgroup. After much discussion among Workgroup members and section leaders, it was affirmed that five section leaders will be added to the Workgroup as follows: (1) representing a large-sized section (membership count 850+), (1) representing a medium-sized section (300 – 849 members), (1) representing a small section (0 – 299), and (2) at-large positions. See attached chart for section groupings based on size.
- 2. Process to Expand Section Workgroup Membership.** The Workgroup agreed that all WSBA section members will have the opportunity to self-nominate or nominate a section member to the Workgroup. Nominees may submit their name for one of the section size groupings (small, medium, large) and/or one of the at-large positions. After all nominees have been collected, voting Section Executive Committee members will be asked to vote electronically on the section representative in their respective group and the two at-large positions. If a nominee is the top candidate in both a size group and an at-large seat, that nominee will select which seat he or she would prefer to represent. The nominee with the next highest amount of votes will take the spot vacated by that nominee. Section leaders will be provided with more details about the nomination and election processes by Tuesday March 1.
- 3. Priority areas.** Given the feedback received, the Workgroup agreed to prioritize discussion moving forward on:
 - Aligning the section membership year with the calendar year,
 - Aligning the sections with WSBA fiscal policies,
 - Aligning section meetings with the WSBA open meeting policy, and
 - Achieving some standardization of governance.
- 4. Timeline.** The Workgroup outlined the following timeline moving forward:
 - Workgroup update will be provided to the WSBA Board of Governors at its March 10-11 meeting in Olympia.
 - Orientation for Workgroup members (new and current) will be held in early April.
 - The Workgroup will meet for a full-day toward the end of April and every month thereafter until September 2016.
 - A revised set of proposals will be submitted to the WSBA Board of Governors for first reading at the July 22-23 meeting in Walla Walla.
 - The final proposals will be submitted to the WSBA Board of Governors for action at the WSBA BOG meeting on September 29-30 in Seattle.
 - The Workgroup can, at its discretion, request that the Board approve an extension on the final two deadlines should a need arise to do so.



Sections Policy Workgroup
Section Leader Representation - Nomination & Election Groups

LARGE GROUP (850+ section members)		<i>(as of September 2015)</i>
1 SEAT	Business Law	1301
	Corporate Counsel	981
	Family Law	1292
	Environmental & Land Use Law	883
	Intellectual Property	884
	Labor & Employment Law	998
	Litigation	1171
	Real Property, Probate & Trust	2418
	Solo & Small Practice	987
MEDIUM GROUP (300-849 section members)		
1 SEAT	Alternative Dispute Resolution	395
	Construction Law	519
	Creditor Debtor Rights	636
	Criminal Law	497
	Elder Law	666
	Health Law	389
	Indian Law	308
	Senior Lawyers	333
	Taxation	641
SMALL GROUP (0 – 299 section members)		
1 SEAT	Administrative Law	246
	Antitrust, Consumer Protection & Unfair Business Practices	212
	Animal Law	117
	Civil Rights Law	136
	International Practice	297
	Juvenile Law	225
	Legal Assistance to Military Personnel	109
	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Law	112
	Low Bono	120
	World Peace Through Law	122

In addition to these three seats based on membership size, TWO AT-LARGE SEATS will be added to the Sections Policy Workgroup.