



WSAMA News

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August 14, 2000

2000 Fall WSAMA Conference

The fall conference will be held at the *West Coast Grand Hotel at the Park* in Spokane. This is the same hotel where WSAMA has met several times before but it was formerly called Cavanaugh's Inn at the Park. All of the Cavanaugh's Hotels have recently been acquired by West Coast Hotels and so their hotels have been renamed, but it is the same excellent facility located right next to Spokane's Riverfront Park.

Where: West Coast Grand Hotel at the Park (formerly Cavanaugh's Inn at the Park)

When: October 4-6, 2000

This conference will be in our usual format, with an opening reception on Wednesday evening and then meetings all day Thursday, with a hosted reception Thursday night and then meetings again Friday from 8:00 a.m. to noon. A special feature of this conference will be the *New Municipal Attorney Seminar* on Wednesday afternoon from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. This is actually open to any municipal attorney at no additional charge and will provide an overview of the main topic areas of municipal law. The golf scramble will be Friday afternoon at the Indian Canyon Golf Course in Spokane.

We have requested 10.75 hours of CLE credits, which includes one hour of ethics credit. Also, criminal justice reimbursement will be available for up to \$50 for WSAMA members who travel at least 50 miles to the conference and who stay overnight at a commercial facility.

Registration Materials

All of the materials needed to register for the 2000 Fall WSAMA Conference are enclosed:

- WSAMA Conference Registration Form
- Preliminary Agenda
- Golf Scramble Sign-Up Form

New Municipal Attorney Seminar

One of the new features of the fall conference will be a Wednesday afternoon seminar, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Riverfront D room, primarily for newer municipal attorneys. It will provide an overview of the principle subject areas in municipal law. Obviously, in such a short time it will not be possible to provide an in-depth review of any of the subject areas but hopefully a brief overview of each topic can be provided, with reference to key constitutional and statutory citations, pertinent case law, and direction to additional reference materials.

There is no additional cost for attendance at this seminar but please mark on the WSAMA registration form if you plan to attend so we have some idea of how many to expect. If you have municipal attorneys in your office that you wish to have attend only this portion of the conference, just mark that on the registration form and send it back to MRSC and there will be no charge. This seminar will be repeated at next year's spring conference at Skamania Lodge for those who cannot attend this fall.

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 area.

We want to determine if this training seminar is of assistance and we will evaluate afterwards whether there is sufficient interest to continue this type of program periodically or if another format would be more helpful, such as periodic and more intensive reviews of limited subject areas. We encourage newer municipal attorneys to attend, or even more experienced municipal attorneys who may wish to increase their exposure to areas of municipal law with which they may not be as familiar.

Program Highlights

In addition to the new municipal attorney seminar, the regular program will include the usual mix of timely municipal law

topics. These will include a topic area which is becoming increasingly significant, how to handle electronic records in view of the public records law and privacy concerns. In the area of land use, there will be updates on the new shoreline management rules, water rights, and the Endangered Species Act. On the criminal law program, topics include firearms preemption, effective police training, and a panel to discuss the very successful coordination project on domestic violence prosecutions between the city of Spokane and Spokane County.

A special segment of the program will review emerging topics of particular interest, such as the Court Reform 2001 project, which has the potential to dramatically impact municipal courts, the next round of initiatives, including the property tax initiative and the transportation funding initiative, and the new ballot title legislation. As usual, there will be updates on personnel law, bidding and construction law, and telecommunications law.

One other new feature will be an additional roundtable devoted to issues facing smaller cities and towns. Many WSAMA members are part-time municipal attorneys who represent jurisdictions with less than 10,000 in population and this roundtable will be an opportunity to raise issues facing these municipalities.

Finally, the usual golf scramble will be held Friday afternoon at the Indian Canyon Golf Course in Spokane. The sign-up sheet is included with your conference registration materials.

Hotel Reservations

Hotel reservations should be made directly with the hotel by calling the toll-free number, 1-800-325-4000. Be sure and identify yourself as an attendee at the WSAMA conference. Room rates for conference attendees are: \$85 for Main Wing, single or double occupancy and \$95 for Executive Wing or Parkside Tower, single or double occupancy. Parking is complimentary.

**Hotel room block is guaranteed only until
Sunday, September 3, 2000!**

Call 1-800-325-4000 for hotel reservations.

It is almost certain that rooms will be available after September 3, but the hotel cannot guarantee that the conference room rate will be available, so please make your reservations early. Room reservations can be cancelled with 24-hours notice with full refund.

Other WSAMA News and Announcements

Proposed New Court Rule

A new court rule, ARLJ 11, which defines and sets forth the qualifications and functions of a misdemeanor probation department, has been proposed by the District and Municipal Court Judges' Association. WSAMA is not going to comment on this rule officially as an organization, but individual members may submit comments to the Washington State Supreme Court Rules Committee until October 15, 2000. A copy of the rule and additional information has been posted on WSAMA's Web page, which can be accessed through the MRSC home page (www.mrsc.org), see the link to State Associations in the left-hand column of the page, go to Washington State Association of Municipal Attorneys, or request a paper copy by calling MRSC at (206) 625-1300.

Job Announcements

Kirkland Municipal Court Judge – Applications will be accepted until August 23, 2000 for the position of Kirkland Municipal Court Judge. Judicial work may take up to 34 hours a week. Compensation is under review. For additional information, see enclosed announcement and contact the Kirkland City Manager's Office at (425) 828-1111.

Kennewick Assistant City Attorney – An assistant city attorney position is open in Kennewick – salary range from \$3,605 to \$4,825 a month. See the enclosed job announcement for more information.

Questions about Conference?

Contact MRSC if you have any additional questions about the fall conference, (206) 625-1300 or fax (206) 625-1220.

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