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## **WSBA Board of Governors Approves Resolution Supporting Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child**

(SEATTLE) — At its July 23–24, 2010, meeting, the Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) Board of Governors approved a resolution supporting ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Convention), as proposed by the WSBA World Peace Through Law Section. See the [text of the resolution](#). The Convention affects the practice of law where children and families are involved and the administration of justice for children. Click [here](#) for information about the Convention.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child, an international treaty that protects the political, civil, economic, social, and cultural rights of children, was adopted in 1989 by the United Nations General Assembly. The Convention went into effect in 1990 and has been ratified by all of the U.N. member states except the United States and Somalia. The United States signed the Convention in 1995, but has not yet ratified it. There are two additional agreements to the Convention: the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict and the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, which the United States has ratified.

### **About the WSBA World Peace Through Law Section**

The mission of the World Peace Through Law section is to educate its members, others within the WSBA, and the public about public international law, including international human rights, and to promote peace through the rule of law. Click [here](#) for additional information about the Section.

### **About the Washington State Bar Association**

The WSBA is part of the judicial branch, exercising a governmental function authorized by the Washington State Supreme Court to license the state's 33,900 lawyers. The WSBA both regulates lawyers under the authority of the Court and serves its members as a professional association — all without public funding. As a regulatory agency, the WSBA administers the bar admission process, including the bar exam; provides record-keeping and licensing functions; and administers the lawyer-discipline system. As a professional association, the WSBA provides continuing legal education for attorneys, in addition to numerous other educational and member-service activities.

The governance of the WSBA is vested in its Board of Governors. There are three governors from the seventh congressional district; one from each of the other eight districts; and three at-large, one of whom represents the Young Lawyers Division. The president is **Salvador A. Mungia**, of Tacoma. The president-elect is **Steven G. Toole**, of Bellevue, and the immediate past-president is **Mark A. Johnson**, of Seattle. The Board meets regularly (every six weeks) at various locations around the state, and its meetings are open to the public. Much of the work of the Bar is carried out through its numerous standing committees, 27 sections, and a Young Lawyers Division with its many committees.