

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

## WSBA SECTION ANNUAL REPORT

**FY 2024: October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024**

*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 Boards<sup>1</sup>), 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, 2023 – September 30, 2024. 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 11:** please submit by emailing to Carolyn MacGregor ([carolynm@wsba.org](mailto:carolynm@wsba.org)).

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| <b>Name of Section:</b>  | Dispute Resolution   |
| <b>Chair or Co-Chairs:</b>   | Courtland Shafer   |
| <b>Staff Liaison:</b> (include name, job title, and department if known)                                     | Carolyn MacGregor, Sections Program Specialist, Advancement Department |
| <b>Board of Governors Liaison:</b>   | Kristina Larry   |
| <b>Purpose:</b><br><i>May be stated in Bylaws, Charter, Court Rule, etc.</i>                                 |  |
| The section promotes the informed use and best practices for all dispute resolution processes in Washington. |  |

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<sup>1</sup> Supreme Court Boards (Access to Justice Board, Disciplinary Board, LLLT Board, Limited Practice Board, MCLE Board and Practice of Law Board) provide annual reports to WSBA to support its responsibility under [GR 12.3](#), to provide oversight and monitor compliance with applicable rules and orders. Boards have the option to use the WSBA template or to share their annual reports to the Washington Supreme Court.  
October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024 (FY24)

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| <b>Strategy to Fulfill Purpose:</b>   |
| The Dispute Resolution Section of the Washington State Bar Association provides resources, develops programs, and addresses legal and legislative 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.  |
| <b>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”?</b>  |
| 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 legislation and comment on legislation to further ensure the integrity and utility of DR processes. |
| <b>Top 2023 -2024 Section Accomplishments:</b>  |
| Delivered an outstanding Northwest Dispute Resolution Conference (March 21-22, 2024), after a 5 year hiatus due to the pandemic. Keynote speakers included Dr. Chantal Prat, neuroscientist at the University of Washington and Nina Meierding, an accomplished and nationally recognized local mediation professional. The conference was attended by ~140 individuals and netted a profit of ~3000.00 for the section.  |
| Established the Alan Kirtley Dispute Resolution Conference Scholarship, to advance the practice of dispute resolution and in deep recognize of and appreciation for Professor Kirtley’s many contributions, including education, training, legislation (RCW Chapter 7.07), DR advocacy and scholarly contributions at the local, state, and national levels.  |
| Produced a miniCLE discussing early dispute resolution for members of HOAs attended by 582 individuals (April 30, 2024)   |
| Recruited 2 newly licensed lawyers to join the Executive Committee, to help us begin offering more benefits for younger professionals, as our section currently has one of the earliest average bar admission years of all the sections.  |
| <b>Next Fiscal Year: 2024-2025 Top SMART Goals &amp; Priorities:</b><br><i>Tip: SMART Goals are: Specific Measurable, Relevant and Time-Bound</i>   |

## Sections

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| <i>Use this worksheet (under 'Leadership') to develop your SMART goals and then summarize below in 1-2 sentences.</i>   |  |
| <b>1</b>  | Increase attendance at 2025 NWDR Conference by 20%   |
| <b>2</b>  | Deliver 3 miniCLEs on topics of interest to practitioners and advocates with other sections  |
| <b>3</b>  | Participate meaningfully in legislative activities impacting dispute resolution (expected to be included in the FY25 session)        |
| <b>Looking Ahead:</b> <i>Please share any long-term goals and/or priorities that your entity aims to address.</i>   |  |
| <b>1</b>  | Increase section membership by 20%   |
| <b>2</b>  | Diversify section membership through outreach efforts and programming  |
| <b>3</b>  | Improve collaboration with other sections, to achieve economies of scale in delivering programming through volunteer section leaders |
| <p><b>Please describe how this entity is addressing diversity, equity, and inclusion:</b><br/> <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></p>   |  |
| <p>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.</p> |  |
| <p><b>Please share feedback regarding the support and engagement provided by WSBA.</b><br/> <i>For example:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Quality of WSBA staff support/services, including technology solutions</i></li> <li>• <i>Involvement with Board of Governors, including assigned BOG liaison</i></li> <li>• <i>Ideas you have on ways WSBA can continue to strengthen/support your entity.</i></li> </ul>   |  |

## Sections

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| <p>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. 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.</p> |   |   |
| <p><b>Please quantify your section's 2023-2024 member benefits:</b></p>  |   |   |
|  | 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 <i>non</i> -WSBA entity. |   |
| Northwest Dispute Resolution Conference social produced by the section and sponsored by King County Bar Association  | Receptions/forums hosted or co-hosted   |   |
|  | \$ amount given through donations/scholarships/grants.                                      |   |
|  | Newsletters/publications produced   |   |
| 1 mini-CLE produced  | Mini-CLEs produced  |   |
|  | New Lawyer Outreach events/benefits   |   |
| Established Alan Kirtley Conference Scholarship to begin in FY25   | Recognitions/Awards given   |   |
| The Section maintains an active Listserv both to disseminate information to the Section and for Section Members to communicate with each other on relevant topics.   | Other (please describe):  |   |
| <p align="center"><b>SECTION DATA</b><br/> <i>To Be Completed by WSBA Sections Team</i></p>  |   |   |
| <b>Section Membership Information:</b>   | 283   | <b>Membership Size:</b><br>(As of September 30, 2024) |

October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024 (FY24)

## Sections

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|   | \$16,114.                                       |         | <b>FY24 Revenue (\$):<br/>For Sections Only:</b><br><i>As of September 30, 2024</i>  |
|   | \$50,030  | \$7,628 | <b>Budgeted and Direct Expenses:</b><br><i>Does not include the Per-Member-Charge. For Direct Expenses, draft estimate as of December 3, 2024.</i> |
| <b>Section Executive Committee Information:</b> | 17 (14 voting members and 3 nonvoting advisors) |         | <b>Size of Executive Committee:</b><br><i>(include and specify voting and non-voting positions)</i>  |
|   | 9   |         | <b>Number of Vacancies for FY25:</b><br><i>The number of positions with terms beginning October 1, 2024 (FY25).</i>                                |
|   | 8   |         | <b>Number of Applicants for FY25:</b><br><i>Applications submitted in the Spring-Summer of 2024 for terms beginning October 1, 2024 (FY25)</i>     |