

# WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

## WSBA ENTITY ANNUAL REPORT FORM

FY 2023: October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023

*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 FY2023 (October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023). 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 the staff liaison.

**Submission Deadline is Friday, October 13:** please submit by emailing [barleaders@wsba.org](mailto:barleaders@wsba.org) or requesting that your staff liaison submit the report internally.

<b>Name of Entity:</b>	WSBA Indian Law Section
<b>Entity Size:</b> <i>Total Number of Entity/Section Executive Committee Positions</i>	13
<b>Chair or Co-Chairs:</b>	Bree Black Horse
<b>Staff Liaison:</b> <i>Include name, job title, and department if known</i>	Carolyn MacGregor
<b>Board of Governors Liaison(s):</b>	Hunter Abell
<b>Purpose of Entity:</b> <i>May be stated in Bylaws, Charter, Court Rule, etc.</i>	
The Indian Law Section's purpose is to seek the participation of all interested members of the Bar, and of county and local bar associations, in order to benefit such members, their clients and the general public.	
<b>Strategy to Fulfill Purpose:</b>	
(a) By providing the opportunity for exchange of ideas in the area of Indian law; to further the development of this area of the law; to communicate useful information pertaining to Indian law to members of the Bar; and to improve the application of justice in this field, all in	

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conformity with the Bylaws of the Bar; (b) By initiating and implementing common projects; (c) By review of pending legislation and development of proposed statutory enactments to improve and to facilitate the administration of justice within the Section's area of interest; (d) By undertaking such other service as may be of benefit to the members, the legal profession and the public.

**How does the entity'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 ILS works each year to ensure that members interested in Indian law have opportunities to further their knowledge and network together. Indigenous communities are often underserved, so championing justice is at the core of every Indian law attorney's work. ILS allows those attorneys to network together and learn for the purpose of serving those communities.

**2022-2023 Entity Accomplishments:**

The Section held the 35th Annual Indian Law CLE in May 2023. The CLE spanned two half-days and allowed participants to attend either in person or online. The CLE featured presenters who work for tribal governments, federal agencies, law firms, and nonprofit organizations. Topics included a comprehensive update on recent litigation affecting Indian tribes, developments in the tribal cannabis sector, climate change and water rights, and an ethics presentation specific to professional responsibility issues unique to Indian country.

In 2022, the Section hosted a mentorship event in partnership with Kilpatrick Townsend's KT Indigenous at the Washington Athletic Club. Tribal practitioners, law school faculty, and tribal court judges attended the event as well as prospective and current law students from around the region who are Native American or who are interested in practicing Indian law. Seattle University School of Law Dean Anthony Varona, Seattle University School of Law Admissions Dean Gerald Heppler, University of Washington School of Law Native American Law Center Director Monte Mills, and Tulalip Tribal Court Associate Judge Peter Boome attended the event. To ensure access to the event for students outside the Puget Sound region, the Section provided travel expense reimbursements to participants from Central and Eastern Washington.

The Section provided financial assistance to the Native American Law Student Association (NALSA) groups at both Seattle University School of Law and the University of Washington School of Law to attend the 2023 Federal Bar Association Indian Law Conference in New Mexico. The Section also sponsored a table at the annual University of Washington School of Law NALSA Salmon Bingo Dinner, the proceeds of which support Indigenous students at UW, outreach to Indigenous undergraduates and high school students, and funding students' attendance at the national NALSA moot court competition. The Section also makes an annual donation to the Northwest Indian Bar Association (NIBA) to support NIBA's scholarship and bar stipend program, which many current members of the Indian Law Section received while in law school. The Section also donated to the Northwest Indian Bar Association (NIBA) to support NIBA's scholarship and bar stipend program, which many current members of the Indian Law Section received while in law school.

Looking Ahead: 2023-2024 Top Goals & Priorities:		
1	Host an Indian Law CLE	
2	Continue initiatives aimed at supporting pre-law and law students who are interested in practicing in the Indian law field through mentorship, advocacy, and financial support	
3	Host social events for Section members throughout the State	
4	Streamlining handoff of board/executive board responsibilities	
5	Publishing a Section newsletter	
<p><b>Please describe how this entity is addressing diversity, equity, and inclusion:</b>  <i>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 committee/board done to promote equitable conditions for members from historically underrepresented backgrounds to enter, stay, thrive, and eventually lead the profession? Other?</i></p>		
<p>Diversity is part and parcel of the ILS mission. Native Attorneys are often drawn to Indian law and frequently take leadership roles in the Section. For instance, the 2021-2023 Chair and Chair-Elect were both members of a tribe and approximately five at-large members are also Tribal members. The ILS welcomes members of other under-represented groups as well.</p>		
<p><b>Please share feedback regarding the support and engagement provided by WSBA.</b>  <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(s)</i></li> <li>• <i>Ideas you have for ways WSBA can continue to strengthen/support your entity.</i></li> </ul>		
<p>Our WSBA staff liaison has been instrumental in the success of the section. Attendance at meetings was reliable and communication was excellent. We are well-supported by this staff member. Our contact with the Board of Governors Liaison was less reliable over the last year and we hope to re-establish this connection and representation. We also hope the WSBA consults the Section when it presents Indian country-related programming and initiatives.</p>		
<p><b>SECTIONS ONLY: Please quantify your section's 2022-2023 member benefits:</b></p> <p><i>For example:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>\$3000 Scholarships, donations, grants awarded;</i></li> <li>• <i>4 mini-CLEs produced</i></li> </ul>	0	Newsletters/publications produced
	0	Mini-CLEs produced
	0	Co-sponsored half-day, full-day and/or multi-day CLE seminars with WSBA
	1	Co-sponsored half-day, full-day and/or multi-day CLE seminars with <i>non-WSBA</i> entity

	1	Receptions/forums hosted or co-hosted
	See below	Scholarships, Donations, & Grants
	SU NALSA/AIJ: \$4,700.00 UW NALSA: \$2,720.00 Northwest Indian Bar Association: \$10,000.00 ILS Mentorship Event Scholarships: \$751.84	
	Click or tap here to enter text.	New Lawyer Outreach events/benefits
	Click or tap here to enter text.	Other (please describe): Click or tap here to enter text.
<b>SECTIONS ONLY: Please quantify your section's 2022-2023 legislative activity.</b>	0.	Bills Reviewed
	0	Bills tracked
	0	Comments proposed
	0	Bills proposed/drafted
<b>Entity Detail &amp; Demographics Report: To Be Completed by WSBA Staff</b>		
<b>Number of Entity Members/Section Executive Committee Members:</b>		14
<b>Number of Section Members:</b> <i>As of September 1, 2023. Note: The Section Membership year runs on the calendar year.</i>		323
<b>Number of Applicants for FY24 Positions:</b> <i>October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024</i>		1
<b>Do you have vacant positions for the coming year, FY24?</b>		No
<b>FY23 Budgeted Direct Expenses:</b> <i>As of September 30, 2023. For Sections, this does not include the Per-Member-Charge.</i>		\$22,601
<b>FY23 Total Direct Expenses:</b> <i>Draft estimate as of Dec. 1, 2023 For Sections, this does not include the Per-Member-Charge.</i>		\$16,799

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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.