



WSBA World Peace Through Law Section

July 2008

"I like to believe that people in the long run are going to do more to promote peace than our governments.

Indeed, I think that people want peace so much that one of these days governments had better get out of the way and let them have it."

- Dwight D. Eisenhower

Organizing Meeting

July 29, 2008

It's time for the annual Section Organizing Meeting!

On Tuesday, July 29th, the WSBA World Peace Through Law Section Section plans our Section's future, noon to 1:00 p.m., at the WSBA office in Seattle. Pre-registration is not required. CLE credit will not be applied for.

Pre-registration for this event *is not required*; there is no cost; there will be no application for CLE credit. We hope to see you there to join in the conversation!

Agenda

Self-Introductions: Let's go around the room and introduce ourselves and our interests. It's a great way to network and practice your "elevator speech."

Budget: Briefly presented for comment and discussion as needed.

Leadership Opportunities. The recent past practice has been for the Chair to do most everything; however this makes it hard to recruit a Chair because most people are *very busy*! I suggest we split up the job into small tasks that offer leadership opportunities in bite-sized chunks, as follows:

- **Programs Chair:** This is the plum position, because WSBA staff does most of the work. All the PC has to do is recruit speakers for the monthly mini-CLEs. This is a great opportunity to meet lots of people. In my experience, contacting interesting people to see if they'd like to talk about their interesting work is rewarding fun!
- **Year-End Chair:** In the past few years, we've combined our annual meeting with a Year-End CLE that's attracted many new members and covered a variety of topics. Sometimes we've adopted a theme and explored it in depth; other times we have a potpourri or "Year-End Roundup of Human Rights." This is an opportunity to make contacts and build your resume by planning an event that bears the stamp of your interests; as with the "Programs Chair," you'll get a lot of practical support.
- **Outreach Chair:** There are many groups and individuals in our state working in the area of rights law, public international law, and human rights law.
- **Section Chair:** We officially need a new one come December. This gives you the opportunity to encourage the Section in the direction you prefer, while making great contacts. I've enjoyed it very much but we need new people.

For the Good of the Order: What are we doing? What should we do? What's worked, and what needs improvement? Now is your chance to weigh in, stand up, speak up and be counted.

- R.E.W.



Section Executive Committee

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Newsletter and Acting Chair

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[www.wsba.org/lawyers
/groups/worldpeace](http://www.wsba.org/lawyers/groups/worldpeace)

- or -

WSBA Service Center
800-945-WSBA (9722)
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The World Peace Through Law Section at 25

by Robin Lindley, former Section Chair
(An interview from April 2006 *Bar News*)

In 1980, Ronald Reagan was elected president, defeating Jimmy Carter. Adolfo Perez Esquivel of Argentina won the Nobel Peace Prize for promoting human rights in Latin America, and the World Health Organization announced the worldwide eradication of smallpox.

In that same year, at the height of the Cold War, a group of prescient Washington attorneys formed the World Peace Through Law Section of the Washington State Bar Association.

As explained in a February 1981 *Bar News* account, the goal of the World Peace Through Law Section "is to encourage lawyers to involve themselves in the current international effort to improve the effectiveness of international law and legal institutions. A fundamental purpose of the Section is to help promote the development of world peace with fairness and justice for all human beings throughout the world."

Randy Winn (Acting Section Chair): Like all State Bar sections, we're a voluntary group of lawyers. We meet to educate ourselves and others, particularly through CLEs each month with expert speakers on issues of law and peace.

Robin Lindley (Former Section Chair): How is the Section different from the International Practice Section?

Winn: The International Practice Section relates to commercial matters. I'd like to see more joint programs with them, [because] people who trade with one another are less likely to fight. And [for example,] we could learn how commercial entities resolve disputes and deal with cultural differences.

Lindley: In this post-Cold War world, the Section continues to deal with disarmament and related issues, but also increasingly focuses on human rights. And human rights are inextricably bound to establishing peaceful societies and international relations.

Winn: The biggest issue in the Cold War was arms control. When there's a crisis that can leave everyone dead in 30 minutes, it focuses the mind, and peace becomes the absence of nuclear war. But now, other issues are coming to the fore . . . and we can deal with the spectrum of peace issues from nations not being at war to nations extending human rights to individuals. For example, [U.S. District Court] Judge Coughenour recently spoke of his work on criminal law reform in the former Soviet Union. ...

[Read the whole article: http://wsba.org/media/publications/barnews/apr-lindley.htm.](http://wsba.org/media/publications/barnews/apr-lindley.htm)

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