



WSBA World Peace through Law Section

March 2009

“The ultimate test of a moral society is the kind of world that it leaves to its children.”

-- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Workgroup on the Ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child *March 24, 2009*

On March 24, 2009, the Section hosts a work group meeting from noon to 1 p.m. at the WSBA office at 1325 4th Avenue, 6th floor. The purpose is to follow up with the WPTL-sponsored CLE on February 24th, “*Convention on the Rights of the Child: Overcoming Obstacles to Ratification.*”

The Section invites both Section members and other interested persons to join us in the work session. This is not a Continuing Legal Education (CLE) activity.

At the work group meeting we will discuss the possibility of forming a Seattle chapter of the U.S. Campaign to Ratify the Convention. We will review other activities that the group could pursue in support of the efforts that are occurring nationwide. All ideas and efforts are welcome. For more information, please contact Section member Jana Heyd at jana.heyd@scraplaw.org or (206) 322-8400, ext. 3143.

About Work Group Meetings

The Section Executive Committee, in discussing ways of improving the Section, wanted to continue with regular mini-CLEs but recognized that there was a problem. Many Section members want to do more than passively receive education — they are also interested in actively discussing and working on issues, within the limits of the Section. While the Section, as a part of the WSBA, is somewhat limited as to the positions it can take on legislation, it is very appropriate for it to promote discussion and to provide a forum for Section members to work on issues that are raised during CLEs.

This March meeting is the first of our workshops. It’s an experiment; how well it goes depends on how people participate. If you want more, please jump in! Our regular program of mini-CLEs at lunchtime will continue next month; topic to be announced.

Join the Section List Serve

The Executive Committee also encourages Section members to join our list serve at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/wsba-worldpeace>. This can facilitate discussion between meetings. It’s also a way to distribute documents that are too large to be mailed to Section members unable to attend meetings. If you have not been receiving messages from the list serve (roughly one a week) go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/wsba-worldpeace> and join, or contact the list serve administrator at rewinn2003@yahoo.com.

From Your Section Chair

**2009
Section
Leadership**

Chair
Nandini Rao

Chair-elect
Martha Schmidt

Secretary-Treasurer
Paul Schlossman

Executive Board
Mamie Brown
Jana Heyd
Isabelle Talleyrand

Newsletter
Randy Winn

Contact Us!

www.wsba.org/lawyers/groups/worldpeace

- or -

WSBA Service Center
800-945-WSBA (9722)
206-443-WSBA (9722)

To those of you whom I have not had the pleasure of meeting, I want to take this opportunity to formally introduce myself. My name is Nandini Rao and I am the 2009 Section chair. I was born and raised in Michigan and moved to Seattle a little over a year ago. I have practiced creditors' rights bankruptcy and am currently doing contract work for K&L Gates. Being of East Indian origin, I was incredibly fortunate to have been able to travel to India numerous times and because of that, I developed a love for traveling at a very young age. I am fluent in a South Indian dialect, conversational in Spanish, and studied Portuguese for two years. My passion for traveling and international issues led me to complete a concentration in International and Comparative law while in law school. I took such courses as International Environmental Law, Public International Law, and European Union Law and had the opportunity to intern with the U.S. Customs Department. I have been a member of the World Peace Through Law Section since 2007 and am very excited to lead our group this year.

Our Section's bylaws state that its major purpose is to "*persuade the nations of the world to accept more treaties and conventions in order to expand the network of transnational law and legal institutions, thus fostering the development of a world peace with justice in all areas of international contact of people and nations. This purpose is intended to be expressed under the leadership of the World Peace Through Law Center, an international bar association which has its headquarters in Washington D.C.*" The WPTL Executive Committee's goal for this year is to not only continue to focus on international topics such as war, peace and law, but also to implement work sessions where members can become more actively involved in such issues. We will continue to have our informative forums; however they will not be every month. Instead, we will have a CLE on a given topic and then implement a workshop the following month that relates to that particular program. I believe this new structure will give us all the opportunity to utilize our knowledge, skills and expertise to make a positive difference in our city, state, country and world.

In closing, I want to say that I feel truly honored to be the 2009 WPTL Section chair. I am really looking forward to the great things we as a group will accomplish this year!

Sincerely,
Nandini Rao

About the Campaign for U.S. Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

The Campaign for U.S. Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) is a volunteer-driven network of academics, attorneys, child and human rights advocates, educators, members of religious and faith-based communities, physicians, representatives from non-governmental organizations, students, and other concerned citizens who seek to bring about U.S. ratification and implementation of the CRC.

During the 2002 U.N. Special Session on Children, members of the U.S. delegation dismissed the CRC and its principles. Their criticism of the CRC underscored a lack of unified action over the years by U.S. proponents of the CRC to address incomplete or misleading information about the Convention.

Through the leadership of the Child Welfare League of America (CWLA), a core group of child advocates convened the first meeting of the Campaign for U.S. Ratification of the CRC in August 2002. Participants focused on efforts needed to build a national coalition. In 2003, representatives from more than 50 U.S. non-governmental organizations met in Washington, D.C., for a two-day strategy session entitled "Moving the CRC Forward in the United States." Out of this effort, the Campaign for U.S. Ratification of the CRC was formalized. From its origins, the Campaign has grown to encompass membership from 200 organizations and academic institutions. MORE INFORMATION: <http://childrightscampaign.org/crcindex.php>

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