



# WSBA

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Stephen R. Crossland  
President-elect

phone: 509.782.4418  
e-mail: [steve@crosslandlaw.net](mailto:steve@crosslandlaw.net)

July 28, 2011

Dear WSBA Member:

Professionals Abroad, a division of Academic Travel Abroad, in consultation with the Washington State Bar Association, is organizing a delegation to visit Cuba this October for the purpose of researching the country's legal system. As President of WSBA, I am honored to have been selected to lead this delegation and invite you to join me in this unique opportunity.

Our delegation will undertake a comprehensive study of the Cuban legal system, from the teaching of law to the criminal justice and judicial systems; civil and family code; business and commercial rights; and resolving domestic and international commercial conflicts.

As you may know, travel to Cuba is restricted by the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) of the United States Treasury Department. This delegation will be travelling under OFAC regulation 31 CFR §515.564 General license for professional research. This license supports our access to the highest level professionals in Cuba. Each member of the delegation must be in compliance with the General License issued by the Office of Foreign Assets Control authorizing full-time professionals to conduct a full-time schedule of research activities in Cuba with the likelihood that this research will be publicly disseminated. To ensure compliance, each participant in the program will be required to provide a résumé and sign an affidavit attesting to their status as a full-time professional, paid or unpaid, in the field. During travel, each delegation member will be given a copy of the regulation that will serve as the license to travel authorized by the Office of Foreign Assets Control.

This delegation will convene in Miami, Florida, on October 16, 2011, at which time we will depart for Cuba. The general program will return to the United States on October 21, 2011. Those who wish to may opt to extend their stay in the Matanzas province for an additional 3 days, returning to Miami on October 24. Delegates will participate in professional meetings and site visits each day; the specific meetings and topics for discussion will be determined by the research interests and composition of the team.

*Working Together to Champion Justice*

305 Aplets Way / Cashmere, WA 98815 / fax: 509.782.4298

No WSBA funds will be applied toward this delegation and each member is responsible for his or her own cost of participation. The cost per delegation member is \$3,995 U.S.D, and includes roundtrip international air arrangements between Miami and Havana, group transportation, meetings, accommodations in double-occupancy rooms, most meals, and essentially all other costs associated with participation, as outlined in the final schedule of activities.

For U.S. citizens, expenses associated with this program may be tax deductible as an ordinary and necessary business expense. We suggest that you consult with a tax advisor to determine if tax deductibility is applicable to you.

Washington, DC-based, Professionals Abroad is a division of Academic Travel Abroad, a 60-year-old organization that handles the logistical arrangements for prestigious organizations, such as National Geographic, the Smithsonian, the American Museum of Natural History, and many top universities. Academic Travel Abroad is licensed by the OFAC as a Travel Services Provider for U.S. travel to Cuba.

Due to the extensive planning and communication involved in coordinating a program of this nature, I ask that you respond with your intentions regarding this invitation as soon as possible. Please RSVP to Professionals Abroad at 1-877-298-9677 or via the web at <http://bit.ly/wsba-cuba>. A \$500 deposit is required to secure your place on the team. In the event that you are unable to accept this invitation, an alternate delegate candidate will be invited. You may also recommend a colleague as your alternate for the program. I look forward to hearing from you regarding your participation.

If you have questions regarding the delegation, please contact our Program Representative at Professionals Abroad, at 1-877-298-9677. For additional program details, to or recommend a colleague to be invited please visit <http://bit.ly/wsba-cuba>.

I am pleased to be involved in this exciting opportunity and hope that you will strongly consider participating in the delegation to Cuba.

Sincerely,



Stephen R. Crossland  
WSBA President

*Working Together to Champion Justice*

305 Aplets Way / Cashmere, WA 98815 / fax: 509.782.4298