

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 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 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 or requesting that your staff liaison submit the report internally.

Name of Entity:	Low Bono Section
Entity Size: <i>Total Number of Entity/Section Executive Committee Positions</i>	Click or tap here to enter text.
Chair or Co-Chairs:	Marya Noyes
Staff Liaison: <i>Include name, job title, and department if known</i>	Carolyn McGregor
Board of Governors Liaison(s):	Kevin Fay Jordan Couch
Purpose of Entity: <i>May be stated in Bylaws, Charter, Court Rule, etc.</i>	
The underlying purpose of “low bono” is to increase the availability of legal representation and legal services to clients of moderate means. Clients of moderate means are individuals who have a need or a want for legal representation or legal services, but who cannot qualify or pro bono legal assistance and who typically cannot afford the cost of traditional law firm representation or legal services. These individuals comprise the majority of those seeking resolution of, or planning for, legal issues and legal matters. The Low Bono Section is a community of lawyers, LLLTs, other legal professionals, and law students committed to	

identifying solutions, creating systems, and developing projects to increase the overall availability and affordability of legal representation and legal services.

Strategy to Fulfill Purpose:

See Bylaws 2.1 Developing and providing resources for members, regardless of field or area of practice, who are dedicated and committed to providing low bono legal services, defined as legal and law-related services provided with the intent to increase accessibility of legal services for people of moderate financial means. 2.2 Providing a forum and opportunity for education, training, and sharing of forms, practice tips, client counseling techniques, alternative forms of conflict resolution, and other resources to and among members of the Section. 2.3 Developing “best practices” and “alternative practices” for providing competent, current, efficient, and economical professional services while being mindful of the clients’ moderate means

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 Low Bono Section provides a forum and opportunity for education, training, sharing of forms, practice tips, client counseling techniques, and alternative techniques for conflict resolution. The section provides its members with free mentorship opportunities, discounted admission to low-bono-oriented CLEs, networking and referral opportunities with other low bono professionals, leadership development opportunities, and more.

2022-2023 Entity Accomplishments:

1. Developed and conducted CLE on access to justice with Sister Helen PreJean;
2. Participated in review of 15 legislative bills effecting members or constituents of section and commented to BOG regarding potential rule change;
3. Expanded social media sites and actively posted about the section and its events;
4. Increased membership levels;
5. Held virtual monthly meetings with social hour afterwards;
6. Increased use of section list serve.

Looking Ahead: 2023-2024 Top Goals & Priorities:

1	Continue to increase membership, with a focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion
2	Develop CLE regarding social media and demands on low bono firm and other topics.
3	Improve outreach and communications about the section.
4	Improve outreach to new lawyers and rural areas.
5	Increase active engagement on relevant legislation to the section members or intended consumers.

Please describe how this entity is addressing diversity, equity, and inclusion:

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?

Our Executive Committee continues to encourage participation by a diverse group of people. All meetings are accessible remotely, with meeting information published in advance. Executive Committee meetings are held at a later hour of the day, typically on the second Wednesday of the month to encourage more people to participate, including members with small children who may have trouble meeting during workday hours. We continue to host socials after these meetings and invite all Section Members to the meetings and to the post-meeting socials. The Executive Committee plans to hold several in-person meetings in 2023 to bolster interpersonal communications and provide greater networking opportunities.

Please share feedback regarding the support and engagement provided by WSBA.

For example:

- *Quality of WSBA staff support/services, including technology solutions*
- *Involvement with Board of Governors, including assigned BOG liaison(s)*
- *Ideas you have for ways WSBA can continue to strengthen/support your entity.*

The section receives excellent support from WSBA staff.

SECTIONS ONLY: Please quantify your section’s 2022-2023 member benefits:

For example:

- *\$3000 Scholarships, donations, grants awarded;*
- *4 mini-CLEs produced*

Click or tap here to enter text.	Newsletters/publications produced
2	Mini-CLEs produced
Click or tap here to enter text.	Co-sponsored half-day, full-day and/or multi-day CLE seminars with WSBA
Click or tap here to enter text.	Co-sponsored half-day, full-day and/or multi-day CLE seminars with <i>non</i> -WSBA entity
2	Receptions/forums hosted or co-hosted
Click or tap here to enter text.	Scholarships, Donations, & Grants
1	New Lawyer Outreach events/benefits
8	Other (please describe): Social media carousel posts and engagement with section members.

SECTIONS ONLY: Please quantify your section's 2022-2023 legislative activity.	15.	Bills Reviewed
	9	Bills tracked
	1	Comments proposed
	0	Bills proposed/drafted
Entity Detail Report: To Be Completed by WSBA Staff		
Number of Entity Members/Section Executive Committee Members:	7	
Number of Section Members: <i>As of September 1, 2023. Note: The Section Membership year runs on the calendar year.</i>	77	
Number of Applicants for FY24 Positions: <i>October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024</i>	4	
Do you have vacant positions for the coming year, FY24?	Yes - 4	
FY23 Budgeted Direct Expenses: <i>As of September 30, 2023. For Sections, this does not include the Per-Member-Charge.</i>	\$8,027	
FY23 Total Direct Expenses: <i>Draft estimate as of Dec. 1, 2023 For Sections, this does not include the Per-Member-Charge.</i>	\$3,013	

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.