



WSBA World Peace through Law Section

January 2009

Article 9 of the Constitution of Japan Tuesday - January 27, 2009

On January 27, 2009, Professor Mark Chinen, of the Seattle University School of Law, will give a presentation on Article 9 of the Constitution of Japan, from noon – 1 p.m., at the WSBA Offices, 1325 4th Ave., Ste. 600, Seattle.

Article 9 has stirred controversy since the Constitution came into effect 60 years ago. The provision, which with the rest of the Constitution emerged out of the Allied Occupation of Japan, can be interpreted as prohibiting Japan from using armed force even in self-defense.

Over time, however, Japan has developed a significant military force that has grown in both strength and scope, and Japan is increasingly being asked to expand its participation in international peacekeeping missions and collective security activities, particularly after 9/11. This expansion has sparked intense debate about whether or not Japan is in violation of Article 9, which in turn has raised questions about the meaning and vitality of constitutionalism in Japan, and whether it is possible for a modern nation state to eschew military force.

Professor Chinen will give a brief presentation and lead a discussion on the history and interpretation of Article 9, as well as more recent calls to amend it. The presentation and discussion will focus on how Article 9 provides a unique window into Japan, its self-identity, its views on national security and its relationship with the United States, and more broadly, the relationship between law and peace and security, on both the national and international levels. Section members Ken Ellingwood and Jay Hastings will provide brief comments based upon their personal experiences with Japan.

Cost: WPTL Section members, free; non-WPTL Section members, \$25; law students, \$10 (cost includes membership in the WPTL Section). 1.0 general CLE credit applied for. *We hope to see you there!*

2009 Section Leadership – Election Results

Following an election by mailed ballot, we are pleased to announce the results! Congratulations to the Section's new officers who are Nandini Rao, Chair; Martha Schmidt, Chair-elect; and Paul Schlossman, Secretary-Treasurer. Members elected to the three Executive Committee positions include Mamie Brown, Jana Heyd and Isabelle Tallyrand. The election nominating committee included Phillip Ginsberg, Marcel Green, Paul Schlossman, and Marti Schmidt. The committee is to be commended for recruiting such excellent candidates!

This is a publication of a section of the Washington State Bar Association. All opinions and comments in this publication represent the views of the authors and do not necessarily have the endorsement of the Association nor its officers or agents.

“... the Japanese people forever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes ...”

- from the Constitution of Japan, Article 9

**Section
Leadership**

Chair

Nandini Rao

Chair-Elect

Martha Schmidt

Secretary-Treasurer

Paul Schlossman

Executive Board

Mamie S. Brown

Jana L. Heyd

Isabelle Tallyrand

Newsletter

Randy Winn

Contact Us!

www.wsba.org/lawyer/s/groups/worldpeace

- or -

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

**17th Annual Seattle Human
Rights Film Festival (SHRFF)
February 6-8, 2009**

An annual event by Amnesty International Puget Sound, launched in 1992, SHRFF grew out of local activists' sincere devotion to the cause of promoting human rights around the world and our belief in the power of film to aid that cause. It brings to the Seattle area films that otherwise would not be available – and in so doing, fosters awareness of critical, though often overlooked, human-rights issues.

Hope, survival, and positive change are themes carried across many of the films, and for the festival-goers, SHRFF has become a catalyst for continued participation in human-rights work throughout the year.

Here's the film schedule, from <http://www.shrff.org>

Friday, February 6th

7:00_p.m.

At the Death House Door = 85_min.

9:00_p.m.

Letter to Anna = 83_min.

Saturday, February 7th

11:30_a.m.

Breaking Ranks = 56_min.

1:00_p.m.

Fire Under the Snow = 75_min.

3:00_p.m.

To See if I'm Smiling = 59_min.

5:00_p.m.

Female Faces of War = 50_min. (approx.)

7:00_p.m.

Sari Soldiers = 90_min.

9:00_p.m.

Shame = 110_min.

Sun, February 8th

11:30_a.m.

A Journey Through Hell = 50_min.

1:00_p.m. = Double Feature

Argentina: Turning Around = 37_min.

Voice of a Mountain = 55_min.

3:15_p.m. - Double Feature

Come Back to Sudan = 27_min.

As We Forgive = 53_min.

**“Female Faces of
War”
Goes to SHRFF!**

This Section's December program, “*Women, War and Collective Security*,” started with a presentation of “*Female Faces of War*,” a documentary by Kiya Bodding and WSBA member Moni T. Law, followed by a discussion of the legal and practical issues it discusses.

The effects of the Iraq war on women are grossly overlooked. The public needs to know that, in addition to the already astounding \$12 billion in American dollars spent each month in its fifth year of engagement, women are paying an extraordinary price. One out of seven U.S. troops are women who not only serve in unprecedented numbers, but deal with the violence of sexual assault on top of the horrors of combat. Iraqi women, who are in the line of fire with their families, also face the violence of personal attacks from religious fundamentalists. *Female Faces of War* explores the impact of the Iraq war through the personal stories of individual women who all have important stories to share.

You can learn more at www.wildirismedia.com/5101.html

FFOW is now headed for the Seattle Human Rights Film Festival, with additional footage based in part on issues surfaced from discussions at screenings. Scheduled for February 7th at 5 pm, its tickets can be ordered at shrff.org/films.php#war.

**Will Your Event Fit Our
Newsletter?**

On a space-available basis, this newsletter might be able to publicize Section members' law-and-peace-related events. Our SOLID deadline is 3 weeks before each monthly meeting. --- **REW**