



Alternative Dispute Resolution Section

Washington State Bar Association

1325 Fourth Ave., Ste. 600
Seattle, WA 98101-2539

2011 Executive Committee

Jeff Bean, Chair
Rina Goodman, Chair-Elect
Courtland Shafer, Treasurer
Anamaria Gil, Secretary
David H. Black, Past Chair

ADR Section 2010-11 Annual Report

Hon. Paris Kallas
Paul McVicker
Sherman Knight
Joshua Sundt
Lish Whitson
Alan Alhadeff
Hon. Robert Alsdorf
Mark Baumann

Highlights and Accomplishments

- Sponsored the Northwest Dispute Resolution Conference: providing unparalleled CLE opportunities for members/subscribers in state-of-the-art ADR practices.
 - Created an integrated web-presence for the Conference, with [webpages](#) hosted on the section's website, a [Facebook page](#) and linking tweets from [@NWDRConference](#) on Twitter. An on-line promotional campaign was launched featuring [workshops and presenters](#).
 - Development of the Conference's new [Mediation Advocacy Track](#), providing a full course of programs focused on the practicing lawyer representing clients in mediation.
- The Section held its Annual Meeting at the Conference with a panel discussion from presenters in the Mediation Advocacy Track, Nina Mieirding and Eric Galton, moderated by Kathleen Wareham.
- Continued growth and development of the section's multi-faceted and integrated web-presence, centered on its interactive [website](#):
 - Encouraged active engagement by making registration available to the public
 - Posting events, news and current information from [@WSBAADR](#) on Twitter and [WSBA ADR Section on Facebook](#).
 - Hosting the [Foreclosure Mediation Discussion Group](#).
- Development and launching of the [Membership Committee's](#) new program of networking/social events.
- For the first time since the restructuring and expansion of the Executive Committee in 2008, we had the opportunity to reappoint current Executive Committee members to new three-year terms: Paul McVicker, Sherman Knight, David Black and Mark Baumann.
- In conjunction with KCBA's Dispute Resolution and Collaborative Law Sections, expanded the program of [Listening/Focus Groups](#) to explore current issues in the development of ADR in various practice areas.
- The [Legislative Committee](#):
 - Coordinating consideration of the [Uniform Collaborative Law Act/Rule](#) within WSBA and related organizations.
 - Launched a [Task Force on Early Dispute Resolution](#).
 - Assisting the Commerce Department, charged with implementing the Foreclosure Fairness Act Mediation Program, in developing training for mediators, developing mediator qualifications and evaluating the program.
 - Coordinating with other WSBA sections on possible legislative improvements.
- Addition of two new standing committees:
 - The [Land Use Mediation Committee](#), a group exploring the expansion of mediation in the Land Use disputes (an outgrowth of an early Listening/Focus Group).
 - The [Membership Committee](#), chartered with responsibility for promoting awareness of the Section, recruiting new members for the Section and its committees, encouraging members to be active and engaged in the work of the Section, and providing networking opportunities.
- The [Deskbook Committee](#) was retired after the Executive Committee approved its recommendation not to publish a revised ADR Deskbook in hardcopy and to consider digital distribution of similar content.

- Reorganization of the Website and Newsletter committees into the [Media & Communications Committee](#) to better use on-line resources for publishing content relevant to our members/subscribers.

Section Priorities & Goals

- Reaffirmed the section's mission statement: to promote the informed use and best practices of ADR.
- To advance the section's mission, revised the strategic goals:
 - Providing resources
 - Educating members of the bar and the public
 - Addressing issues relating to the growth and development of ADR services in the State of Washington
- Identified and prioritized strategic objectives:
 - Website development and growth
 - Blog or other on-line publication medium to replace the newsletter
 - CLE programming
 - Continued sponsorship of Northwest Dispute Resolution Conference
 - Focus/Listening Groups
 - Committee reorganization and revitalization

Benefits for Section Members/Subscribers

- Interactive social media 2.0 website where members can engage in marketing, client development, information and academic activities, and collegial discussions including:
 - building a profile that is part of a [searchable professional services directory](#)
 - back-linking to their own website to boost member/subscribers' SEO rankings
 - Building ADR skills through engagement in interactive [discussions and articles](#), informative [videos](#), [photos](#), [resources](#), [case law and links](#)
 - Providing a source for [information regarding the section](#), including an [archive of documents](#).
 - [Groups](#) for areas of practice (e.g., [Foreclosure Mediation](#), [Arbitration](#), [Uniform Collaborative Law Act](#)).
 - [Groups for section committees](#) to share materials, discuss proposals and activities and conduct committee business between meetings, increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of in-person or telephone meetings.
 - Announcing [events](#) of interest to section members.
- New networking/social events, hosted by the ADR Section and free to members and subscribers.

Community Involvement

- Support of Northwest Dispute Resolution Conference, in conjunction with the UW School of Law, Resolution Washington, and the Washington Mediation Association.
- Connections with student communities at UW and SU schools of law.
- Coordination with other ADR organizations on matters of common interest.

Activities Supporting Issues and Principles of Diversity in the Legal Profession

- Continued recruitment and growth of gender/ethnic/practice diversity among the Executive Committee members.

Collaboration/Partnerships with Other Sections and Bar-affiliated Groups

- Sponsored the Northwest Dispute Resolution Conference in conjunction with the University of Washington School of Law, the King County Bar Association Dispute Resolution Section, Resolution Washington and the Washington Mediation Association.
- Coordinated with WYLD on "Open Sections Night" and exploring a WYLD/ADR Section event; WYLD liaison assigned to section for 2009-2011, Adrienne Keith, was appointed to a three-year term on the Executive Committee

Promoting Informed Use and Best Practices of ADR

www.wsba-adr.org

- Coordination with other WSBA Sections and WSBA Legislative Liaison on issues regarding the implementation and potential legislative revisions of the Foreclosure Fairness Act
- Coordination with other WSBA Sections, WSBA Legislative Liaison and Collaborative Law organizations on issues regarding the Uniform Collaborative Law Act/Rule.

Section Relationship with WSBA Staff and the Board of Governors

- Steve Crossland, 2010-11 BOG Liaison and former ADR Section Chair, continued to provide excellent assistance and experienced advice to the Executive Committee.
- Looking for opportunities for better coordination, communication, support and development of ADR-related events and training among ADR Section and WSBA Sections/CLE Staff.
- Working with staff to implement the BOG Sponsorship policy regarding the Northwest Dispute Resolution Conference and to ensure that the ADR section and WSBA Sections Staff can continue to provide timely support for its promotion.