

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

WSBA SECTION ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2025: October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025

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, 2024 – September 30, 2025. 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, October 17: please submit by emailing to Carolyn MacGregor (carolynm@wsba.org).

Name of Section:	Dispute Resolution
Chair or Co-Chairs:	Paula Emery
Staff Liaison: (include name, job title, and department if known)	Carolyn MacGregor, Sections Program Specialist, Advancement Department
Board of Governors Liaison:	Tom Ahearn
Purpose: May be stated in Bylaws, Charter, Court Rule, etc.	
The section promotes the informed use and best practices for all dispute resolution processes in Washington.	
Strategy to Fulfill Purpose:	
The Dispute Resolution Section provides resources, develops programs, and addresses legal, legislative and public policy issues to: 1) enhance the skills of dispute resolution practitioners; 2) educate the public in the availability and use of party-determined solutions; and 3) assist the growth and development of dispute resolution services across the State of Washington.	

Sections

How does the section'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"?	
Educating members of the Bar and the public about Dispute Resolution serves to bring awareness to nonlitigation methods of resolving disputes. These methods can be more efficient, less expensive, faster, allow party control of the process, provide for the use of experts in the subject matter as decision-makers, and allow privacy in the dispute resolution process. We also serve members of the Bar by bringing CLE opportunities in DR subjects and procedures, by holding networking events, and by providing channels to communicate with other Section Members and with other DR professionals or interested parties. Additionally, we monitor and, as appropriate, support the development of and comment upon legislation to further ensure the integrity and utility of DR processes.	
Top 2024-2025 Section Accomplishments:	
Sponsored the 27th Northwest Dispute Resolution Conference, with 130 attendees and net positive section revenue.	
Cross-section collaboration and development work beyond the bar in legislative and public policy through session bill tracking and information gathering sessions, specifically in the areas of early mediation in family law dissolutions, foreclosure fairness and juvenile justice.	
Click or tap here to enter text.	
Click or tap here to enter text.	
Next Fiscal Year: 2025-2026 Top SMART Goals & Priorities: <i>Tip: SMART Goals are: Specific Measurable, Relevant and Time-Bound</i> Use this worksheet (under 'Leadership') to develop your SMART goals and then summarize below in 1-2 sentences.	
1	Increase attendance at 2026 NWDR Conference by 50%
2	Deliver 3 miniCLEs on topics of interest to practitioners and advocates with other sections
3	Engage a legal intern to research and report on dispute resolution investments noted in the RCWs, WAC and local court rules
Looking Ahead: <i>Please share any long-term goals and/or priorities that your entity aims to address.</i>	
1	Increase section membership by 30%
2	Diversify section membership through outreach efforts and programming
3	Improve collaboration with other sections, to achieve economies of scale in delivering programming through volunteer section leaders

Sections

Please describe how this entity is addressing diversity, equity, and inclusion: <i>How have you elicited input from a variety of perspectives in 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 in the profession? Other?</i>	
As the second oldest Section (in terms of the median age of our members), the DR Section has both unique challenges and opportunities in addressing systemic inequalities. We also enjoy the benefit of being able to welcome those who are not members of WSBA (or are ineligible to join WSBA) as DR section members. These members participate in a non-voting capacity as part of our section and contribute thought leadership and challenge siloed thinking that can inhibit the impact of DEI efforts. DEI topics are top of mind as the conference planning committee solicits and reviews presenter proposals. We have intentionally cultivated membership on the ExCom from recent law school graduates and will continue these efforts to produce programming that resonates for all experience levels and incorporates our members' lived experiences.	
Please share feedback regarding the support and engagement provided by WSBA staff and leadership <i>For example:</i> • Quality of WSBA staff support/services, including technology solutions • Involvement with Board of Governors, including assigned BOG liaison • Ideas you have on ways WSBA can continue to strengthen/support your entity.	
We have enjoyed close communications with and great support from our WSBA staff liaison and other WSBA personnel. They have helped us accomplish our projects and helped us negotiate WSBA filings and permissions, including shepherding amended section bylaws to BOG approval and navigating a tricky repair after a significant miniCLE challenge presented by the On24 platform. Carolyn frequently attends our monthly Executive Committee meetings. We continue to seek opportunities to deepen connections with the Board of Governors through our BOG liaison and especially appreciate the warm welcome received at the May Board of Governors meeting in Port Angeles.	
Please quantify your section's 2024-2025 member benefits: <i>For example:</i> • \$3000 Scholarships, donations, grants awarded; • 4 mini-CLEs produced	
	Co-sponsored half-day, full-day and/or multi-day CLE seminars with WSBA
Northwest Dispute Resolution Conference produced by the section and supported with in-kind contribution (facilities use) from the University of Washington School of Law	Co-sponsored half-day, full-day and/or multi-day CLE seminars with non-WSBA entity.
Click or tap here to enter text.	Receptions/forums hosted or co-hosted

Sections

\$1460.50	\$ amount given through donations/scholarships/grants.	
Click or tap here to enter text.	Newsletters/publications produced	
1 miniCLE, Preparing Your Client for Mediation	Mini-CLEs produced	
Click or tap here to enter text.	New Lawyer Outreach events/benefits	
Click or tap here to enter text.	Recognitions/Awards given	
Reviewed and tracked 8 bills in 2025 session	Legislative activity (Bills reviewed, tracked, proposed)	
Click or tap here to enter text.	Other (please describe):	
Click or tap here to enter text.	Other (please describe):	
SECTION DATA <i>To Be Completed by WSBA Sections Team</i>		
Section Membership Information:	289	Membership Size: <i>As of September 30, 2025.</i>
	\$14441.26	FY25 Revenue (\$): <i>As of September 30, 2025.</i>
	\$6955.80	FY25 Direct Expenses (\$) <i>As of September 30, 2025. This does not include the Per-Member-Charge.</i>
Section Executive Committee Information:	14 voting/0 non-voting	Full Size of Executive Committee (per Section bylaws): <i>Include and specify voting and non-voting positions.</i>
	0	Number of Vacancies for FY26: <i>The number of vacant positions as of October 1, 2025 (FY26).</i>
	4	Number of Applicants for FY26 open positions: <i>Applications submitted in the Spring of 2025 for</i>

October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025 (FY25)

Sections

		<i>vacant positions and terms beginning October 1, 2025 (FY26)</i>
--	--	--