

International Practice Section

An Announcement of the International Practice Section of the Washington State Bar Association



Annual Report for 2002-2003 Submitted by Stephanie Ko, Chair

In November 2002, the International Practice Section hosted a reception for foreign lawyers attending LLM at the University of Washington and a few foreign lawyers attending JD at Seattle University. More than seventy local and foreign lawyers, and judges attended the reception. This is an annual event where local and foreign lawyers can share their experience of practicing law in their respective countries and cultivate new friendships.

In March 2003, the International Practice Section hosted a tour to Olympia. About twenty-five foreign lawyers participated. Spending a day there, we visited the Governor's office and the Supreme Court and also attended a public hearing. Chief Justice Alexander and Justice Johnson were able to meet with the group.

In May of this year, the section offered a full-day CLE, "The World Wide Web of Commerce". There were over fifty attendees and the CLE was very well received. Every other month the Section also offers a lunch forum. This is a brown bag lunch. Each forum focuses on a particular subject of interest to members. Attendees usually receive 1.0 or 1.5 CLE credits.

Future goals for the section are to offer more value to members by hosting an activity every other month and increase membership and member participation. We will host a reception early next year and invite law school students to participate in our activities. Members of the International Law Society of both the University of Washington and Seattle University will be invited to this reception. Unfortunately due to the distance and school schedule, we are unable to include students from Gonzaga University to participate in this event.

The Section also published the fourth edition of the handbook, "Doing Business in Washington State – A Guide For Foreign Investment", available in hard copy and CD ROM format. The handbook is a very valuable resource for clients starting their business in this state. More than twenty local attorneys contributed to this project.

WSBA can help the Section by expediting the CLE approval process whenever possible and shorten the lead time needed for mailings. We appreciate the support we get from the WSBA.