



WSAMA News

Volume 2011, No. 1

February 2011

2011 Spring Conference Edition

Where – Semiahmoo Resort in Blaine, Washington

When – April 27-29, 2011

Hotel Room Block Cut-Off Date – March 27, 2011

Hotel Reservation Number – (800) 770-7992

Conference Registration

The spring WSAMA conference will be held at Semiahmoo Resort in Blaine, Washington. We held our spring conference at Semiahmoo Resort in 2009 and it was so popular with our members that we decided to return this year.

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

- Preliminary Agenda
- Conference Registration Form
- Golf Scramble Form

Hotel Registration

Conference attendees should make their own hotel reservations directly with Semiahmoo Resort at (800) 770-7992. The hotel is offering us excellent rates for their rooms: \$119 for classic rooms per night and \$139 for waterview rooms. There is *no* additional resort fee, parking is free, and there is also free in-room wireless internet access. Be sure to identify yourself as a WSAMA conference attendee to be eligible for the conference rates.

This rate is guaranteed until **March 27, 2011**, so please make your room reservations early! The hotel will honor the same conference room rate for those who arrive up to three days early or stay over three days after the conference (on a space-available basis).

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 1.00 hours of ethics credits. There will *not* be a *New Municipal Attorney Seminar* on Wednesday afternoon this year – there will be such a seminar in the fall.

For the first time, there will be separate civil and criminal law sessions for both Thursday afternoon and Friday morning! This will allow prosecutors to receive over six hours of specialized training on criminal law topics.

The joint session for both civil and criminal law will include one hour of ethics training in regard to the role of the city attorney vis-à-vis the council and administration in the city. There will be presentations relating to medical marijuana dispensaries, abating chronic nuisances, and a discussion of a proposed court rule amendment that may affect required public defender standards.

The criminal sessions will include a wet lab demonstration and a focus on what a prosecutor needs to know on standard field sobriety tests. There will also be presentations on the crimes of cyberstalking/cyberharassment and the constitutional rights of crime victims.

The civil sessions will include an update on public records law, land use law, and an update on the 2011 legislative session. A lightning round of short topics will also be included. And additional presentations will cover water law, basics of collective bargaining, utility accounts in bankruptcy, and when and how best to utilize bond counsel.

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 on Wednesday night from 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 our receptions possible: **Kenyon Disend; Foster Pepper; Ogden Murphy Wallace; K & L Preston Gates Ellis; Inslee, Best, Doezie & Ryder; Keating, Bucklin & McCormack; GordonDerr; and Susan Drummond Law Firm.**

The golf scramble will be held on Friday afternoon at the Semiahmoo Golf and Country Gold at Semiahmoo Resort. The rate for the 18-hole scramble is \$70, which includes the golf cart. We want to thank the law firm of **Ryan Swanson & Cleveland** for sponsoring the golf tournament and **Roger Myklebust**, in particular.

There will be a luncheon on Thursday. There will also be a hosted reception Thursday night so members can socialize and network. In addition, the conference registration includes a continental breakfast Thursday morning and a full breakfast Friday morning.

Welcome New Sponsor

The private law firms that sponsor WSAMA conferences help us keep our registration fees to a minimum for attendance at our conference. We appreciate all of the firms that contribute to our conferences.

We want to especially welcome a new sponsor, the law firm of **Susan Drummond**. Here is a description of the services provided by this firm:

The Law Offices of Susan Elizabeth Drummond, PLLC focuses on serving the land use needs of municipal clients. The Firm works with the Growth Management Act, State Environmental Policy Act, and other statutes, and routinely addresses a wide range of planning and permitting issues. This work includes defending land use decisions before local administrative bodies, the Growth Board, and superior and appellate courts. The Firm prides itself on resolving novel land use issues, such as Ms. Drummond's work on permitting over 2,000 MW of wind development (more than any lawyer in the state); addressing natural gas drilling; litigating and resolving new GMA issues; and drafting legislation supporting local planning efforts. The Firm's primary objective is to expedite resolution of land use issues for its clients through the best available tools, whether that be up front planning, legislation, settlement, or, when necessary, litigation.

WSAMA Awards for 2011

Each year WSAMA recognizes a few of its members whose outstanding contributions in the field of municipal law are worthy of special recognition.

The highest award given by WSAMA is called the *Ernest Campbell Award for Excellence in the Practice of Municipal Law*. It is named for Dr. Ernest Campbell, whose long service in the field of municipal law from the 1930s to the 1980s set a standard of excellence in practice that was recognized by establishing this award in his name. This award really is the equivalent of a distinguished life service award.

Ernest Campbell Award Recipient in 2011

Sandy Watson, Seattle

Sandy served for many years in the legal department of the city of Seattle and retired in July 2010. She served as President of WSAMA in 1995-1996, and chaired the WSAMA civil topics committee for many years. Sandy received the *Outstanding Service Award* in 2003, the first year it was awarded. She has presented frequently at WSAMA conferences and handled a number of significant cases for the city of Seattle, especially in the area of land use. Sandy also been a mentor to countless municipal attorneys in the state over her career. Sandy will be an excellent addition to the list of Ernest Campbell award winners.

The other WSAMA achievement award is called the *Outstanding Service Award* (OSA). The criteria for the OSA is as follows:

The Outstanding Service Award is established to honor municipal lawyers for their role in achieving the objectives of WSAMA through their dedicated efforts to one or more municipalities and/or to WSAMA's work and program, thereby significantly contributing to the solution of municipal legal problems throughout Washington State.

There were two attorneys who will receive the **Outstanding Service Award in 2011**. They are:

Robert Beaumier, Senior Assistant City Attorney of Spokane, Retired in December 2010

Wayne Tanaka, Partner in Ogden Murphy Wallace, City Attorney for Issaquah

Both Robert Beaumier and Wayne Tanaka have made valuable contributions in the field of municipal law and are worthy recipients of the Outstanding Service Award.

These awards will be presented at the spring conference at Semiahmoo Resort in April.

WCIA Conference Credit

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

Legal Notes

Paper Copy or USB Flash Drive

We will still be making conference materials available to attendees in either electronic format on a flash drive or in paper copy. You can select when you register which version of materials you want, or both if that is your preference.

All conference papers that we receive ahead of the conference will be posted and the members notified that the papers are available to download and bring to the conference. Then conference attendees will be given the option of registering at a lower conference registration fee and not receiving any additional materials at the conference. In the alternative, conference attendees can select and pay an additional fee for either the conference materials loaded on a flash drive, or paper copies bound in Legal Notes, or both.

Remember all the conference papers will be posted on the WSAMA web site within two weeks of the conclusion of the conference and will be available to all members.

Questions?

If you have any questions about the spring conference at the Semiahmoo Resort in Blaine, Washington contact either **Donita Knutson** (dknutson@mrsc.org) or **Patrick Mason** (pmason@mrsc.org) at MRSC.

