WSAMA
Washington State Association of Municipal Attorneys

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 30TH

WCIA Session: Homelessness After *Grants Pass*: What Washington City Attorneys Need to Know

Time	1:00 – 3:00 PM	**Location:**	Stevenson C & D	**CLE Credits:**	2.0
Speakers	Jeffrey Meyers, Law, Lyman, Daniel, Kamerrer & Bogdanovich				
Description	The U.S. Supreme Court's 2024 decision in Grants Pass v. Johnson significantly changed the legal landscape surrounding municipal regulation of public camping and homelessness. But while Grants Pass resolved an important Eighth Amendment question, it did not resolve many of the constitutional, statutory, and procedural issues that continue to create liability risks for Washington cities. This two-hour program, will examine where the law stands now, what has developed since Grants Pass, and the issues courts are likely to confront next. Beginning with a brief review of Martin v. Boise and Grants Pass, the program will address what the Supreme Court changed—and just as importantly, what it did not. Participants will receive an update on significant federal, Ninth Circuit, and Washington developments affecting municipal homelessness ordinances, public-space regulation, and enforcement.				

BOARD MEETING

Time	3:15 – 4:15 PM	**Location:**	Rainier

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Time	12:00 – 7:00 PM	**Location:**	Conference Center Lobby

WEDNESDAY EVENING SOCIAL EVENT: Columbia Gorge Boat Cruise

Time	4:30 – 7:00 PM	**Location:**	Sternwheeler Columbia Gorge - 299 SW Portage Road, Cascade Locks OR 97014

THURSDAY OCTOBER 1ST

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Time	7:00 AM – 5:00 PM	**Location:**	Conference Center Lobby

BREAKFAST

Time	7:00 AM – 8:00 AM	**Location:**	Cascade Locks Ballroom

JOINT SESSION - THURSDAY OCTOBER 1ST

Moderator: Shawn MacPherson, City Attorney of Camas and White Salmon

Welcome by WSAMA President

Time	8:00 – 8:30 AM	**Location:**	Stevenson A & B
Speakers	Jeffrey Taraday, Lighthouse Law Group		

Update on Use of ALPRs (Flock Cameras)

Time	8:30 – 9:15 AM	**Location:**	Stevenson A & B	**CLE Credits:**	0.75
Speakers	James McMahan, WASPC				
Description					

Ethics: How to Litigate Against Jerks

Time	9:15 – 10:15 AM	**Location:**	Stevenson A & B	**CLE Credits:**	1 ETHICS
Speakers	Alexandra Nica and Ghazal Sharifi, City of Seattle				
Description	This presentation will explore the legal, ethical, and emotional challenges of litigating against difficult opposing counsel. The presenters will provide real-life examples, "rules of the road" for legal and ethical conflicts, and practical tips for surviving this toxic litigation landscape.				

BREAK

Time	10:15 – 10:30 AM	**Location:**	Conference Center Lobby

AI: From Prompts to Production

Time	10:30 – 11:15 AM	**Location:**	Stevenson A & B	**CLE Credits:**	0.75
Speakers	Kyla S. Bond, Sound Solutions Law, PLLC.				

Description A city employee uses ChatGPT to draft a procurement document. A requester uses AI to generate a sweeping records request. The records officer considers using AI to search, review, or redact the response. Each scenario presents distinct and evolving questions under the PRA. This session will examine how existing public records principles apply across that lifecycle, from prompts, outputs, chat histories, and uploaded materials that may become public records, to AI-assisted and automated requests, to agency use of AI in records processing. The focus will be practical: reducing unnecessary record creation, preserving and locating AI-related records, distinguishing AI-assisted requests from statutory bot requests, and using AI without compromising accuracy, confidentiality, or defensibility.

Criminal Law Update

Time	11:15 AM – 12:00 PM	**Location:**	Stevenson A & B	**CLE Credits:**	0.75
Speakers	Bradley Lane, City of Seattle				
Description					

AWARDS LUNCHEON

Time	12:00 – 1:30 PM	**Location:**	Cascade Locks Ballroom
Award Recipients	Terry Weiner: 2026 Ernest H. Campbell Award Flannary P. Collins: 2026 Outstanding Service Award		

CIVIL SESSION – THURSDAY OCTOBER 1

Moderator: Matthew Segal, Pacifica Law Group

Hot Topics in Environmental Law

Time	1:30 – 2:15 PM	**Location:**	Stevenson A & B	**CLE Credits:**	0.75
Speakers	Emma Lautanen and Jeff Kray, Marten Law Group				
Description					

Ethics: OPMA Litigation: Privilege, Settlements, Conflicts

Time	2:15 – 3:00 PM	**Location:**	Stevenson A & B	**CLE Credits:**	0.75 ETHICS
Speakers	Andrea Bradford, Foster Garvey and Jessica Leiser, City of Seattle				
Description					

Eminent Domain & Utilities

Time	3:00 – 3:30 PM	**Location:**	Stevenson A & B	**CLE Credits:**	0.5
Speakers	Paul Moomaw, Sound Transit				
Description					

BREAK

Time	3:30 – 3:45 PM	**Location:**	Conference Center Lobby

Procurement: Purchasing, Public Works, Piggybacking, and more

Time	3:45 – 4:15 PM	**Location:**	Stevenson A & B	**CLE Credits:**	0.5
Speakers	Tom Brubaker, Lighthouse Law Group				
Description	This presentation will provide a brief refresher of state procurement requirements, for goods, services, and public works, including a look at the occasional fine line when attempting to determine whether a procurement is a public work or a purchase of goods. The presentation will then shift to the use of other public agency contracts for procurement of goods, services, and public works, paying particular attention to a number of wrinkles to this “piggyback” process imposed by the State Auditor’s Office.				

Non-Compete, Breaks and Personnel Files – Oh My! – Recent Updates in Washington Employment Law

Time	4:15 – 5:00 PM	**Location:**	Stevenson A & B	**CLE Credits:**	0.75
Speakers	Shirley S. Lou-Magnuson and Sean Jackson, Miller Nash				
Description	Navigating the shifting landscape of employment law can feel like walking through a forest full of unexpected twists and turns. Between sweeping federal overhauls on restrictive covenants and hyper-local updates to daily workplace rules,				

municipalities are facing ever unprecedented compliance challenges. This session is designed to pull back the curtain on the most pressing legislative changes impacting municipal employers in 2026.

Roundtable Discussion: Public Records Requests for Computer Networks and System Metadata

Time 5:00 – 5:30 PM **Location:** Stevenson A & B **CLE Credits:** NONE

Facilitator Jessica Leiser, City of Seattle

THURSDAY RECEPTION

Time 5:30 – 7:00 PM **Location:** Conference Center Lobby

CRIMINAL SESSION – THURSDAY OCTOBER 1

Moderator: Kevin McClure, City of Vancouver

Safely Off the Roadway Refresher

Time 1:30 – 2:30 PM **Location:** Adams **CLE Credits:** 1

Speakers Bradley Lane, City of Seattle

Description

A Few of the Things Prosecutors Are Not Allowed to Say at Trial

Time 2:30 – 3:30 PM **Location:** Adams **CLE Credits:** 1 ETHICS

Speakers Jason Gelfand, City of Seattle

Description

BREAK

Time 3:30 – 3:45 PM **Location:** Conference Center Lobby

How to Establish the Reliability of Toxicology Evidence

Time 3:45 – 5:00 PM **Location:** Adams **CLE Credits:** 1.25

Speakers Michelle Rutherford, Snohomish County and Assistant Division Commander, Brian Capron, WSP Toxicology Laboratory

Description

THURSDAY NIGHT RECEPTION

Time 5:30 – 7:00 PM **Location:** Conference Center Lobby

FRIDAY – OCTOBER 2

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Time 7:00 AM – 12:00 PM **Location:** Conference Center Lobby

BREAKFAST

Time 7:30 AM – 8:30 AM **Location:** Cascade Locks Ballroom

CIVIL SESSION – FRIDAY OCTOBER 2

Moderator: Darcey Eilers, City of Kirkland

Development in Uncertain Economic Times: Pros, Cons, and Tips and Traps of Using Development Agreements

Time 8:30 – 9:30 AM **Location:** Stevenson A & B **CLE Credits:** 1

Speakers Bob Sterbank and Daniel Zellner, Foster Garvey; Bob Stowe, Stowe Development and Strategies

Description

Web Accessibility

Time 9:30 – 10:15 AM **Location:** Stevenson A & B **CLE Credits:** 0.75

Speakers Tricia Juettemeyer and Laura Shepard, City of Vancouver

Description The ADA Title II web rule was expected to go into effect in April 2026 for local governments with populations of more than 50,000 and April 2027 for less than 50,000. However, it has been pushed back a year, now going into effect in April 2027 and April 2028, respectively. Local jurisdictions now have more time to work towards compliance.

The City of Vancouver began its work on compliance in 2024 and continues to implement the rule despite the delayed compliance date. This session will cover the history of web accessibility under Title II, the forthcoming web rule, its exceptions, and the City's strategies to move towards compliance across the organization.

BREAK

Time 10:15 – 10:30 AM **Location:** Conference Center Lobby

Code Enforcement Strategies

Time 10:30 – 11:00 AM **Location:** Stevenson A & B **CLE Credits:** 0.5

Speakers Chris Barack, City of Auburn

Description Drawing on lessons learned throughout his 25-year career, Chris will present City-Initiated Abatements and Common Enforcement Challenges. The presentation will explore common enforcement and abatement pitfalls, why some efforts succeed while others encounter difficulties, and the critical roles that communication, documentation, consistent processes, and coordination between code enforcement staff and municipal counsel play in achieving successful outcomes.

Chris's goal is to provide a practical, field-based perspective on what works, what can go wrong, and how municipalities can strengthen their approach to complex enforcement and abatement matters.

Update on Changes to Federal Grant Regulations and Guidance

Time 11:00 – 11:30 AM **Location:** Stevenson A & B **CLE Credits:** 0.5

Speakers Paul Lawrence, Pacifica Law Group

Description

Accommodating Affordable Housing under GMA: Kitsap County's Perspective

Time 11:30 AM – 12:00 PM **Location:** Stevenson A & B **CLE Credits:** 0.5

Speakers Lisa Nickel, Kitsap County

Description The Growth Management Act (GMA) historically required jurisdictions to only encourage affordable housing. In 2021, GMA was updated to require jurisdictions to actually plan for and accommodate housing affordable to all economic segments based on projected housing numbers provided by the Department of Commerce. Hear how Kitsap County navigated this change in their 2024 Comprehensive Plan update and overcame an appeal on this issue.

CRIMINAL SESSION – FRIDAY OCTOBER 2

Moderator: Jeffrey Schaap, City of Yakima

Jury Selection

Time 8:30 – 10:00 AM **Location:** Adams **CLE Credits:** 1.5

Speakers Michelle Rutherford, Snohomish County

Description

BREAK

Time 10:00 – 10:15 AM **Location:** Conference Center Lobby

Jury Selection (Cont.)

Time 10:15 – 11:00 AM **Location:** Adams **CLE Credits:** 0.75

Speakers Michelle Rutherford, Snohomish County

Description

Overview of the Forensic Navigator Program and Its Use in Municipal Courts

Time 11:00 – 12:00 PM **Location:** Adams **CLE Credits:** 1

Speakers Kirsten Peebles, Forensic Navigator, Department of Social and Health Services

Description