



WSAMA News

Volume 2002, No. 1

February 19, 2002

2002 Spring Conference Edition

Where: Quinault Beach Resort & Casino,
Ocean Shores, Washington

When: April 24-26, 2002

Guaranteed Hotel Room Rate Cut-Off:
April 3, 2002

Hotel Reservation Toll-Free Number: 1-888-461-2214

The first WSAMA conference to be held at the ocean for many years will be at an outstanding new facility, the Quinault Beach Resort and Casino, which just opened for business in June 2000. It has excellent conference facilities and is located right on the ocean, within a few miles of the city of Ocean Shores. Make your reservations early – we have a guaranteed room block of 135 rooms but these probably will fill early. **For more information on this facility, visit their web site at www.quinaultbchresort.com.**

Conference Registration

All the materials needed to register for the 2002 Spring Conference are enclosed:

- Preliminary Agenda
- WSAMA Conference Registration Form
- Optional Golf Scramble Form
- Quinault Beach Resort Brochure (*with map and toll-free number*)
- New Municipal Attorney Training Agenda

Program Highlights

An excellent program of topics from all areas of municipal law has been selected. Since the next year is likely to be a difficult time economically for many cities, a primer will be offered on downsizing the work force in a manner to

avoid legal pitfalls and perils. A nuts and bolts session on the perennial topics of conflict of interest and incompatible offices will also be offered. Judge Dean Morgan, Washington State Court of Appeals, Division II, an expert on rules of evidence and an excellent speaker, will speak on opinion testimony.

Two of the most popular speakers at our conferences from outside the immediate city attorney family will also be featured – Anne Bremner, on handling police officer shootings and police brutality claims, and Hugh Spitzer, who will explain what is new in the area of public/private partnerships.

The Thursday afternoon criminal program will be a slightly different concept from past programs. The entire afternoon will be a symposium on DUI prosecutions, practical skills, and advanced techniques. It will include the ABC's of trial practice, use of drug recognition experts, and other DUI hot topics and issues.

There will be updates on the 2002 legislative session and significant criminal law cases that have been decided since the last conference. In addition, the usual mix of roundtables will be held so that you will have a chance to discuss informally the topics of interest to you. See the preliminary agenda for all the topics and speakers.

We have requested CLE approval for 10.50 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 fifty miles to attend the conference and staying overnight in a commercial facility.

Conference Social Highlights

The 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 hors 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 Ogden Murphy Wallace. There will be the usual continental breakfast on Thursday and full breakfast on Friday morning.

A highlight of the conference undoubtedly will be the luncheon Thursday, with featured speaker Justice Gerry Alexander, Chief Justice, Washington State Supreme Court. Justice Alexander will speak on "Criteria for Supreme Court Review and Do's and Don'ts of Appellate Practice."

The golf scramble will be held on Friday afternoon at the Ocean Shores Golf Course.

New Municipal Attorney Seminar

The new municipal attorney seminar will be held on Wednesday afternoon from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., preceding the main conference. This will be a repeat of the seminar that was held at two earlier conferences. It is the intent of the board to repeat this seminar periodically for the benefit of new, or relatively new, practitioners in the area of municipal law.

While the seminar is primarily for newer municipal attorneys, it is open to any WSAMA member who wishes to attend. It will provide a very brief overview of the principal subjects of municipal law, with an emphasis on providing direction to resources where additional information may be obtained since it is impossible to really cover all these topics in any depth in such a short time period.

There is no additional cost for attendance at this seminar, but please mark the WSAMA registration form if you plan to attend so we have some idea of attendance. If there are municipal attorneys in your office who desire 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. 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 Quinault Beach Resort and Casino. Attendees should make their own hotel reservations directly with the hotel – be sure to indicate attendance at the WSAMA conference to obtain the lower rates. The toll free number for hotel reservations is 1-888-461-2214. Remember, make your reservations prior to April 3 because after that date the hotel will release our block of rooms and the reduced room rate for the conference attendees will not be guaranteed.

The convention room rates are \$120 a night for single or double occupancy.

Check-in time is 4:00 p.m. and check-out time is eleven a.m. Note that cancellations must be received two full days in advance to receive full reimbursement. There is no charge for parking. These are discounted rates and the hotel will grant these rates for Tuesday evening prior to the conference and for the weekend following the conference if rooms are available.

There are also additional rooms available in the city of Ocean Shores itself, which is only a few miles away. A Lodging Directory for Ocean Shores is included with reservation numbers, which lists a number of motels and inns at varying price ranges and with varying amenities. Some of these rates are less than the Quinault Beach Resort and so offer a less expensive alternative that is still very convenient for conference attendance.

WSAMA Board Applications

There will be at least one vacancy on the WSAMA board of directors, beginning in April 2002. 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 Donita Mowers, at the address listed at the end of the newsletter.

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 address or phone number listed at the end of the newsletter.

Law Week 2002

WSAMA continues to be very supportive of the Law Week program, which is 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 Bar Association with more information about this program and also specific information about how you can participate in Law Week 2002.

Transitions

There have been a number of changes in the recent past among the city attorneys. After 33 years as city attorney of Kelso, which must be close to a longevity record for city attorneys, **Leroy Borders** will retire as city attorney, effective June 1, 2002. Congratulations to Leroy and best wishes!

The following city attorneys have also assumed office or changed positions in the recent past: Tom Carr has assumed the office of city attorney of Seattle after being elected last fall; Dan Heid has moved from the city of Lakewood to the city of Auburn; Roger Lubovich has moved from Kent to the city of Bremerton; Tom Brubaker has been appointed to be city attorney of Kent; and Heidi Horst has moved from the city of Tacoma to become the new city attorney of Lakewood.

Questions?

If you have any questions concerning the WSAMA conference, please contact Donita Mowers or Patrick Mason at Municipal Research & Services Center:

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See you at the beach!



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