



WSBA World Peace through Law Section

November 2009

“Peace is not merely a distant goal that we seek, but a means by which we arrive at that goal.”

- Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Section Elections: Nominate Now!

The Nominating Committee for upcoming elections in December for open WPTL Section officer and executive committee positions includes Phil Ginsberg, phg@stokeslaw.com; Lisa von Trotha, vontroth@live.com; and Lynne Wilson, lynnewilsonatty@gmail.com.

Open officer positions to serve a one-year term include Chair-elect and Secretary-Treasurer. Also vacant is an Executive Committee position to serve the last two years of a three-year term vacated by Isabelle Talleyrand.

Nominations, including self-nominations, from members of the WPTL Section should be e-mailed to the members of the Nominating Committee. Please submit the candidate's name, contact information, position sought, a statement of intention and a short biographical paragraph. All nominations and supporting information must be received by the Nominating Committee by the close of business on December 10. Section members will be able to vote by mail once nominations are completed if there is more than one candidate for an open position.

Ralph J. Bunche Award: Nominate Now!

The Ralph J. Bunche Award Nomination Committee, including Paul Schlossman, paaaaas@yahoo.com, and Julian Saucedo Wheeler, is accepting nominations for the award to be presented at the WPTL Section's year-end social on December 16. Nominations and supporting information must be received by the committee by the close of business on December 10.

Wednesday, December 16: Section Year-End Social

Come one, come all to the WPTL Section's year-end social event on Wednesday, December 16, noon to 2 p.m. at the WSBA office in Seattle. All are welcome – bring a friend or colleague! Chat with other Section members in an informal setting! The Ralph J. Bunche Award will be presented.

January 26: The Right to Housing

The Section's meeting on January 26, 2010, will feature Steve Herbert (co-author of *Banished: The New Social Control in Urban America*) speaking on the right to housing. CLE credit to be applied for.

Thank You, Isabelle!

"On behalf of the Executive Committee, I would like to thank Isabelle Talleyrand for her participation in our organization this past year. Isabelle joined our section as a member of the Executive Committee and worked on numerous WPTL issues, in particular the Section Bylaws. Her enthusiasm and hard work are very much appreciated and we wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors."

– Nandini Rao, Section Chair

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**Section
Leadership**

Chair

Nandini Rao

Chair-elect

Martha Schmidt

Secretary-Treasurer

Paul Schlossman

Executive Board

Mamie S. Brown

Jana L. Heyd

Isabelle Talleyrand

Newsletter

Randy Winn

Contact Us!

- or -

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

The Nobel Peace Prize for 2009

Announcement from the Norwegian Nobel Committee

Oslo, October 9, 2009

"The Norwegian Nobel Committee has decided that the Nobel Peace Prize for 2009 is to be awarded to President Barack Obama for his extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples. The Committee has attached special importance to Obama's vision of and work for a world without nuclear weapons.

Obama has, as President, created a new climate in international politics. Multilateral diplomacy has regained a central position, with emphasis on the role that the United Nations and other international institutions can play. Dialogue and negotiations are preferred as instruments for resolving even the most difficult international conflicts. The vision of a world free from nuclear arms has powerfully stimulated disarmament and arms control negotiations. Thanks to Obama's initiative, the USA is now playing a more constructive role in meeting the great climatic challenges the world is confronting. Democracy and human rights are to be strengthened.

Only very rarely has a person to the same extent as Obama captured the world's attention and given its people hope for a better future. His diplomacy is founded in the concept that those who are to lead the world must do so on the basis of values and attitudes that are shared by the majority of the world's population.

For 108 years, the Norwegian Nobel Committee has sought to stimulate precisely that international policy and those attitudes for which Obama is now the world's leading spokesman. The Committee endorses Obama's appeal that "Now is the time for all of us to take our share of responsibility for a global response to global challenges."

Meeting One of the Defining Challenges of Our Century: Climate Change

2009 UN Climate Change Conference, COP15, in Copenhagen

On December 6-18, 2009, the United Nations will hold a Climate Conference in Copenhagen to draft a long-term international climate change agreement. The Copenhagen outcome is intended to follow on the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, which will expire in 2012. Under the Kyoto Protocol, 37 industrialized countries and the European Community have agreed to reduce their collective greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 5.2% from the level in 1990 by 2012.

The Climate Conference seeks to address mid-term emission reduction targets of industrialized countries; to clarify the actions that developing countries could undertake to limit their greenhouse gas emissions; and to define stable financing to help the developing world reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to inevitable climate changes. If no consensus is reached at the conference, however, the results could be disastrous. According to the UNFCCC, an estimated 200 million people could be displaced as a result of climate impacts by 2050.

Four of five major negotiation sessions leading up to the UN Climate Change Conference have revealed some of the conflicting expectations of industrialized and developing countries. During the fourth negotiation session, held in Bangkok earlier this year, many industrial countries urged the adoption of an agreement that would replace the Kyoto Protocol; the proposed strategy would set clear emissions obligations for emerging nations, including China. However, developing countries are less than thrilled. Developing countries want to extend the Kyoto Protocol to oblige industrialized countries to cut emissions by at least 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2020. They are concerned about the developing world's inability to mitigate the effects of their emissions. During the Bangkok negotiation, China accused the United States, European Union, Japan, Canada and Australia of blocking negotiations.

Additional information on the 2009 UN Climate Change Conference is available at <http://en.cop15.dk/>.

– Mamie Brown, Section Executive Committee Member