



Washington State Association of Municipal Attorneys

WSAMA SPONSORSHIP POLICY

I. BACKGROUND

- A. WSAMA exists primarily to support and serve lawyers who work for Washington cities and towns. Some municipal lawyers are employed directly by the city the lawyer represents; others work for private firms that have cities and towns as clients.
- B. WSAMA has maintained a long-standing policy to limit organizational participation in issues that conflict with or could adversely affect any of the cities or towns member attorneys represent. For example:
 - 1. WSAMA does not take a position on legislative issues that are not universally supported by all cities and towns.
 - 2. WSAMA does not file amicus briefs on legal issues if a city or town indicates that participation on an amicus request could result in a possible conflict or adverse impact.
 - 3. WSAMA asks attorneys from firms that have represented clients in positions directly adverse to a Washington city or town to refrain from attending roundtable discussions at WSAMA conferences so that other member attorneys can freely discuss legal issues without fear of compromising litigation positions.
- C. Some law firms generously contribute to conference costs by paying an additional fee to be a conference sponsor. Sponsors receive specialized acknowledgement on conference materials as sponsors, by use of sponsor logos on program brochures and poster boards, etc.
- D. WSAMA appreciates sponsorships and benefits from the additional revenue received from its sponsor program.
- E. But a law firm sponsor that takes a position in litigation or makes a claim adverse to a Washington city or town has elected to create a conflict not just with the adverse city or town, but also with a core WSAMA principle and policy.

II. POLICY

- A. If a Washington city or town notifies the WSAMA President that it objects to WSAMA's acceptance of any conference sponsor because the sponsoring firm

has appeared in an adverse capacity against that city or town, the Board will decide whether to decline that sponsorship. After having declined a firm's sponsorship, the Board will not accept that firm's sponsorship in the future without first consulting with the city or town that originally objected to the sponsorship.

- B. The ultimate determination to accept a sponsorship (even if WSAMA has previously declined the sponsorship) resides with the Board, taking into account whether doing so violates WSAMA's policy to avoid representational conflicts and its core principle to serve member attorneys who represent cities and towns.