CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE POLICY
WASHINGTON STATE ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPAL ATTORNEYS

The Washington State Association of Municipal Attorneys (WSAMA) is an organization of city attorneys and others who serve municipalities as legal counsel. WSAMA is a non-profit organization and its conferences are not public forums but rather an opportunity to learn and exchange ideas. These attendance policies have been adopted in order to foster an atmosphere of collegiality and civility in which ideas and opinions can be exchanged in a thoughtful way.

ATTENDANCE AT WSAMA CONFERENCES AND EVENT ACTIVITIES IS CONDITIONED UPON COMPLIANCE WITH THESE POLICIES.

In order to create and preserve that atmosphere, as well as public confidence in the entities which WSAMA members serve, rude, disruptive or uncivil behavior will not be tolerated, whether in conference sessions or at conference venues. Examples of prohibited behavior include, but are not limited to:

1. Crude and disruptive behavior;
2. Personal attacks or ad hominem arguments;
3. Harassment or discrimination based on sex, race, or any other protected category.

These policies are not intended to limit the free exchange of ideas and opinions, but rather to provide appropriate limits regarding how those opinions are expressed.

During the course of any conference session, the moderator of the session or, as to any conference, activity, or event, the president, executive director, or his/her designee (hereinafter “President”) is empowered to maintain order. Any person whose behavior is disruptive to a session or event may be asked to cease that behavior. Any person failing to do so will be asked to leave the current session, or the particular event. If problematic behavior occurs during a session, the Moderator shall report any such action to the President. Such report may be either written or oral. The President may take such additional action based upon observed or reported behavior as is deemed appropriate including barring an individual from participation in the remainder of the conference. In the event of a report of disruptive behavior to the President, the President will make a reasonable effort to ascertain facts before acting. The action taken shall be at the sole discretion of the President. An individual who is asked to leave a session of a conference shall do so and no refund will be given.

The President or Executive Director may recommend additional sanctions with regard to a disruptive attendee up to and including suspension of an individual from participation in future conferences or conference activities and/or the termination of an individual’s membership in WSAMA.

Any recommendation for additional sanctions shall be brought to the Board at its next quarterly meeting. Written notice shall be provided to the disruptive attendee. The notice shall set forth a summary of the factual basis, including the actions of the attendee, upon which the recommendation is based. The attendee will be given an opportunity to present information for Board consideration, either in writing or orally before the Board acts. The decision of the Board shall be final. An individual who has been suspended from participation in conference activities may apply for lifting of the suspension one year from the date a suspension has been imposed.