



WSBA World Peace Through Law Section

August 2008

**"The trouble with fighting for human freedom is that one spends most of one's time defending scoundrels. For it is against scoundrels that oppressive laws are first aimed, and oppression must be stopped at the beginning if it is to be stopped at all."
- H. L. Mencken**

Current Issues Affecting the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Regime

August 26, 2008

On Tuesday, August 26th, the WSBA World Peace Through Law Section presents "*Current Issues Affecting the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Regime*," featuring Dr. David Hall of Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility (WSPR), noon to 1:00 p.m., at the WSBA office in Seattle.

Dr. Hall has served on the national board of directors of Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) since 1991. He frequently speaks on nuclear weapons; for example, he testified on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty at last year's trial in Kitsap of three activists accused of blocking submarine base traffic.

Dr. Hall has practiced psychiatry in Seattle since 1983, having completed nine years of medical and psychiatric training at the University of Washington. In addition to his work with PSR, he is the author of "Stop Arguing and Start Understanding: Eight Steps to Solving Family Conflicts" and promotes information on family health at <http://www.familyhealing.com>.

Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility (WPSR) focused throughout the 1980s on conveying the Physicians for Social Responsibility message that there is no meaningful medical response to nuclear war and that "prevention is the only cure." In the 1990s, environmental concerns, violence prevention and social justice were added to their list of principal concerns. WPSR's goal is to create a healthy, peaceful and sustainable world through healthy solutions to the gravest threats to human health. See <http://www.wpsr.org/>.

WSPR's parent organization, International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1985 for pioneering disarmament initiatives. See <http://www.ippnw.org/>.

Pre-registration for this event is recommended. Cost is as follows: Members of the WPTL Section, free; non-WPTL Section members, \$25; law students, \$8. Fee includes membership in the Section. 1.0 CLE credit approved! We hope to see you there!

Medellin Case Update

At the section's May 20, 2008, meeting we reviewed *Medellin v. Texas* in terms of upholding treaty obligations and the rule of law generally. Since that presentation, and empowered by the Supreme Court's decision that the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations did not apply, the prisoner was executed. American travelers abroad may now wish to check whether their host nations take a similar approach to treaties and their right to consular notification. -

REW



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Minutes

Organizational Meeting

WSBA World Peace Through Law Section
Tuesday, June 29, 2008 - noon-1:30 pm
at WSBA/Seattle

- **Present:** Bill Lemke; Jay D. Hastings; Julian Saucedo Wheeler; Martha Schmidt; Paul Schlossman; Randy Winn
- **Chairmanship:** Section needs a chair, acting chair, or fill-in chair through December when there'll be elections. Randy thinks it's a bad idea for him (me) to repeat; our section needs new blood! Martha was nominated and accepted by acclamation for the role of acting chair or Darryl's deputy; the exact title to be less important than getting the job done.
- **CLE / Meetings:** Our very successful monthly mini-CLEs, or comparable presentations, need to continue. It is not essential that all of them get CLE credit, but credit is very helpful to our members, and the process of examining programs for credit helps maintain Section focus. Jay volunteered to lead an **Education Committee**, as long as we all help by providing contacts to him and in other ways. Remember the Little Red Hen!
- **Future CLE/Meeting Dates:** Aug. 26, Sep. 30, Oct. 28, Nov. 25 (may be different date due to holiday), Dec. 30.
- **Being Systematic:** It would be highly desirable to develop a plan or arc of education to make programs fit together systematically.
- **Newsletter:** Randy continues with newsletter. Content **MUST** be in by 1st week of the month so WSBA has time to review, produce and distribute. Don't be shy about publicizing your events that would be of interest to section members.
- **Next Organizational Meeting:** A leadership meeting will be held August 21 to continue planning.
- **Summary:** In my opinion, this was a most productive meeting; Martha and Jay will need full support. If each member can help them do one thing, we will get a lot done!

Protecting Voting

Section members can easily act to protect the fundamental human right to choose our government at the polls. Here are a few ways:

King County is looking for poll workers to enforce the impartial administration of the voting process. To volunteer as an individual, call (206) 296-1606. You can also bring your nonpartisan group to the "*Partnership in Democracy*" program; call (206) 205-1194 or email eva.coblentz@kingcounty.gov. Other counties may have similar programs; let me know!

The Veterans Voting Rights Act (H.R. 6625) re-asserts the right of 200,000+ veterans in VA facilities to register to vote. Generally, when your address changes, your voter registration must also change, but the VA has recently chosen to bar voter registration drives from its facilities. Learn whether to support or oppose this move by contacting your political leaders about HR6625. - **REW**

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