

Washington State Bar Association Civil Rights Law Section

Fall/Winter 2010-2011 Volume 2, Issue 1

Section News

Save the Date: The Section is planning to organize an informational meeting with Seattle Police Department, hopefully including Chief John Diaz. Details are still unfolding, so please watch for date and location information.

Save the Date: The Section Annual Meeting & CLE and Civil Rights Award Ceremony will be held this summer. Date and location TBA.

Civil Rights Awards and Election of Officers: It's already time to start thinking about nominations for the Civil Rights Award and Officer positions. Contact Sharon Payant, spayant@perkinscoie.com or Patricia Paul, patriciapauljd@msn.com.

Next WSBA Board of Governors Meeting: March 18-19, 2011, at The Davenport in Spokane.

Call for Submissions: Please keep the Section in mind for submittals of articles, news and events for our Spring/Summer edition of the Newsletter. Contact Patricia Paul, patriciapauljd@msn.com.

Task Force on Race and Criminal Justice

The Task Force on Race and Criminal Justice was convened by the Honorable Steven González and Professor Robert Chang, of the Korematsu Center, in response to comments made by two Washington State Supreme Court Justices. (See the *Seattle Times* article at

http://seattletimes.nwsource.com/html/localnews/2013226310_justices22m.html) The goal of the Task Force is to discuss and address racial bias in the criminal justice system in our state.

The first meeting of the Task Force was held on November 4, 2010, at Seattle University School of Law, with subsequent meetings taking place in December, January and February. The working groups of the Task Force have now convened and have begun working on their respective projects. The working groups include Oversight, Community Engagement, Research, Recommendations and Implementation, and Education. The Civil Rights Law Section intends to be involved in the outreach and education efforts and is proud

For more details about the Task Force, including how you can be involved, please visit the following:

Seattle University:

http://www.law.seattleu.edu/Centers_and_Institutes/Korematsu_Center/Race_and_Criminal_Justice.xml

University of Washington:

to lend its support to the Task Force.

http://www.law.washington.edu/About/race_task_force.aspx

Martin Luther King Jr. Day Press Release

The WSBA and the Civil Rights Law Section sent out our annual press release on Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The press release honors the memory of Dr. King and provides information about the Section and the WSBA. If you missed it, the press release can be found at:

http://www.wsba.org/media/releases/mlk0111.htm

2009-2010 Section Annual Report Highlights

Presentation at Board of Governors Meeting: Former Section Chair Tracy Flood worked with the members of the CRLS Executive Committee, WSBA staff and members of the Bar to research and provide input on whether the WSBA should take a position on the Arizona immigration law, known as SB 1070. Tracy presented the findings to the BOG at the September 23, 2010 meeting in Seattle. The CRLS recommended passing of a resolution regarding

QuotesI. Section Accomplishments

All, too, will bear in mind this sacred principle, that though the will of the majority is in all cases to prevail, that will, to be rightful, must be reasonable; that the minority possess their equal rights, which equal laws must protect, and to violate would be oppression.

~ Thomas Jefferson



You are a human being. You have rights inherent in that reality. You have dignity and worth that exists prior to law.

~ Lyn Beth Neylon



Every man, my brother. Every woman, my sister. Every old man, my grandfather. Every old woman, my grandmother. Every crying child, my child. Every wounded soul, my soul.

~ Frank MacEowen



CLE in Seattle: On February 10, 2010, the Section co-hosted a CLE "Referendum 71 What Practitioners Should Know" with the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Legal Issues Section. The CLE was free to Section members and law students and \$25 for others. Presenters were Mona Smith and Jonathan Bowman, executive board members of Greater Seattle Business

Association and practitioners in issues relating to domestic partnerships.

Arizona SB 1070. The BOG passed the resolution unanimously.

that the minority possess their equal rights, which equal laws must protect, and to violate would be oppression.

Section Newsletter: On July 2, 2010, the Section's first newsletter was sent out to Section members. The Newsletter included articles on the new students' civil rights law in Washington and on the Carl Maxey article by Robin Lindley, and also included Section news, events and quotes. The newsletter was also made available on the Section's website.

Annual Event, Awards and CLE: Our annual event, awards and CLE was held on Friday, July 30 at Seattle University School of Law. During the lunch meeting, officer elections were held and awards were presented to M. Lorena González and the Latino/Latino Bar Association (LBAW) for their dedication and leadership in the area of civil rights law. The CLE included: Human Trafficking, by Ye-Ting Woo; Federal Hate Crimes, by Bruce Miyake; Immigration Issue for Victims of Crime, by Erin Zipfel; and a panel presentation on police accountability with moderator Judge González and panelists Terrence Carroll, Kathryn Olson, Lorena González, Jennifer Shaw and Seattle Police Chief John Diaz.

Bylaw Amendments

The BOG approved bylaw amendments to Section 5.5 and 7.5 at the September 23, 2010 WSBA BOG meeting.

II. Current Benefits

Section members benefited from the mini-CLE that proved to be educational, enlightening and beneficial, and it provided credits at no cost to Section members. The annual meeting, awards and seminar was an opportunity to conduct business with Section members and also provide a low-cost CLE with significant and current issues. We also have a members-only list serve, an electronic newsletter, a WSBA webpage, and profiles on Facebook and LinkedIn.

III. Section priorities, including new goals, for upcoming membership year 2010-2011

Section goals for 2010-2011 include producing three (fall, winter, spring) electronic Section Newsletters, continuing to hold mini-CLEs, providing opportunities for networking events, holding an annual meeting and awards ceremony, and sponsoring a full-day Civil Rights CLE.

Our Mission

The mission of the Civil Rights Law Section of the Washington State Bar Association shall be to educate and advocate for civil liberties and equal rights in the context of civil rights law and the legal issues of Washington State residents, with particular focus on those who have traditionally been denied such rights and equal treatment under the law including, but not limited to, racial, ethnic, or religious minorities; elderly; gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered; immigrants; those with cognitive or physical disabilities; impoverished; and homeless.

Sharon Payant, Chair Patricia Paul, Chair-Elect Tracy Flood, Immediate Past Chair Wilberforce Agyekum, Secretary Michelle Raiford, Treasurer

