



# WSBA

## WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION BOARD OF GOVERNORS

### RESOLUTION ON THE UNITED STATES' RATIFICATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

WHEREAS the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), an international treaty which protects the political, civil, economic, social and cultural rights of the child, was adopted in 1989 by the United Nations General Assembly; and

WHEREAS the CRC came into effect in 1990 and has been ratified by 193 countries but not yet by the United States; and

WHEREAS the United States signed the CRC on February 16, 1995, indicating its intent to become a party and its obligation to refrain from acts which would defeat the object and purpose of the CRC, in accordance with customary international law and as expressed in Art. 18, Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties; and

WHEREAS ratification of the CRC affects the practice of law where children and families are involved and the administration of justice for children; and

WHEREAS the lack of education about the Convention and the ratification process are clear impediments to ratification; and

WHEREAS the Washington State Bar Association is charged with promoting understanding of and respect for our legal system and law, and is charged with maintaining a legislative presence to inform members of new and proposed laws and to inform public officials about bar positions and concerns; and

WHEREAS as stewards of the justice system, lawyers are charged with protecting and promoting the rights of individuals, especially children, and considering that the American Bar Association and the Board of Trustees for the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges support ratification of the CRC; and

WHEREAS the World Peace Through Law section fosters programs and events to educate its members, the WSBA and the public about public international law, treaties, and about our nation's legal obligations in the international system, in accordance with its Bylaws; and

WHEREAS the World Peace Through Law Section adopted a resolution endorsing ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which is supported by the International Practice and Juvenile Law Sections,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Governors of the Washington State Bar Association supports ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the WSBA, assisted by the WPTL and interested sections, will engage in activities to promote the importance of ratification and education about the articles and goals of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Adopted by the Washington State Bar Association Board of Governors on July 24, 2010.

*Paula C. Littlewood*

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Executive Director