



WSAMA News

Volume 2009, No. 1

February 2009

2009 Spring Conference Edition

Where

Semiahmoo Resort
Blaine, Washington



When

April 29 - May 1, 2009

Hotel Room Block Cut-Off

March 29, 2009

Hotel Reservation Number

(800) 770-7992, Group Code: 26D2AJ

Conference Registration

The spring WSAMA conference will be held at Semiahmoo Resort, Blaine, Washington, on April 29 - May 1, 2009. WSAMA met once before at Semiahmoo in 2004, and it was a very popular location with conference attendees.

The materials needed to register for this conference are available on the WSAMA Web site at www.wsama.org:

- Preliminary Agenda
- WSAMA Conference Registration Form
- Optional Golf Scramble Form

Hotel Registration

Conference attendees should make their own hotel reservations directly with Semiahmoo Resort at (800) 770-7992. Be sure to mention the Group Code

26D2AJ, in order to obtain the conference room rates. The room rates are very reasonable – in view of the difficult economic times the resort has reduced the already low conference room rates to only \$111 for a classic view room, \$135 for a waterview room and \$159 for a waterview executive room!

This rate is guaranteed until **March 29, 2009**, so please make your room reservations early! The hotel will honor the same guest room rate for three days on either side of the conference for those who arrive early or stay over the weekend following the conference.

Program Highlights

We will meet in the usual all-day Thursday and one-half day Friday format for the main program. We have requested 9.75 hours of CLE credits total – this includes 1.0 hour of ethics credits. There will NOT be a New Municipal Attorney Seminar at this conference.

One highlight of the conference will undoubtedly be a presentation by John McKay, Professor of Law at Seattle University School of Law and former U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Washington. Professor McKay will offer his unique perspective on “Ethical Concerns Regarding Political Pressure on Prosecutors.”

The program will also cover in more detail a variety of other topics, including several related to some of the legal issues raised by the difficult economic times – including how to handle reductions in force and furloughs. There will a significant amount of time devoted to the challenging issues involved in complying with public records laws. There will be information city attorneys need to know about

new 2009 legislative enactments and potential audit issues from the Office of the State Auditor, as well as updates in the areas of criminal, personnel, and land use law.

In addition, there will be a concurrent criminal law session on Thursday afternoon. The session will focus on basic trial techniques with comprehensive presentations on cross-examination and direct examination by expert prosecutors.

Criminal justice reimbursement will be available for up to \$50 for those who travel at least 50 miles to attend the conference and stay overnight in a commercial facility.

See the preliminary agenda for the full list of topics and speakers!

Social Highlights!

There will be a welcome reception beginning Wednesday night at 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. with hosted hors d'oeuvres and cash bar. On Thursday evening there will be a hosted reception from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. so members can socialize and network.

We want to thank our sponsors whose generous contributions have made these receptions possible: **Kenyon Disend; Foster Pepper; Ogden Murphy Wallace; K & L Preston Gates Ellis; and Keating, Bucklin & McCormack.** In addition, WSAMA welcomes a new sponsor, the law firm of **GordonDerr!** GordonDerr has been in existence for more than a quarter century and specializes in Land Use Law, Environmental and Water Law, Real Estate Law, Civil Litigation, and Land Use Planning.

There will be a luncheon on Thursday at which time the WSAMA awards for this year will be presented. In addition, the conference registration includes a continental breakfast Thursday morning and full breakfast Friday morning.

The golf scramble will be held on Friday afternoon at 1:00 p.m. at North Bellingham Golf Course. The rate for the eighteen hole scramble is \$50, which includes the golf cart.

Food Drive

In view of the unprecedented financial crisis that is facing our state and country, the WSAMA board decided to add an additional event to our usual conference format. We are asking attendees to bring to the conference suitable canned or dried food items as donations. Staff will collect these donations and arrange to contribute them to local city food banks for distribution to those in need. Thank you for your support of this service project!

WCIA Conference Credit

The Washington Cities Insurance Authority (WCIA) has approved this conference for Compact Credit for their members.

Conference Questions???

If you have any questions about the spring conference at Semiahmoo Resort, contact either **Donita Knutson** or **Patrick Mason** at the Municipal Research and Services Center:

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