

Fall 2011 Volume 2, Issue 3

## **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.

## Welcome Executive Committee Members ~ Serving from 2011 to 2012

Patricia Paul, Chair. Patricia is a 2010 Program Fellow of the WSBA Leadership Institute; a member of the WSBA CLE Committee and chair-elect of the WSBA World Peace Through Law Section. She is in private law practice, La Conner, Washington. She is co-convenor of a symposium at the 54<sup>th</sup> International Congress of the Americanists, Vienna, Austria, 2012, and will lecture in Bhutan, November 2011, on Transformative Cultures. Her B.A. is from Antioch University (Seattle) and her J.D. from Seattle University.

Michael Ewetuga, Chair-Elect. Michael Olufemi Ewetuga was licensed in Nigeria in 1995 and in Washington State in 2006. Michael has been involved in civil rights (referred to as fundamental human rights in his former jurisdiction) from his undergraduate days at the prestigious Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria. Michael is as passionate about civil rights today as he was in his undergrad days. Michael was a public defender with the Pierce County Department of Assigned Counsel and is presently a solo practitioner in Tacoma, Washington.

Sharon Payant, Immediate Past-Chair. Sharon is a conflicts attorney with Perkins Coie LLP. Sharon was appointed as a member of the Civil Rights Committee in 2005 and served as Interim Vice-Chair after the committee was converted to a section.

**Amy Kim, Treasurer.** Amy is an attorney for the federal government.

**Nancy Talner, Trustee (2-year term).** Nancy has been a staff attorney with the ACLU-WA since 1995 and a lawyer in Seattle since 1980. Her work includes writing amicus briefs on issues such as criminal justice, free speech and education. She was also a public defender in tribal courts and did appeals of various kinds.

Kristi Cruz, Trustee (3-year term). Kristi has been a certified American Sign Language Interpreter since 1996 and is a 2008 graduate of Seattle University School of Law. She was the inaugural Seattle University School of Law Leadership for Justice Fellow (2009) for her work at the Northwest Justice Project on a language-access project. Kristi is currently an attorney at the Northwest Justice Project where she is working on a project to create language access-related trainings and an online searchable database of interpreters and translators working in Washington State. She is actively involved with the Washington State Coalition for Language Access (WASCLA), serving as co-chair of the Board of Directors and on the Summit Planning Committee, and is a member of the Washington State Interpreter Commission.

Section Leadership

Chair Patricia Paul

Chair-Elect Michael Ewetuga

Immediate Past Chair **Sharon Payant** 

Secretary **Kwame Amoateng** 

> **Treasurer Amy Kim**

WYLD Liaison Heidi Kay Walter

Trustees Kristi Cruz Mary DeVuono **England Corbett Gordon Alec Stephens Nancy Talner** 

## **Contact Us!**

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Newsletter Editor Patricia Paul patriciapauljd@msn.com

Corbett Gordon, Trustee (3-year term). Corbett is the founder and senior counsel of the Portland office of the national law firm of Fisher & Phillips, LLP. She has chaired the Executive Committee of the Civil Rights Section of the Oregon State Bar and served on the WSBA Civil Rights Committee. She was admitted to the Oregon Bar in 1982 and to the Washington Bar in 2003. She received her J.D. from Harvard University Law School and her B.A. from Antioch College.

Alec Stephens, Trustee (3-year term). Alec Stephens is Diversity Technical Advisor, serving as a legal and subject-matter expert for Sound Transit's Diversity Programs Office (DPO). The DPO oversees agency commitments for Small/Disadvantaged Businesses, EEO, Title VI, Project Labor Agreement and other initiatives. He holds a J.D. University of Puget Sound (Seattle University); B.B.A. University of Miami (Florida).

## Welcome WYLD Liaison – Heidi Kay Walter

Heidi Kay Walter has been appointed by WSBA to serve as our section's WSBA Young Lawyers Division liaison for the Bar year October 1, 2011, to September 30, 2012. The liaison's primary purpose is to provide a new lawyer perspective for our section. They assist in identifying methods to outreach to new lawyers and to provide member benefits of value to new attorneys. WELCOME, Heidi Kay Walter! Heidi's life work is promoting positive public policy. Recently admitted to the WSBA after receiving her J.D. from the University of Utah, she has served in both public and private sectors. A Washington native, she enjoys flying around the state with her husband, Shawn, as pilot.

http://www.wsba.org/Legal-Community/Sections/Civil-Rights-Law-Renew your Membership or Join the Section. Section Membership, Article 3 of the Bylaws: 3. 1 Voting Members. Any active member 3.2 in good standing of the Washington State Bar Association, or any lawyer specially admitted to the Bar for educational purposes (APR 8(d)); as an Emeritus member (APR 8(e)); as a Foreign House Counsel (APR 8(f)); as a Military Lawyer (APR 8(g); or authorized to practice as House Counsel pursuant to RPC 5.5(d) may be enrolled as a voting member of the Section upon request and payment of annual Section dues.

Nonvoting Members. Any other interested person may become a non-voting, associate member of the Section and serve as a nonvoting, associate member of Section committees and sub-committees upon payment of annual Section dues. The Section will welcome advocates from all interested disciplines. Law Students may be nonvoting Section members at a standard annual dues fee set by the Board of Governors of the Bar.

**Member benefits:** free/reduced cost CLEs **December is planning session for 2012 CLEs** 

The 2010 – 2011 Annual Report of the section is available on the website. http://www.wsba.org/Legal-Community/Sections/Civil-Rights-Law-Section/Section-Administration

