

## WEDA Hires Smith Alling Lane September 2006

After a competitive interview process, the Washington Economic Development Association (WEDA) has selected Smith Alling Lane to lead their legislative efforts.

WEDA is a statewide, non-profit association of private businesses, economic development councils, ports, governments and others committed to enhancing the state's climate for economic development.

WEDA's legislative efforts centralize around public policy and public funding mechanisms to attract, retain and expand businesses, facilitate a high-trained workforce and other public policy means to create jobs in Washington State.

Legislators and the Executive Branch have come to recognize WEDA as a united voice on Washington's economic development. By representing a broad cross-section of individuals throughout the state, WEDA has the ability to develop and utilize an extensive coalition on any issue central to economic development.

Smith Alling Lane brings to WEDA diverse expertise on many of Washington's main industries, including transportation and law enforcement. By combining efforts, Smith Alling Lane hopes to advance WEDA's goal of improving Washington's economy in the coming years.

James McMahan, Smith Alling Lane's main consultant that will work with the Washington Economic Development Association said, "I am truly excited to build on WEDA's success in the economic development community. I hope our partnership will bring about new strategies and advancements on how to improve Washington's economy."