



WSBA World Peace through Law Section

September 2010

“Through the release of atomic energy, our generation has brought into the world the most revolutionary force since prehistoric man's discovery of fire.... [T]here is no secret and there is no defense; there is no possibility of control except through the aroused understanding and insistence of the peoples of the world. In this lies our only security and our only hope – we believe that an informed citizenry will act for life and not for death.”

- Albert Einstein

Civil Society and the Making of Public International Law: The Nuclear Disarmament Movement's Effect on Nuclear Weapons Policy and Treaties Monday, September 27, 2010

The Section's meeting on Monday September 27, noon – 1:30 p.m., features historian Lawrence S. Wittner, Ph.D., discussing his research and books on the nuclear disarmament movement, U.S. foreign and nuclear policy, and international law. A former president of the Council on Peace Research in History, and the recipient of major grants and fellowships from the MacArthur Foundation and National Endowment of the Humanities, he is the author of numerous books, most recently *Confronting the Bomb: A Short History of the World Nuclear Disarmament Movement*, a convenient abbreviation of his award-winning, massively researched trilogy detailing the successes of the grassroots anti-nuclear movement, *The Struggle Against the Bomb*.

CLE Credit: Approved for 1.5 general CLE credit.

Cost: Free for Section members and law students; \$25 for others. Register now! *We hope to see you there.*

Please Note the Location: WSBA-CLE Conference Center at Century Square, 1501 Fourth Ave., Ste. 308, Seattle. This is not the WSBA offices on 4th Ave., 6th floor, but the new Conference facilities two blocks north, which are more convenient to parking and light rail. There are ample facilities on the ground floor for picking up a light lunch to enjoy at this “brown bag” event!

Upcoming Section Events

Mark your calendars for our upcoming mini CLEs at conference space in Rainier Square, Seattle:

- Tuesday, October 26, noon - 1 p.m., Prof. Joel Ngugi, UW Law School, speaking on trade and human rights
- Thursday, November 18, noon - 1 p.m., speaker and topic, tba

From “Global Zero – Frequently Asked Questions”

“In recent months, the threat of proliferation and nuclear terrorism has led to a growing chorus of world leaders calling for the elimination of all nuclear weapons – including conservative realists and military leaders. And the public supports them: recent polling shows that the worldwide public, including in the nuclear weapons countries, overwhelmingly favors Zero. This new and unprecedented support for Zero from key governments around the world has made reaching this goal – while still difficult – possible. The alternative -- continuing with the status quo and the ongoing spread of nuclear weapons -- is not a realistic solution to the problem....”

Continued: <http://www.globalzero.org/en/faq>

**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-
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Mamie S. Brown

Newsletter
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Contact Us!

- or -

WSBA Service Center
800-945-WSBA (9722)
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WSBA Board of Governors Passes Section Resolution on the Convention on the Rights of the Child

On July 24, the Board of Governors of the Washington State Bar Association passed the resolution proposed by the World Peace Through Law Section on the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Joining Martha Schmidt, Chair, at the vote were Chair-Elect, Jana Heyd, and Paul Schlossman, Secretary-Treasurer.



Pictured after the vote at the July BOG meeting:
Leland Kerr, Catherine Moore, Brian Comstock,
Marc Silverman, Martha Schmidt.

The resolution was supported by the International Practice and Juvenile Law Sections and opposed by the Family Law Executive Committee. Letters of support for the resolution were sent to President Salvador Mungia by family law practitioner and noted civil rights activist, Rita Bender, and by Steven Reisler (former member, BOG), President of the Seattle Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild.

A motion in favor of the resolution was made by Marc Silverman (Dist. 1). Voting in favor of the resolution were Brian Comstock (Dist. 8), Loren Etengoff (Dist. 3), Anthony Gipe (At-Large), Leland Kerr (Dist. 4), Roger Leishman (Dist. 7 West), and Cathy Moore (Dist. 7 East). Opposed were Geoffrey Gibbs, Lori Haskell and David Heller. (Not present: Nancy Isserlis, Carla Lee, Patrick Palace, and Brenda Williams.)

Although we believed we were the first state bar association to adopt a resolution supporting ratification of the CRC, we have learned recently that the New York State Bar Association was the first. They passed a resolution in the late 1990s submitted by the Committee on Children and the Law and soon thereafter they persuaded the New York State Legislature to go on record in support of ratification of the treaty.

WPTL is following up the resolution by working with other parts of the WSBA and with faculty from Washington law schools to bring academics and practitioners together to launch a discussion on human rights treaties, the substantive provisions of the CRC, the ratification process, the self-executing treaty doctrine, and issues and concerns about compliance, potential conflicts and inconsistencies between the treaty and state law. At the University of Washington, Dean Testy has designated Professors Sylvia Kang'ara, Lisa Kelly and Joel Ngugi to cooperate in this endeavor, and at Gonzaga University, we have begun to work with Dean Critchlow and Professor Upendra Acharya.

Section members are encouraged to join the followup effort by contacting Jana Heyd at jana.heyd@scraplaw.org. The Board has done its part; now it is time for us to do ours!

More Information:

WSBA Press Release: <http://www.wsba.org/media/releases/convention0810.htm>

Text of Resolution: <http://tinyurl.com/2dq8ad6>

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.