



## WSBASections

### WSBA SENIOR LAWYERS SECTION ANNUAL REPORT – FY18

<b>Name of the Section:</b>	<i>Senior Lawyers Section</i>	
<b>Chair:</b>	<i>Brian Comstock</i>	
<b>Section Information:</b> <i>As of September 30, 2018</i>  <i>*To be completed by WSBA*</i>	Membership Size:	270
	Staff Lead:	Patrick Mead
	BOG Liaison:	James K. Doane
	FY18 revenue: \$	\$5,798.28 (as of August 31, 2018)
	FY18 direct expenses: \$ <i>(does not include the Per-Member-Charge)</i>	\$3,310.60 (as of August 31, 2018)
<b>Purpose:</b>	<p>Article II of the Bylaws of the Senior Lawyers Section states that "the purpose of this Section shall be to benefit members of the Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) and the general public, by:" The following subsections spell out specifically how this purpose is to be accomplished. Subsection 2.1 provides for programs that will promote the interests of members 55 years of age and older. Subsection 2.2 seeks to advance the opportunity and forum for members to exchange ideas and engage in educational, social and related activities geared to promoting the same common interests. Subsection 2.3 states the broadest goal of undertaking other services consistent with the Bylaws and other applicable rules that will benefit members of the legal profession and the public. Article III of the Bylaws spells out eligibility for membership. This is pertinent to defining who are the members of the Section referred to above. Under Section 3.1, to enroll as a voting member of the Section, the attorney must be an "Active member of the Washington State Bar Association 55 years of age and older or who has been in practice in any jurisdiction for 25 years." Such an enrollee may be granted voting membership upon request and payment of annual Section dues. Section 3.1 also provides for inactive members who may be members of the WSBA, law students and subscribers.</p>	

	<p>Annual dues of members are established by the Section's Executive Committee, subject to approval of the WSBA Board of Governors, and the dues of subscribers are determined and approved by the WSBA Board of Governors.</p> <p>2017-2018</p>
<p><b>2017-2018 Accomplishments and Work in Progress:</b></p>	<p><b>ANNUAL CLE EVENT</b></p> <p>The one event sponsored and carried out by the Senior Lawyer Section is its annual CLE seminar usually held in the last week of April or the first week of May. It is well-attended usually by 100 or more attorneys from around the state. The all-day program usually offers 7.0 CLE credits (including a 1.0 ethics credit).</p> <p>The 2018 all-day event was held April 27 at its well-established location, the Seattle Airport Marriott. The theme was STICKY QUESTIONS OF THE DAY—Voices from the Front Line. While invitations were extended beyond present members of the Senior Lawyers Section, to include all members of the WSBA who fall in the category of being Baby Boomers (around age 60 or older), attendance at the event was about the same as in prior years, with slightly over 100 attendees. The program featured many outstanding speakers including WA Supreme Court Justice Charles Johnson who spoke on How Washington State Justices Have Contributed to the Legal Profession and now-retired, prominent litigator Paul Luvera who presented Ideas for Better Communication and Persuasion Skills. Other session topics included key changes in national and state tax laws and challenges occurring under our immigration laws. The Section's Executive Committee is actively engaged in planning next year's CLE event and also considering expanding to other CLE programs that will attract the rapidly-expanding number of senior lawyers.</p> <p><b>"LIFE BEGINS" PUBLICATION</b></p> <p>The other major function of the Senior Lawyer Section is quarterly publication of Life Begins. Ron Matson has done an outstanding job heading up this publication. Al Armstrong has been a major contributor with lead articles on our annual CLE lead speakers and subject matter. Consideration is being given to expanded and different publications with more effective means of communication.</p> <p><b>OTHER</b></p> <p>This past year, the Senior Lawyers Section has assisted and contributed to other events and causes pertinent to its basic</p>

mission. This has included the efforts of Eleanor Doermann, now serving on the Section's Executive Committee, for the Section to support and participate in the growing WSBA Young Lawyer Liaisons Section Program.

Most importantly, the Section has a newly-established Task Force which is studying the dramatic changes in senior lawyer programs taking place in several major states to meet the broader interests of those reaching retirement age and at the same time assure the survival of these programs.

<b>Please quantify your section's current member benefits:</b>  <i>For example:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$3000 Scholarships, donations, grants awarded;</li> <li>• 4 mini-CLEs produced</li> </ul>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Member Benefit</b>
	\$	Scholarships, donations, grants awarded
		Law school outreach events/benefits hosted
		Legislative bills reviewed/drafted
	2	Newsletters produced
		Mini-CLEs produced
	1	Co-sponsored half/day to multi-day CLEs with WSBA
		Receptions/forums hosted
		Awards given
		New Lawyer Outreach events/benefits
	<b>Other (please describe):</b>	

<b>2018-2019 Goals &amp; Priorities (Top 5)</b>	1	<b>TASK FORCE:</b> Several members our Executive Committee have volunteered to serve on a Task Force formed to gather information on new senior lawyer programs adopted by the ABA and several state bars. The programs are designed to attract the expanding number of lawyers reaching senior status and thereby strengthen senior lawyer sections overall and even avoid their threatened collapse. Our state bar now has some 14,000 members now falling in that category and
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	<p>only a small portion are attracted to our present programs. All of these dramatic changes suggest the need for change and expansion. That's the goal and mission of the Task Force</p>
2	<p><b>EXPANDED PUBLICATIONS:</b> Our present publication of Life Begins is proving increasingly expensive and of less interest overall to the expanding number of senior lawyers. Basic changes are in store. The subject matter needs to be expanded and attuned to the changing makeup of the senior lawyers becoming a major part of our state bar. We should also be considering multiple publications focusing on lawyers practicing in all parts of the state and engaged in basically different professional pursuits. Also, the methods by which these publications can best be published and distributed need to be studied and implemented. First class mail distribution has proved highly expensive and lost in the massive deluge mail now going out to the public in general.</p>
3	<p><b>BROADENED CLE PROGRAMS:</b> Our present annual program is being restructured to appeal to a broader segment of senior lawyers. We have also included for the first time as part of our upcoming budget a mini-CLE. Our future goals are to strengthen these programs and at the same time introduce and implement additional seminars and educational programs that meet the needs and interests of more and more senior lawyers and the expanding variety of their interests.</p>
4	<p><b>OUTREACH TO OTHERS:</b> The focus of our section has always been senior lawyers. However, we are broadening our mission to include support and dealings with young lawyers. We now have a member of our Executive Committee serving as a liaison with the WSBA Young Lawyers Section.</p>
5	<p><b>INVOLVEMENT IN BAR POLICY AND DECISIONS:</b> As a section, we need to take a more active role in the overall administration. This includes having members of our Executive Committee attend meetings of the Board of Governors and participate in special programs and activities affecting the bar association and its members overall.</p>

**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?)

The Senior Lawyer Section membership is primarily attorneys who have reached or are approaching their age of retirement. At the time that these attorneys commenced practice, the legal profession in our country was primarily made up almost entirely of white males. The legal profession has of course gone through radical change over the years and attorneys who commenced practice 50 or so years ago are part of that change. The Senior Lawyers Section is hoping to expand its membership to include the Baby Boomer generation and reach a much broader array of attorneys far more females and those of vastly different cultures, races and religions. Our annual CLE has been tailored to attract the oncoming generation of seniors and fully address the ongoing changes that are taking place.

The Senior Lawyers Section of the ABA has gone through dramatic change responding to the rapidly-expanding generation of senior lawyers and their new and different challenges and interests. Changes were made to save that section from going under entirely. The results overall appear favorable. Several states have followed the same pattern of change primarily to save their senior lawyer programs. As explained above (Part 1), our Task Force is studying these developments to see if any of these programs might be supportive of our efforts to strengthen and expand our own senior lawyers section.

**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?)

The one outstanding trait of the more senior generation of attorneys is their upbringing and adherence to the basic principles of professional behavior. It was something built into their professional makeup when initiated into practice many years ago when the focus was mostly on loyalty and providing outstanding service to clients. The focus today has turned more to competing for client business and maximizing earnings particularly in the much larger firms practicing nationally and worldwide. It's a much different atmosphere.

Our annual CLEs increasingly address the mounting issues brought about by the dramatic changes occurring in the profession and the impact on senior lawyers in particular. Issues bearing on basic principles of professionalism have become an increasingly significant part of each annual event.

**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?)

While our membership is made up of senior lawyers, serious effort is being made to reach out to the needs and interests of the expanding generation of young lawyers. Eleanor Doermann has led this effort as our liaison to and from the Young Lawyers Section promoting and participating in their programs and events.

**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.*

Patrick Mead (section liaison) and Kevin Plachy (CLE) continue to provide outstanding services to the Senior Lawyer Section. This has included and been key to carrying out our annual CLE. We are kept well-informed of major changes taking place and our participation in matters before the Board of Governors.

