

Diversity News

A Newsletter of the Washington State Bar Association



The Washington State Bar Association's Commitment to Diversity: "To advance and promote diversity, equality, and cultural understanding throughout the legal community . . ."

January 2011

Here's what's happening in the world of diversity (from the WSBA perspective). If you have any questions, please feel free to e-mail me at chachdw@wsba.org.

New Stuff

January BOG Meeting Notes — The Heritage Room, Olympia

- p. 10 — Agenda
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Next Meeting: March 18–19, Spokane, WA

With help from the Minority Bar Associations, the WSBA has compiled information on all **Washington State legal clinics** established particularly for minority and diversity needs. For clinic information, click here: www.wsba.org/wsbadiversity.htm.

WSBA Leadership Institute Welcomes 2011 Class of Fellows

<http://www.wsba.org/media/releases/wli0111.htm>

Jane Korn named GU Law Dean (posted by Gonzaga University). Jane B. Korn, vice dean and the John D. Lyons Professor at the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law, has been hired as dean of the Gonzaga University School of Law effective July 1. www.law.gonzaga.edu/News-and-Events/jane_korn.asp

Senate confirms Mary H. Murguia to 9th Circuit Court, by Carol J. Williams. U.S. District Judge Mary H. Murguia earned Senate confirmation Wednesday to one of four vacancies on the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. <http://articles.latimes.com/2010/dec/23/local/la-me-1223-judge-murguia-20101223>

"Out of Many, We Are One," by Mary Hough. President Obama signed into law the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" yesterday, putting in motion the end of a law that saw more than 14,000 members of the military discharged for being gay over the past 17 years. http://my.barackobama.com/page/community/post/maryhough/gGMKPS?override_wrapper_id=9w3hc

Opportunities

WSBA Committee, Board, and Panel applications now being accepted for 2011–2012. For more information on WSBA committees, see www.wsba.org/lawyers/groups/committees.htm. Please apply online through myWSBA at <https://www.mywsba.org/default.aspx?tabid=64&RedirectTabId=208>

2011 Notice of Board of Governors Election

Five positions on the WSBA Board of Governors will be up for election this year. These are the governors representing the 3rd, 6th, 7th-East, and 8th Congressional Districts, and one at-large position. Nomination and application forms are available from the WSBA Office of the Executive Director, 1325 Fourth Ave., Ste. 600, Seattle, WA 98101-2539; by calling 206-239-2125; and on the WSBA website at www.wsba.org/info/bog/2011bogelections.htm.

The WSBA executive director must receive nomination or application forms for district races by 5:00 p.m. (Pacific time) on March 1, 2011. For more information, see www.wsba.org/media/publications/barnews/jan11-fyi.htm.

Call for Applications for WSBA Board of Governors At-Large Position

To increase member representation on the Board of Governors, the WSBA Bylaws provide for three at-large positions. Members interested in the at-large position on the Board of Governors should submit a letter of application and résumé to the WSBA Office of the Executive Director, 1325 Fourth Ave., Ste. 600, Seattle, WA 98101; or call 206-239-2125 for more information. All application materials are due on April 20, 2011, by 5:00 p.m. (Pacific time). Letters of endorsement will be accepted through May 17, 2011. For more information, visit www.wsba.org/media/publications/barnews/jan11-fyi.htm.

Pledge to the Profession Pipeline Project

Law firms, corporate law departments, bar associations, not-for-profit boards, and other groups continue to make a Pledge to the Profession to have at least 10% of their members spend the equivalent of at least one day (8 hours) participating in an existing pipeline program or otherwise interacting with students — exposing them to the idea of becoming a lawyer and share with them information about what lawyers do, how to become a lawyer, and why lawyers and our system of justice are so important — and reporting upon it afterwards. It's not too late to make the Pledge. To learn more about the Pledge to the Profession, or to download a copy of the Pledge, please go to www.TheILLP.com.

WSBA Moderate Means Program — Attorney Registration

WSBA's Moderate Means Program is a partnership between WSBA and Washington's three law schools: Seattle University School of Law, the University of Washington, and Gonzaga University School of Law. The Program is a statewide reduced-fee lawyer referral service designed to help bring greater access to justice for people of moderate means — those who are within 200–400 percent of the federal poverty level. The program is opening by accepting lawyer registrations for the Program.

Active WSBA members can register online via www.mywsba.org. For more information, see www.wsba.org/moderatemeansguidelines.htm.

Request for Workshop Proposals

The 2011 Annual Access to Justice and Bar Leaders Conference is June 3–5 in Kennewick at the Kennewick Conference Center. Each year, those who are engaged in and support civil equal justice for our state's poorest and most disadvantaged communities gather to learn, build community, tackle difficult problems, and renew their commitment to equal justice for all. In conjunction with the Annual Access to Justice Conference, bar leaders meet to discuss the latest developments, emerging trends, and best practices for the State's bar leaders.

You are invited to submit a workshop proposal for consideration by the ATJ Conference Planners or Bar Leaders Committee. Proposals must be received by Monday, January 31, 2011.

For Bar Leaders proposals, please see www.wsba.org/barleadershomepage.htm for more information. For Access to Justice proposals, please contact Pamela Wuest at 206-239-2125 or pamelaw@wsba.org.

Legal Info of Interest

"First Black Woman Headed to Ohio Supreme Court, Which Will Have 4-3 Female Majority," by Martha Neil. Born to a teenage single mother in Ohio who worked two jobs to provide for the family, Yvette McGee Brown has soared far above what might have been predicted for her based on where she started in life. <http://bit.ly/dZhlAd>

"1st Circuit weighs company's response to allegations of racially hostile environment," by Sheri Qualters. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 1st Circuit recently heard oral arguments about whether a company responded appropriately to a worker's allegations of a racially hostile environment. <http://bit.ly/dTpP4Z>

"2 charged with hate crime in assault on teen; 1 arrested," by Jennifer Sullivan. Two men who were questioned and released by Seattle police after a West Seattle teen was beaten in a racially charged attack have been charged in connection with the May 25 assault. One of the men was arrested Tuesday evening. <http://bit.ly/bSCGvE>

"Court appears sympathetic to Arizona in immigration case," by Marcia Coyle. Arizona's crackdown on employers who hire unauthorized aliens won sympathy and support from a number of justices during Supreme Court arguments Wednesday in a challenge to the state's immigration law. <http://bit.ly/gKxIRU>

Do you use Boy Words or Girl Words? Or the other words, but I can't remember them, by Andy. I met Alec when he was 3 years old. I was coming over to babysit – I had met some of Alec's parents (4 of the 7 of them) at a polyamory event. <http://bit.ly/h7j7BK>

Federal Judge Dismisses Challenge to Key Voting Rights Act Provision, posted by Marcia Coyle. A federal district judge late Thursday dismissed a constitutional challenge to a critical part of the nation's landmark Voting Rights Act—one of two lawsuits aiming for the U.S. Supreme Court. <http://bit.ly/eA8xHp>

"Former Dechert associate blames firm's macho culture in suit alleging retaliation for his FMLA leave," by Sheri Qualters. A former associate in Dechert's Boston office has sued the law firm, claiming it fired him because he used Family and Medical Leave Act time to care for his children and mentally ill wife. <http://bit.ly/gcc5tO>

"Gregoire plan: Merge state agencies, eliminate boards," by The Associated Press. Gregoire also wants to create an Office of Civil Rights, which would encompass the consolidation of the Human Rights Commission, Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprise, Commission on African Affairs, Commission on Hispanic Affairs and Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs. <http://bit.ly/ex3VAj>

"Law Firm's Satirical Holiday Card Backfires; Critics Claim Racial Stereotyping," by Debra Cassens Weiss. A law firm's annual satirical newsletter takes aim at Washington Supreme Court Justice Richard Sanders for his recent controversial remarks about blacks. <http://bit.ly/hYPh9B>

"Law school tenure process widely seen as fair — but there are exceptions," by Karen Sloan. Is the tenure

process at law school fair? Most tenured law professors think so, according to a study underwritten by the American Bar Foundation and the Law School Admission Council. <http://bit.ly/f3iypU>

“Striking sanction, court rules same-sex adoption challenge valid,” by Leigh Jones. The Minnesota Court of Appeals has ruled that an attorney who argued that same-sex adoptions are unlawful in Minnesota could not be sanctioned for making a frivolous claim. <http://bit.ly/eUvqs5>

“Theater chain sued on behalf of hearing-impaired moviegoers,” by Amanda Bronstad. A disability rights group has sued Cinemark Holdings Inc. for discriminating against its deaf and hard-of-hearing patrons by failing to provide closed captioning at its movie theaters in Northern California. <http://bit.ly/frbTWL>

“The Supreme Court of Washington Adopts Amendment to GR33-Requests for Accommodation by Persons with Disabilities,” sent by Joan Fairbanks. www.wsba.org/gr34.pdf

“What Do You Call a Black Man With a J.D.?” by D. Omavi Harshaw. A “gangbanger,” apparently, if you are the owner of the Boston club that expelled dozens of black Harvard and Yale students and alumni last weekend on suspicion of being criminals. <http://wapo.st/hAHYP5>

“Yale clinic helps secure precedent-setting victory for immigrants,” by Karen Sloan. Three years of work by students in Yale Law School’s Worker and Immigrant Rights Advocacy Clinic paid off in a big way last week, when a federal judge ruled that officials with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement may be sued for civil rights violations. <http://bit.ly/iaMwDp>

Upcoming Events

January 27: WSBA Board of Governors meeting, The Heritage Room, Olympia.

January 28: Latina/o Bar Association of Washington 19th Annual Awards Gala, Seattle Waterfront Marriott Hotel, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. See www.lbaw.org/Default.aspx?pageId=665666 for more information.

February 17: Korean American Bar Association of Washington Annual Banquet Luncheon, Tom Douglas Palace Ballroom, 2100 5th Ave., 11 a.m.–1:30 p.m. RSVP by January 28. See www.kaba-washington.org for more information.