

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

2020 SECTION ANNUAL REPORT

January 1 - December 31, 2020

Deadline: Friday, December 4, 2020

Name of the Section:	<i>Taxation Section</i>	
Chair:	<i>Brett Durbin</i>	
Section Information: <i>*To be completed by WSBA Staff*</i>	Membership Size: <i>(As of December 1, 2020)</i>	630
	Staff Lead:	
	BOG Liaison:	
	FY20 revenue (\$): <i>As of September 30, 2020</i>	\$13,213.17
	FY20 direct expenses (\$): <i>(As of September 30, 2020; does not include the Per-Member-Charge)</i>	\$4,313.58
Purpose: <i>(Usually stated in the Section's Bylaws)</i>		
2020 Accomplishments and Work in Progress:	<p>Despite the restrictions imposed by COVID-19 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 virtual events throughout the year including mini CLEs and panel discussions</p>	
Please quantify your section's current member benefits:	Quantity	Member Benefit
		Scholarships, donations, grants awarded (\$ amount)
		Law school outreach events/benefits hosted

<p><i>For example:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$3000 Scholarships, donations, grants awarded; • 4 mini-CLEs produced 		Legislative bills reviewed/drafted
		Newsletters/publications produced
	3	Mini-CLEs produced
		Co-sponsored half-day, full-day and/or multi-day CLE seminars with WSBA
		Co-sponsored half-day, full-day and/or multi-day CLE seminars with non-WSBA entity
	1	Receptions/forums hosted or co-hosted
		Recognitions/Awards given
		New Lawyer Outreach events/benefits
		Other (please describe):
<p>Looking Ahead: Goals & Priorities for 2021 (Top 5)</p>	1	Increase engagement with Section members by holding more virtual events
	2	Establish workgroup to focus on increasing diversity of tax attorneys in Washington
	3	Provide Section members with wide variety of mini-CLEs regarding emerging issues and practical topics
	4	Explore options for more interactive communication among Section members
	5	Increase coordination with other stakeholder groups in reviewing and providing technical feedback on proposed tax legislation.
<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?)</p> <p><i>The Taxation Section is establishing a workgroup to focus on ways to increase diversity of the tax bar in Washington. As part of the workgroup, the Taxation Section will be reaching out to minority bar associations to explore opportunities to increase diversity and promote equitable conditions that will encourage members from historically underrepresented backgrounds to enter, stay, thrive, and become leaders in the tax bar.</i></p>		
<p>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?)</p>		

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 subcommittees 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. The Taxation Section is actively exploring ways to hold similar events virtually in the 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 past-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 and Board of Governors and will be 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 2021 BOG Meeting Materials.

Return by December 4, 2020 to eleent@wsba.org