

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

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 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, 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:	Real Property, Probate & Trust
Chair or Co-Chairs:	Nathan Smith
Staff Liaison: (include name, job title, and department if known)	Carolyn MacGregor, Sections Program Specialist, Advancement Department
Board of Governors Liaison:	Matthew Dresden
Purpose: <i>May be stated in Bylaws, Charter, Court Rule, etc.</i>	
The purpose of the Section is to: (a) Assist our members in achieving the highest standards of competence, professionalism, and ethics in their practices, (b) Assist the Legislature in the enactment and improvement of the laws affecting real property, probate, trusts, and estates and to assist the Judiciary in the just administration of those laws, (c) Support the WSBA with regard to those matters which concern the practice of law in the areas of real property, probate, trusts and estates, and (d) Otherwise serve our members by helping them realize their professional goals.	
Strategy to Fulfill Purpose:	
For FY 2024-2025, the RPPT Section will continue to work with the WSBA to engage and educate members and lawyers in general with high quality online CLEs and an in-person Mid-Year meeting, continue to prepare timely newsletters and provide a listserv and other opportunities for members and lawyers in the community to get involved with education and the general improvement of the	

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practice of our areas of law. The Section will further engage with newer members of the Section to advance their practices and encourage their participation in Section activities. The Section will continue to work closely with legislative leaders, the Section's legislative subcommittee and executive committee to ensure that the laws affecting real property, probate, trusts and estate continue to evolve with the practice and provide a good framework for practitioners and meet the needs of the state's general population.	
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 Section provides opportunities for member engagement, education, mentoring, and practical support for its members and Washington lawyers in general with an emphasis on providing timely resources for the ever-changing practice of law, responding to requests from legislators and otherwise reviewing pending legislation to address access to justice issues, and developing the next generation of practitioners.	
Top 2024-2025 Section Accomplishments:	
(1) The Section had a very successful and well-attended Midyear meeting at Semiahmoo in Blaine and continued to provide for hybrid learning through seasonal CLE offerings.	
(2) Members of the Section worked together with WSBA leaders and legislators on multiple subcommittees to review and comment on bills for review by the legislature, and to communicate with members regarding pending bills.	
(3) The Section engaged new and young lawyers through both its Fellow Program and its Young Lawyer Liaison to the Board of Governors.	
(4) The Section continued the publication of its Newsletter by publishing 3 issues.	
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	Publishing quarterly Newsletters to section members
2	Clarifying the purpose and content of both the RPPT website and the WSBA RPPT Section page, establishing a file storage and sharing system, and improving the functionality of the RPPT listservs through a new vendor
3	Continuing outreach to new lawyers through sponsoring events
Looking Ahead: Please share any long-term goals and/or priorities that your entity aims to address.	
1	The Section remains committed to growing its membership enrollment by providing for direct member benefits in continuing education and networking opportunities.

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2	The Section is interested in developing leadership among new lawyers in its ranks through the use of its Fellows program as a way to increase engagement and participation.	
3	Continue to work closely with the legislature and WSBA leaders and staff to ensure a robust partnership for the benefit of Washington lawyers and the public on matters of real property, probate and trust.	
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 Section focuses on diversity, equity and inclusion by using multiple means of communicating with members (e.g., Listserv, member emails, newsletter). The Section provides scholarships to members to offset the costs of attending the midyear with a focus on enabling members to attend who otherwise would not be able to.		
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.		
WSBA staff provides outstanding support to the Section for its activities, initiatives and CLE planning. We appreciate our BOG liaison's involvement by attending meetings and sharing ways that we can provide feedback to the BOG.		
Please quantify your section's 2024-2025 member benefits: <i>For example:</i> • \$3000 Scholarships, donations, grants awarded; • 4 mini-CLEs produced		
Co-sponsored the RPPT Midyear Meeting at Semiahmoo in Blaine and 4 online full-day CLE seminars with WSBA.		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.
1 reception at the Section Midyear meeting.		Receptions/forums hosted or co-hosted
\$5,675		\$ amount given through donations/scholarships/grants.
3 newsletters published (Summer 2024, Winter 2024, Spring 2025)		Newsletters/publications produced

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Click or tap here to enter text.	Mini-CLEs produced	
1 event at the Section Midyear meeting	New Lawyer Outreach events/benefits	
Click or tap here to enter text.	Recognitions/Awards given	
The section continued support of the Legislative Tracker project in collaboration with law students, which has been a successful way to increase opportunities for engagement among members and students. The Real Property Council engaged with the following bills, among others: 1081, 1096, 1403, 5129, 5559, 5611 and 5686. The Probate and Trust Council engaged with the following bills, among others: SB 5037, HB 1215, ESSB 5813.	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:	2174	Membership Size: <i>As of September 30, 2025.</i>
	\$87893.80	FY25 Revenue (\$): <i>As of September 30, 2025.</i>
	\$79800.39	FY25 Direct Expenses (\$) <i>As of September 30, 2025. This does not include the Per-Member-Charge.</i>
Section Executive Committee Information:	13 voting/7 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>
	5	Number of Applicants for FY26 open positions: <i>Applications submitted in the Spring of 2025 for</i>

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

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