



Washington State Bar Association

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Arthur Simpson Receives 2012 WSBA Young Lawyers Division Thomas Neville Pro Bono Award

(SEATTLE) — The WSBA Young Lawyers Division (WYLD) has announced that the 2012 Thomas Neville Pro Bono Award recipient is Yakima attorney **Arthur Simpson**, of Velikanje Halverson PC. The WYLD Board of Trustees selected Simpson for demonstrating his commitment to pro bono work in the first stages of his legal career.

“Despite being in just his first year of practice, a time when many lawyers are just trying to figure out how to manage their careers, Arthur has thrown himself whole-heartedly into a number of intense pro bono projects, with amazing results,” said Seattle attorney **Robert Iff** in nominating Simpson for the award. “It’s an example of the immediate impact that passionate, principled attorneys can have when they are willing to give their time to those in need.”

Simpson received his undergraduate degree in English from Temple University, in Philadelphia, Pa., and his law degree from Seattle University School of Law. Since 2011, he has been an associate with Velikanje Halverson PC.

One example of Simpson’s pro bono service is a case he accepted through his work with Yakima County Volunteer Attorney Services. An immigrant family believed they had contracted to buy a house; after 13 years of making payments, they believed they had paid off the real estate contract in full, but were informed by the seller that their contract was invalid and threatened with eviction. Concerned they would be left without a home and with nothing to show for their years of payments, they sought help. Simpson

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took on the case, and after extensive research, litigation, and negotiations with the seller's attorney, he was able to secure the deed for his clients without requiring them to spend any additional money.

In a separate matter, Simpson took on another client through the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, processing a U-Visa application for a domestic violence survivor. Her application is still processing, but Simpson is optimistic that she will be able to stay safely in this county with her children, who are U.S. citizens.

"I'm truly honored and humbled to receive this award in my first year of practice," said Simpson. "I would like to dedicate it to my pro bono clients, who had the courage and dignity to stand up for themselves in what felt like desperate circumstances."

In addition to his pro bono service, Simpson also serves on the board of Allied Arts of Yakima Valley, where he participates in its governance and fundraising efforts. He also served for six years as the volunteer head coach of the North Penn Special Olympics Swim Team, in Pennsylvania.

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 34,800 lawyers. The WSBA both regulates lawyers under the authority of the Court and serves its members as a professional association — all without public funding. The WSBA's mission is to serve the public and the members of the Bar, ensure the integrity of the legal profession, and to champion justice.

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