



WSAMA News

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February 2012

2012 Spring Conference

Venue

Skamania Lodge, Stevenson, Washington

Dates

April 25-27, 2012

Room Block Closing Date

March 26, 2012

Reservation Number

(800) 224-7117



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Conference Registration

The spring WSAMA conference will be held at Skamania Lodge near Stevenson, Washington on the Columbia Gorge. This is a popular location for our conferences and we have not met here since 2006.

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

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

A New Municipal Attorney Seminar will NOT be held on Wednesday afternoon, but there will be a Wednesday afternoon seminar sponsored by Washington Cities Insurance Authority (WCIA) on a topic that has yet to be determined, for both WCIA members and other attendees.

Hotel Registration

Conference attendees should make their own hotel reservations directly with Skamania Lodge at 1-800-221-7117. The hotel is offering the following rates for their rooms: \$142 for Forest View rooms and \$162 for River View rooms, but note there is also a \$14 a day resort fee to cover such items as unlimited free local calls and free WiFi in the guest rooms. Be sure to identify yourself as a WSAMA conference attendee to be eligible for the conference rates.

In addition, guests can make their room reservations online at the Skamania Lodge website. When you open their website, click on Reserve a Room, then click on Promo Code, then enter WSAMA2012 under Group Code. You should automatically receive the conference room rate.

This rate is guaranteed only until March 26, 2012 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

The usual all-day Thursday and one-half day Friday format for the main program will be utilized. We have requested 10.25 hours of CLE credits total – this includes 1.0 hours of ethics credits and also includes .5 CLE credits for the luncheon presentation. There will NOT be a New Municipal Attorney Seminar on Wednesday afternoon this year – there will be such a seminar in the fall.

Also, we will continue with 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.

We expect the lunch presentation by Hugh Spitzer of Foster Pepper to be one of the highlights of the conference. Hugh recently was part of a WSBA sponsored group that traveled to Cuba for a week of meetings focused on the structure of the Cuban legal system and contemporary Cuban law. Hugh will report on this visit – he is an interesting speaker on any topic and this should be especially fascinating.

The joint session for both civil and criminal law will include one hour of ethics training focusing on situations where the city has internal conflicts and particularly on the role of the city attorney in dealing with these. There will be also be presentations relating to regulating protests and demonstrations, such as Occupy Wall Street; a legislative update from the 2012 session; and an update on qualified immunity and related issues in Section 1983 cases.

The criminal sessions will include a demonstration and legal review of the Drager 9510 – the next era of breath testing; mental health restoration hearings; probation violations – burdens of proof and evidentiary rule; and search warrants for blood – how to train your officers, how to obtain, and when to use.

The civil sessions will include an update on public records law; a panel on public works issues, including prevailing wage and alternative public works contracting procedures; FEMA Floodplains and NMFS BiOp; a nuts and bolts session on franchises; and interpreting collective bargaining agreements from the perspective of labor arbitrators. A lightning

round of short topics will also be included, along with roundtables on focused legal issues, including the AT&T Mobile Tax Refund Claim.

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 a 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 Gates; Inslee, Best, Doezie & Ryder; Keating, Bucklin & McCormack; GordonDerr; Law Offices of Susan Drummond; Lighthouse Law Group; Weed, Graafstra and Benson; and Pacifica Law Group.

The golf scramble will be held on Friday afternoon at the Skamania Lodge Golf Course. The rate for the 18-hole scramble is \$40, 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 for making the specific arrangements.

In addition, the conference registration includes a continental breakfast Thursday morning and a full breakfast Friday morning.

WSAMA Awards for 2012

Each year WSAMA recognizes 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 Lifetime Achievement Award. It is

meant to be a particularly significant honor and so it is not necessarily awarded every year – this year there will not be an Ernest Campbell Award recipient.

The other primary 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.”

One attorney will receive the Outstanding Service Award in 2012. He is:

Patrick Fitzpatrick – Asst. City Attorney of Kent

Pat is being recognized for his service to WSAMA and all cities regarding the proposal to adopt Standards for Indigent Defense as court rules. These standards have the potential to have a significant impact on local governments in the state. Pat has been primarily responsible for helping WSAMA formulate a response to these rules and transmitting that response to the Board of Governors of the WSBA and the Supreme Court both in writing and in personal appearances before the Board and the WSBA Rules Committee.

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 continue 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, in which case the attendee will not receive any additional materials at the conference. In the alternative, conference attendees can select and pay an additional fee and receive the conference materials either loaded on a flash drive or in paper form bound in *Legal Notes*, or both.

Remember that all the conference papers will be posted on the WSAMA website 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 Skamania Lodge, contact either **Donita Knutson** (dknutson@mrsc.org) or **Patrick Mason** (pmason@mrsc.org) at MRSC, (206) 625-1300.