



WSAMA News

Volume 2000, No. 1

February 29, 2000

2000 SPRING CONFERENCE EDITION

Spring Conference

Where: Sheraton Hotel in Tacoma, Washington

When: May 3-5, 2000

Guaranteed hotel room rate cut-off: April 11, 2000
Reserve rooms early!

The first WSAMA conference of the new millennium will be at the Sheraton Hotel in Tacoma. The Sheraton is a first class hotel with excellent conference facilities. In addition to an outstanding program, this conference will feature Attorney General Gregoire as a luncheon speaker on Thursday. Our hosted Thursday night reception will be held at the Washington State Historical Museum, which is a fascinating museum highlighting the history of this state with historical scenes and artifacts.

Conference Registration Materials

All of the information needed to register for the spring 2000 conference is enclosed:

- Preliminary Agenda
- WSAMA Conference Registration Form (*return to MRSC*)
- Sheraton Hotel Brochure (*with hotel registration toll free number and map to hotel*)
- Optional Golf Scramble Form (*Friday afternoon*)

Program Highlights

It was evident from the topic suggestions that the issue that everyone is trying to understand and cope with is Initiative

695. Therefore, we have scheduled a two-hour panel discussion on Thursday morning devoted to this topic. There will be speakers from the Office of the Attorney General outlining the application of the initiative for local governments, from attorneys handling the key lawsuits that have been filed either challenging or asking for clarification of I-695, and from the Association of Washington Cities reviewing the legislative response. In addition, there will be time allocated for the panel to respond to your specific questions.

A major segment of time will also be devoted to explaining the impact of the Endangered Species Act 4(d) rule on both western and eastern Washington local governments. Among other highlights, there will be updates on the 2000 legislative session, telecommunications law, land use law, and criminal law. A separate criminal track Thursday afternoon will include topics on immigration law, common pitfalls in DUI trials, and an overview of the Rules for Appeal of Decisions of Courts of Limited Jurisdiction.

We have requested 10.25 hours of CLE credit for this conference and that includes one hour of ethics. Also, we have requested the usual criminal justice reimbursement for up to \$50 for all attendees who travel at least fifty miles to the conference and stay overnight at a commercial facility.

Luncheon Speaker: Attorney General Gregoire

Attorney General Gregoire will be the featured speaker at our Thursday luncheon. She will be giving attendees an inside look at the tobacco settlement, in which she played a significant role at both the national level and for the state of Washington.

Conference Social Highlights

Wednesday night will feature the usual opening reception from six to seven at the Sheraton Hotel. In addition, the Thursday night hosted reception should be especially memorable since it will be held at the Washington State Historical Museum. A special exhibit at the museum will be "George Washington: Man Behind the Myths." The museum is within walking distance of the Sheraton if the weather is cooperative, but buses will also be available. The museum will be open during our reception and will remain open until nine for those wishing to remain longer.

The usual Thursday morning continental breakfast and Friday morning buffet breakfast are included in the registration fee.

Hotel Registration

Make your reservations directly with the Tacoma Sheraton Hotel at its toll free number, 1-800-845-9466. The room rates are \$97 a night plus tax for single or double occupancy and parking at the hotel is an additional \$8 a day. The hotel room block for WSAMA attendees will only be held until Tuesday, April 11, so please make your reservations early. After that date, the room block will be released so the discounted room rate cannot be guaranteed and rooms will be subject to availability. A map to the Sheraton is on the back of the hotel brochure.

New Attorney Conference

As indicated in the WSAMA News in December, a goal of the board is to hold an additional half-day session for new attorneys in conjunction with the regular WSAMA conference. Unfortunately, there will not be time to make the necessary arrangements for this session to be held in conjunction with the spring 2000 conference in Tacoma. However, this new attorney seminar will be held in conjunction with the fall 2000 conference in Spokane and more information will be provided before that conference is held.

Ernest Cambell Award to Fred Andrews

Fred Andrews, former city attorney of Yakima, has been selected to receive the Ernest Campbell Award for

excellence in the practice of municipal law. Mr. Andrews served as city attorney of Yakima from 1962 until 1987, when he retired to begin a new life as the Pastor's Assistant at the First Presbyterian Church in Yakima. Fred served as WSAMA President from 1966-67 and for many years was a major contributor to WSAMA as an organization and to the development of municipal law in this state. Everyone who has had the privilege of working with Fred recognizes him as a model of professionalism and integrity. He has been invited to attend the Thursday reception, which will give those of you who know Fred a chance to visit. The award will be presented at the business meeting on Friday morning.

Laurie Connelly Moves to Eastern Washington University

Some of you may not be aware that Laurie Flinn Connelly has left the Office of the City Attorney in Spokane to accept a position with Eastern Washington University in Cheney. Laurie held the position of WSAMA First Vice-President and has served since 1995 on the WSAMA board. Laurie can be reached at (509) 359-2393. She will be greatly missed for her enthusiasm and hard work on behalf of both WSAMA and the city of Spokane.

WSAMA Board Vacancies

There will be at least two vacancies on the WSAMA board for the 2000-2001 year since Laurie Connelly will not be able to finish her term. Please consider whether you have the time and commitment to serve on the board. WSAMA is committed to maintaining a board which represents the full diversity of our membership and is particularly encouraging members representing eastern Washington cities to apply. The basic commitment is to four board meetings a year – one full day in July and January and two lunch meetings that immediately follow the spring and fall conferences. If interested, please contact Patrick Mason or Donita Mowers as indicated at the end of the newsletter.

Honorary Membership Award

If you have served as a city or town attorney or assistant city or town attorney in the State of Washington for at least 25 years, you are eligible for the WSAMA honorary mem-

bership award. If you qualify, or if you know of someone else who qualifies, please contact Patrick Mason or Donita Mowers at the address or phone number listed at the end of this newsletter.

Law Week 2000

A Lawyer and Judge in Every School

You can make a difference in your community by participating in Law Week 2000, an exciting program that will educate and inspire students about the law and our legal system. During the week of May 8-12, hundreds of lawyers and judges throughout the state will spend all or part of a day in their local schools, reaching tens of thousands of students in grades one through twelve.

WSAMA is very supportive of this effort. To learn more about law week, check out the WSBA website (www.wsba.org). From the Web site, you can sign up to volunteer in a classroom or be a local organizer. You will discover lesson plans for all ages, classroom presentation tips, and information about Washington's many public legal education programs. You can also learn about Law Week 2000 or sign up to volunteer by calling (206) 727-8270 or 1-800-945-WSBA, ext. 8270.

MRSC Funding Bill

As many of you are aware, the funding for the Municipal Research & Services Center of Washington was substantially reduced with the enactment of Initiative 695 and the elimination of the Motor Vehicle Excise Tax. An alternative funding bill was submitted to the legislature this session and, with the able assistance of the lobbyists from AWC, successfully has passed the House and moved to a hearing in the Senate. We are optimistic that this will be passed by the Senate and signed by the Governor. Many thanks to all who helped support this bill by contacting local legislators on behalf of MRSC!

Ralph Thomas Remembered

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of Ralph Thomas, long-time city attorney of Kirkland, on January 29, 2000. Mr. Thomas served as city attorney of

Kirkland for over 31 years and helped shape the growth and development of that community. He retired from that position in 1992 but continued to serve the city in a part-time capacity until the time of his death. Ralph was also one of the guiding leaders of WSAMA for many, many years and served as President from 1975-76. He continued to attend WSAMA conferences regularly after his formal retirement as city attorney and will be greatly missed by his peers and many friends both for his contributions in the field of municipal law and for his engaging personality. Donations in his remembrance may be made to the Kirkland Congregational Church or the Northwest Actors Studio.

Free Domestic Violence Seminar

A free four-hour training seminar on the new 1999 Foreign Protection Order Full Faith and Credit Act is being offered at nine locations around the state by the Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys and the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs. See the enclosed brochure for more information and a registration form.

Job Announcements

Mercer Island City Attorney

The city of Mercer Island is seeking an accomplished leader and attorney to serve as primary legal counsel and an important part of the management team. The starting salary is in the mid-\$80's. Mercer Island has a council-manager form of government and a population of approximately 21,000. The city attorney's office is staffed by the city attorney, assistant city attorney, and a legal assistant. The office is responsible for all legal opinions of the city, managing and coordinating all litigation matters, and all prosecutorial services for the District Court, which is located in city hall.

The position requires membership in the Washington State Bar and 5-7 years experience, with specific knowledge in municipal law, land use, personnel issues, utilities, rights of way, contracts and interlocal agreements. Please submit resume and current salary information no later than April 21 to: Tara Adams or Jan Cooper; Jensen & Cooper, Inc., 411 - 108th Ave. NE, Suite 250, Bellevue, WA 98004. Phone (425) 637-5656 or Fax (425) 637-5657.

City of Des Moines Assistant City Attorney

See the enclosed job announcement for more details and application information. The salary range is \$52,536 - \$63,852, including an excellent benefit package. Duties include both civil and criminal assignments. Applications will be accepted until Wednesday, March 8. Des Moines is a waterfront community located in south King County with a population of 27,000 plus.

Town of Tieton

The town of Tieton is seeking applications from attorneys interested in serving as town attorney. The town of Tieton is located in the Yakima valley and has a population of approximately 1,000. Contact Mayor Jenny Korens at (509) 673-3162 or Fax (509) 673-2740.

Kitsap County Prosecuting Attorney's Office – Civil Deputy

The position requires a knowledge of municipal law and civil law, and 1 to 4 years general civil and litigation experience. Employment law experience is desirable.

Responsible for advising county officials and departments, researching and preparing legal memoranda, preparing,

reviewing and revising legal documents and legislation, and representing the county in civil litigation. WSBA membership required.

Salary range: \$41,932 - \$48,400, DOQ, with county benefits package. Send resume and detailed cover letter to: Civil Division Head, 614 Division Street, Port Orchard, WA 98366. *Open until filled.*

Spring Conference Questions?

Conference information is available at MRSC's Web site, (www.mrsc.org) under the link heading in the left-hand column, choose State Associations, and then select Washington State Association of Municipal Attorneys or go directly to www.mrsc.org/associations/wsama/wsamapag.htm.

For other questions, please contact Patrick Mason or Donita Mowers at Municipal Research & Services Center in Seattle, (206) 625-1300 or Fax (206) 625-1220, or E-mail pmason@mrsc.org or dmowers@mrsc.org.

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