

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^j), 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).

Name of Section:	Environmental and Land Use Law Section
Chair or Co-Chairs:	Chair as of October 11: Darren Carnell
Staff Liaison: (include name, job title, and department if known)	Carolyn MacGregor, Sections Program Specialist, Advancement Department
Board of Governors Liaison:	Jordan Couch
Purpose: <i>May be stated in Bylaws, Charter, Court Rule, etc.</i>	
<p>The ELUL Section is a formal association of attorneys who share a common focus and interest in the practices of environmental and land use law. Our Section represents a diverse membership with individuals, drawn from law firms, solo practice, government, private industry, and public interest groups, who often represent different sides of an issue, but who are all committed to civil and professional cooperation for the benefit, protection, and enhancement of our communities and Washington State. Accordingly, our Section aims to provide opportunities for the exchange of ideas surrounding environmental and land use law.</p>	
Strategy to Fulfill Purpose:	
<p>ELUL Section activities fulfill the Section’s purpose in the following ways: (1) We host educational (CLE) events and gatherings for lawyers, law students, and professionals. We make an effort to include the presentation of differing opinions in our CLEs, so that we can</p>	

Sections

educate each other on various sides of land use or environmental issues and legal positions. Our educational events also frequently include a “view from the bench,” which provides practitioners with insight into what our court and administrative judges need and wish to see to effect justice; (2) We keep our membership up-to-date about Section events and developments in our practice areas through the use of our website (blog), social media accounts (Facebook and LinkedIn), and our email ListSERV; (3) We share information about bills in the Washington Legislature that are relevant to environmental and land use law on a weekly basis during session; (4) We co-host networking events for law students and practitioners to support law students’ interest in our practice areas. We also support law students with fellowship and scholarship awards. Not only does this expose students to the field, but it promotes involvement by attorneys and furthers civility and professionalism by creating an environment of inclusion and open communication; and (5) We offer social and networking events designed to support camaraderie and WSBA’s professional networking needs.

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”?

The ELUL Section furthers WSBA’s mission to serve the public and members of the bar by supporting communication and collaboration between them. In practice, the ELUL Section supports this communication through our newsletter (blog) and events, which are open to anyone – members and the general public. We also provide regular email updates on legislative bills during the legislative session, which are shared as a member benefit. The ELUL Section ensures integrity of the legal profession by providing educational opportunities and opportunities for civil discourse on ethics and environmental and land use legal issues. Due to our membership’s differing perspectives on the legal issues surrounding our practices areas, professionalism is essential to our Section’s continued success in supporting communication and collaboration. Our educational events also frequently include a “view from the bench” to provide opportunities for the court and administrative judges to share insights with practitioners. We champion justice by our dedication to uplift law students and Section members in government and non-profit roles. This effort is clear through our fellowship grants and scholarships, which subsidize legal internships and/or attendance at our annual Mid-Year conference.

Top 2023 -2024 Section Accomplishments:

We hosted multiple CLEs, including (1) the 2024 Mid-Year CLE which was held over three days at Suncadia in Cle Elum, with a virtual option and sold out in person attendance and the Section provided two scholarships for a government and a nonprofit practitioner; (2) our first land use-focused CLE which was held in WSBA’s conference room in Seattle; (3) two virtual mini-CLEs in November and December, with ~167 attendees; and (4) co-hosted the September Legal Lunchbox with WSBA.

Provided three summer scholarships to support law students working in government and nonprofit summer clerkships and held two in-person networking social events for law students and young lawyers in October and April.

Increased blog content with 15 posts, including monthly “round-ups” containing news of interest to Section members as well as in-depth articles.

Tracked and reported weekly to Section members on over 200 bills during the 2024 legislative session, including assistance from two UW law students.

Next Fiscal Year: 2024-2025 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	Commitment to make ELUL CLEs accessible for all Section members, regardless of practice or geographic location.
2	Active engagement in law school outreach, provide scholarships, and provide law students with networking opportunities with experienced practitioners.
3	Provide timely legislative updates on all bills that affect environmental and land use practitioners.
Looking Ahead: <i>Please share any long-term goals and/or priorities that your entity aims to address.</i>	
1	Connect members with tools, networking, and other opportunities related to the practice of Environmental and Land Use Law.
2	Decrease expenses and increase revenue to balance the Section budget.
3	
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>	
The ELUL Section is always pleased to support new and incoming attorneys. The Section provides law student fellowships to students working on an internship position each year. Additionally, the Section provides for scholarships funds to support attendance at our annual Mid-Year conference by attorneys working in government and non-profit jobs. Our Section is committed to including diverse topics for our CLEs—for example, our presentations included tribal law, environmental justice, and differing perspectives on land use regulations.	
Please share feedback regarding the support and engagement provided by WSBA. <i>For example:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 communicated frequently with WSBA staff about budgeting issues and CLE planning. We include WSBA staff in our meeting and event invitations, and regularly communicate any updates for our Section. We are interested in upgrading the level of communications between the Board of Governors and the ELUL Executive Committee. Although our BOG liaison was invited to our section meetings, he wasn't able to attend.	
Please quantify your section's 2023-2024 member benefits: <i>For example:</i>	

Sections

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$3000 Scholarships, donations, grants awarded;• 4 mini-CLEs produced		
1 3-day and 1 1-day	Co-sponsored half-day, full-day and/or multi-day CLE seminars with WSBA	
0	Co-sponsored half-day, full-day and/or multi-day CLE seminars with <i>non</i> -WSBA entity.	
3, including two events for law students and young lawyers, and 1 EC member reception	Receptions/forums hosted or co-hosted	
5 total scholarships: two for Mid-Year attendance and three for law clerks, totaling ~\$11,000	\$ amount given through donations/scholarships/grants.	
15 blog posts	Newsletters/publications produced	
2 mini-CLEs and 1 Legal Lunchbox	Mini-CLEs produced	
2 networking events	New Lawyer Outreach events/benefits	
2 scholarships to our Mid-Year and 3 scholarships to law students	Recognitions/Awards given	
Over 200 bills reviewed and tracked during the legislative session	Other (please describe):	
SECTION DATA To Be Completed by WSBA Sections Team		
Section Membership Information:	761	Membership Size: (As of September 30, 2024)
	\$42,098	FY24 Revenue (\$): For Sections Only: As of September 30, 2024
	\$35,805	\$18,124 Budgeted and Direct Expenses: Does not include the Per-Member-Charge. For Direct Expenses, draft estimate as of December 3, 2024.
Section Executive Committee Information:	13	Size of Executive Committee: (include and specify voting and non-voting positions)
	7	Number of Vacancies for FY25: The number of positions with terms beginning October 1, 2024 (FY25).

Sections

	13	Number of Applicants for FY25: <i>Applications submitted in the Spring-Summer of 2024 for terms beginning October 1, 2024 (FY25)</i>
--	----	--

¹ 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.