

WASHINGTON STATE B A R A S S O C I A T I O N

SECTION ANNUAL REPORT – 2019

Deadline: Friday, December 6, 2019

Email Annual Report to: sections@wsba.org

Name of the Section:	<i>Taxation Section</i>	
Chair:	<i>George Munro</i>	
Section Information: <i>*To be completed by WSBA*</i>	Membership Size: <i>(As of December 15, 2019)</i>	643
	Staff Lead:	Eleen Trang
	BOG Liaison:	P.J. Grabicki
	FY19 revenue (\$): <i>As of September 30, 2019</i>	\$21,421.31
	FY19 direct expenses (\$): <i>(As of September 30, 2019; does not include the Per-Member-Charge)</i>	\$18,430.53
Purpose:	<i>The purpose of the Taxation Section is to further the knowledge of the members and the WSBA in areas of the law involving federal, state and local taxation, to provide our members benefits including relevant CLEs and networking opportunities, and further the interests of the WSBA and the legal profession.</i>	
2019 Accomplishments and Work in Progress:	<p><i>The Taxation Section successfully operated its twelve subcommittees. Those subcommittees held meetings in their respectful sub-specialty area of tax law or otherwise accomplished their annual objectives. The subcommittees hosted a variety of events throughout the year including social events and panels.</i></p> <p><i>In addition, the Taxation Section had success with program and social event sponsorship and fostering new and young lawyer membership through hosting a variety of events, receptions, and CLEs throughout the year. These events included the annual Taxation Luncheon, the annual winter reception, and Tax Court judge receptions.</i></p>	

	<p><i>Furthermore, the Taxation Section created a new pro bono program. The purpose of the new pro bono program is to assist pro se taxpayers on or before their Tax Court trial.</i></p> <p><i>The Section will endeavor to increase success in these areas as well as provide easier access to Section information for members, increase an emphasis on professionalism, and be a better resource in bridging the gap between the Section and the WSBA as an organization.</i></p>	
<p>Please quantify your section's current member benefits:</p> <p><i>For example:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$3000 Scholarships, donations, grants awarded; • 4 mini-CLEs produced 	<p>Quantity</p>	<p>Member Benefit</p>
	<p>\$6,800</p>	<p>Scholarships, donations, grants awarded</p>
	<p>1</p>	<p>Law school outreach events/benefits hosted</p>
	<p>Not Counted</p>	<p>Legislative bills reviewed/drafted</p>
		<p>Newsletters produced</p>
	<p>1</p>	<p>Mini-CLEs produced</p>
	<p>1</p>	<p>Co-sponsored half/day to multi-day CLEs with WSBA</p>
	<p>4</p>	<p>Receptions/forums hosted</p>
	<p>1</p>	<p>Awards given</p>
	<p>1</p>	<p>New Lawyer Outreach events/benefits</p>
		<p>Other (please describe):</p>
<p>2020 Goals & Priorities (Top 5)</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>Grow Section membership and increase participation by the members</p>
	<p>2</p>	<p>Host multiple networking events in FY 2020</p>
	<p>3</p>	<p>Better connect with the local school in the area and encourage young lawyers and JD/LLM students to join the Section by providing tailored networking opportunities and career support</p>
	<p>4</p>	<p>Consider and implement other methods to create value to our members through member benefits including putting on a CLE</p>

	5	Increase communication to the Membership regarding events and opportunities to participate in the Section
--	----------	--

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 Taxation Section addresses diversity and promotes a culture of inclusion by inviting all WSBA members to join and participate without regard to race, color, religion, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, national origin, genetics, disability, age, or veteran status.

Additionally, the Taxation Section held its first ever elections to determine the Executive Committee for FY 2019. Every person who requested to be included on the ballot for a position, who qualified for that position under the Taxation Section bylaws, was included on the ballot without regard to race, color, religion, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, national origin, genetics, disability, age, or veteran status.

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 Taxation Section works to promote respect and civility by fostering professional relationships among private sector attorneys and government attorneys. Tax law most often requires these two groups to work on opposite sides. The Taxation Section provides the landscape where attorneys can come together and build professional relationships outside a confrontational situation. One example is our Tax Court judge receptions, where government attorneys and private practice attorneys have the opportunity to get acquainted and discuss topics other than their current caseload. In addition, the Tax Section hosts brown bag lunches in which Washington state Department of Revenue attorneys can meet and network with private attorneys. Furthermore, the Tax Section implements a co-chair model for multiple sub-committees such that those sub-committees are chaired by both a government attorney and a private attorney. This co-chair model fosters a more cohesive Section in which multiple viewpoints are considered, especially at Executive Committee meetings.

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?)

The Taxation Section is committed to integrating new and young lawyers into the broader Taxation Section framework. In addition to hosting a Young Lawyer Liaison, the Taxation Section has a stand-alone Young Lawyer Committee. The Young Lawyer Committee regularly meets with JD students, tax LLM students, and young lawyers to discuss employment, networking, and leadership opportunities. In addition, the Young Lawyer Committee continues to build and foster relationships with the University of Washington School of Law and Seattle University School of Law. These schools co-host events and otherwise work with the committee to help connect students and young attorneys with more experienced practitioners. The Young Lawyer Committee puts on events throughout the year. Events have included networking

breakfast events and panel discussions at the law schools. Similar events are being planned for this upcoming year.

The Taxation Section actively provides leadership opportunities for young lawyers. The Taxation Section places the same value on input from its Young Lawyer Committee as all other committees. In fact, the current Chair of the Tax Section was the Young Lawyer Committee Chair when he was elected to the executive Tax Section Secretary position. Also, we have expanded committee positions to accommodate young lawyers interested in participating.

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.*

WSBA staff assigned to the Taxation Section is always available and willing to answer questions and provide additional information on matters related to the WSBA. In addition, WSBA staff regularly attend and provide helpful input at Executive Committee meetings.

Note: Annual Reports will be provided to the WSBA Executive Director, Board of Governors and posted on your section's webpage. We encourage you to share the Annual Report with your BOG liaison and section membership.

Reports are scheduled to be included in the January 2020 BOG Meeting Materials.

Return by December 6, 2019 to sections@wsba.org