



WSAMA News

Volume 2001, No. 1

February 23, 2001

2001 Spring Conference Edition

WSAMA will be returning to Skamania Lodge on the Columbia Gorge for our spring 2001 conference. This location is consistently one of the most popular with members since the conference facilities are excellent and the location is spectacular. We have a room block of 130 rooms which will be held until Monday, April 2, 2001, but make your reservations as soon as possible since we expect all rooms to be reserved early.

Where: Skamania Lodge

When: May 2-4, 2001

***Reduced room rate is guaranteed only until
Monday, April 2, 2001!***

Conference Registration

All the materials needed to register for the 2001 spring conference are enclosed:

*Preliminary Agenda
Registration Form
Optional Golf Scramble Form*

Program Highlights

The topics committee selected topics for this conference in all of the major subject areas of municipal law, including personnel, land use, public works, finance, and tort liability, as well as criminal law topics for city prosecutors. There will be two "nuts and bolts" topics for the general practitioner, one on bankruptcy and one on condemnation. An update on the two major initiatives affecting cities and towns, Initiative 722 and proposed Initiative 747, will be featured. A popular speaker at our conferences, Anne Bremner, will return to explain strategies for using (and bruising) expert witnesses. Also, a presentation on implementing an effective case management system will be of interest to both in-house and private practitioners.

See the enclosed preliminary agenda for the complete program!

We have requested CLE approval for 10.75 credits, which includes 1 ethics credit. Criminal justice reimbursement will be available for up to \$50 for those who meet the requirements of traveling at least 50 miles to attend the conference and staying overnight in a commercial facility.

Conference Social Highlights

This format for this conference will be the usual all-day Thursday and one-half day Friday program. There will be two receptions, one Wednesday evening with hosted hor d'oeuvres and a cash bar and a fully hosted reception on Thursday evening courtesy of the following WSAMA associate members: Preston Gates & Ellis; Foster Pepper & Shefelman; and a new host that we gratefully acknowledge, Ogden Murphy Wallace (Seattle and Wenatchee offices).

We will have a luncheon on Thursday afternoon, at which time those receiving the Honorary Lifetime Membership Award and the Ernest Campbell Award will be recognized.

Finally, there will be a continental breakfast on Thursday and a **full** breakfast on Friday morning. (Yes, the evaluations were read and heard. There will not be a repeat of the Spokane conference where a second continental breakfast was substituted for the full course breakfast expected by our members.)

New Municipal Attorney Seminar

A special seminar for new municipal attorneys was held for the first time in conjunction with the fall 2000 WSAMA conference in Spokane. There were about 35 attendees and the feedback was very positive.

This seminar will be repeated at the spring 2001 conference at Skamania Lodge. It will be held Wednesday afternoon, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Stevenson C/D Ballroom. This is primarily for newer municipal attorneys, but it is open to any WSAMA member who wishes to attend. It will provide an overview of the principal subjects of municipal law.

There is no additional cost for attendance at this seminar, but please mark the WSAMA registration form if you plan to attend. If there are municipal attorneys in your office that want to attend just this portion of the conference, mark that on the registration form and send it back to MRSC and there will be no charge.

There is an enclosed list of topics for this portion of the program, with the speakers for each segment indicated. A manual for new attorneys will be distributed to attendees at the seminar with additional written information on each topic.

Hotel Reservations

The primary convention hotel will be Skamania Lodge. Each attendee should make their own hotel reservations directly with the hotel and indicate you are attending the WSAMA conference in order to obtain the lower rates. The toll free number for hotel reservations is 1-800-221-7117. Remember to make your reservations prior to **April 2** because after that date the hotel will release our block of rooms and the guaranteed room rate for the conference attendees will not be available.

The convention room rates are: Forest View \$99 and River View \$139.

Check-in time is 4:00 p.m. and check-out time is noon. Note that cancellations must be received five full days in advance to receive full reimbursement. There is no charge for parking. Note also that these are discounted rates and the hotel will grant these rates for Tuesday evening prior to the conference, but cannot grant those rates for those wishing to extend reservations to the weekend. Weekend rates will be \$149 for Forest View rooms and \$179 for River View rooms.

There are additional accommodations available about four miles away in Cascade Locks on the Oregon side of the river at Best Western Columbia River Inn. This also is an excellent facility with an indoor pool, hot tub, and complimentary continental breakfast. The rates are somewhat lower than Skamania Lodge, ranging from \$69 for Hillside rooms and \$74 to \$109 for Riverview rooms. The toll-free reservation number is 1-800-595-7108. We do not have a specific block of rooms available but there should be rooms available for overflow attendees or those desiring a lower room rate.

Ernest Campbell Award

The Ernest Campbell Award was established to recognize those who have contributed significantly to the practice of municipal law in Washington State. There have only been six recipients of the award since its establishment.

This year there will be two recipients of the Ernest Campbell Award: James Sloane, long-time city attorney of Spokane who retired this year after serving as city attorney since 1978; and a posthumous award for Ralph Thomas, who passed away in January 2000. Ralph Thomas served as city attorney of Kirkland for over 31 years and was one of the guiding leaders of WSAMA for many years. Ralph will be represented by a family member, and both of these awards will be made at the Thursday luncheon, May 3, at the conference.

WSAMA Board Applications

There will be at least two vacancies on the WSAMA board of directors beginning in April 2001. The term of office is two years. The primary function of the board is to help plan the spring and fall WSAMA conferences. Serving on the board does require the ability to attend four board meetings a year – an all-day meeting in January, an all-day meeting in July, and two lunch meetings following the spring and fall conferences.

The WSAMA board is very interested in having a board that represents all the WSAMA members. At the January 2001 board meeting, a Resolution on Diversity was adopted to embody the commitment of the board to provide an opportunity for all WSAMA members to participate in the activities of the organization through association with WSAMA board programs, committees and board membership.

If you are interested in being considered for membership on the WSAMA board, send your name and the city you represent to Patrick Mason at 1200 5th Avenue, Suite 1300, Seattle, WA 98101 or fax (206) 625-1220 or e-mail pmason@mrsc.org.

Honorary Membership

If you have served as city or town attorney or assistant city or town attorney in the state of Washington for at least 25 years, then you are eligible for the WSAMA honorary membership award. If you qualify, or if you know of someone who does qualify, please contact Donita Mowers at the phone number or e-mail address listed at the end of the newsletter.

Law Week 2001

WSAMA is very supportive of Law Week 2001, a program sponsored by the Washington State Bar Association to bring public legal education into the classroom. The goal is to have a volunteer lawyer or judge in every school in Washington during the week of May 1 to teach students about specific areas of the law and discuss current legal issues.

Enclosed is an announcement from the WSBA with more information about this program and also specific information about how you can participate in Law Week 2001.

Job Announcements

There are two job announcements from the city of Tacoma included in this mailing – one for a position as Assistant City Attorney II, Civil Division, Environmental, and the other for Assistant City Attorney Attorney I, Criminal Division. See enclosed job announcements for details.

Also, the city attorney position in Puyallup is being reopened for applications and an announcement is enclosed.

Questions

If you have any additional questions concerning the WSAMA conference, please contact Donita Mowers or Patrick Mason at (206) 625-1300 or dmowers@mrsc.org or pmason@mrsc.org or go to <http://www.mrsc.org/associations/wsama/wsamapag.htm> to find information about or to download conference materials here.

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