



**WSBA ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION SECTION
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2008–2009**

Washington State Bar Association

Period of October 1, 2008 – September 30, 2009

Date: November 9, 2009

Section name: Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Section

Submitted by: Debra Synovec, Chair

Term of office for section leadership: October 1, 2008-September 30, 2009

1. Section highlights and accomplishments for membership year 2008-09.

The Section held its annual meeting in May 2009 in conjunction its sponsorship of the NW DR Conference. The Section also held two brown bag CLEs for members, one in June and one in September. The Section held a weekend long-range planning retreat in October and expanded its Executive Committee to 13 in order to improve programs and to have more outreach; specifically, we improved educational programs, website applications and the newsletter and continued work on the long-range desk book project.

2. Current benefits for section members.

The Section currently has a list serve, website, brown bag offerings and a newsletter. The Section also maintains a directory of dispute resolution providers.

3. Section community involvement and special financial designations.

The Section was sponsor of the NW DR Conference and provided a \$1,500 contribution toward this event. We began a collaborative effort with KCBA to sponsor ADR focus groups having the goal of improving best practices.

4. Section priorities, including new goals, for upcoming membership year 2009-2010.

A retreat is planned for October 2009 at which time the long-range planning for the Section will be the primary focus. Ongoing projects include the desk book, website, newsletter, NW DR Conference sponsorship and a collaborative effort with KCBA to sponsor ADR focus groups having the goal of improving best practices.

5. Diversity – ways the section is addressing now or intends to address.

The Section has always attempted to be inclusive and recently amended its bylaws to allow Section membership to the full extent allowed by the WSBA.

6. Current relationship between the section and the WSBA.

We feel the relationship with the WSBA is good and very much appreciate the presence and services of Toni Doane who is a wonderful person and a tremendous help to the Section. We also try to send a liaison to BOG meetings, welcome our BOG liaisons and look forward to working with our newly appointed WYLD liaison.

7. Additional information and comments.
