



WSBA World Peace through Law Section

February 2010

February 23: What's the Mission?

The Section will meet at noon on February 23, 2010 to discuss our Section's mission so we can complete updating our ByLaws. It is very important to get as much input as possible from members, so please come and tell us why you think the Section exists and what we should do. If you absolutely cannot attend, please send your comments to the Section's list serve so as many people as possible can think it over. If you're a Section member, your ideas are important!

After this hour-long meeting, the Executive Committee will meet from 1-2; members should feel free to stay and comment.

The resolution our Section adopted in December on the Convention on the Rights of the Child is being submitted to the Board of Governors in March.

Cost: There is no cost for this event. All are invited! *We hope to see you there!*

2010 Upcoming Events

- **March 23: "Low-Wage Workers, Migration, and Human Rights"**
This general introduction to international labor rights features Rebecca Smith, the coordinator of the Immigrant Worker Justice Project of the National Employment Law Project (<http://www.nelp.org>). We'll focus on specific standards applicable to low wage and migrant workers and discussion of litigation and other means of enforcement of rights in international fora. Noon – 1 p.m. at the WSBA office, 1325 4th Ave., Ste. 600, Seattle. Approved for 1 general CLE credit. Free for Section members and law students; \$25 for others. Register now: <https://pro.wsba.org/forms/cle/M100323.asp>
- **April 27:** We will be doing a CLE program on international environmental issues.
- **May 25:** Professor and attorney Rick Lorenz will speak on "*The Legal Obligations of an Occupying Power under International Humanitarian Law.*"
- **June – December:** Programs tbd. Let's hear your ideas!

This is a publication of a section of the Washington State Bar Association. All opinions and comments represent the views of the author and are not necessarily endorsed by WSBA, its officers or agents.

**"Every act of aggression disturbs the harmony of the universe, and therefore includes an opportunity for the aggressor to ruin himself."
- M. Ueshiba**

Section Leadership

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Martha Schmidt

Chair-Elect

Jana Heyd

Immediate Past Chair

Nandini Rao

Secretary-Treasurer

Paul Schlossman

Executive Committee

Jana Heyd

**Julian Saucedo-
Wheeler**

Mamie S. Brown

Newsletter

Randy Winn

Contact Us!

www.wsba.org/lawyer/s/groups/worldpeace

- or -

WSBA Service Center
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Followup on January 26's *The Right to Housing*

The Section's January meeting featured a very successful program linking international rights to housing issues here in Washington state. The UN Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing, Raquel Rolnik, is continuing her research, as seen at <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/housing> while others do their part, as Section member Mamie Brown reports:

Homelessness in Seattle

According to the King County Committee to End Homelessness, more than 8,000 people were counted as homeless in Seattle. The Committee estimates that 5,800 homeless are staying in emergency shelter and transitional housing overnight and approximately 2,800 people remain on the streets. Half of all individuals in King County shelters are children age birth-17. According to *Real Change*, those who are turned away from shelters are routinely subject to sweeps where property, such as their survival gear, is confiscated by city workers and placed in a refuse truck.

First, there is a serious need to reassess Seattle's Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness. While Seattle's ten-year plan has primarily focused on reallocating funding from emergency and transitional programs toward permanent housing solutions, Mayor McGinn wants to increase transitional and emergency shelter funding as well as daytime hygiene drop-in centers and community centers to address the thousands of homeless people who spend their nights on the streets of Seattle. He also proposes to relax restrictions on public library access policies that disproportionately impact homeless people; reevaluate city public safety policies that specifically target homeless people; expand funding of and reduced restrictions on the city's REACH teams; and expand affordable housing.

Second, Mayor McGinn wants to expand the human services that the city provides without any additional cost by focusing on efficiency. His proposal involves creating Multi-Service Centers and a temporary "virtual" system that connects the many nonprofits in the city. He also proposes the creation of a site that will provide shelter referrals and healthcare, mental health treatment and work search assistance.

Third, Mayor McGinn has also proposed expanding public health and nutrition services. In Seattle, there is an urgent need for better preventative care for the uninsured homeless and working poor. He hopes to work with King County to maintain Public Health services despite budget shortfalls; expand food voucher programs that allow working poor families to access farmers' markets; and fund a healthy nutrition program for city-funded shelters.

More information is available at <http://www.seattle.gov/mayor>.