

Public Service Connection

A Newsletter of the Washington State Bar Association



The WSBA should use existing programs, and should implement new programs, to improve our members' level of satisfaction with their lives and with the practice of law. In order to implement this goal, the WSBA will work to enhance the culture of service within the WSBA membership.

— excerpt from 2011–2013 WSBA Strategic Goals

New Stuff

Volunteer to help homeowners facing foreclosure! Tacoma-Pierce County Volunteer Legal Services and the Home Foreclosure Legal Aid Project need volunteer attorneys to help homeowners avoid foreclosure at a free legal clinic on May 5, 2012, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Tacoma. See below for a free training opportunity (1.5 general MCLE credits pending) for participating volunteers. Contact Ariel Speser at ariels@nwjustice.org to volunteer.

Free Training: Northwest Justice Project's Foreclosure Prevention Unit will host a live foreclosure prevention webinar for attorneys who volunteer at the May 5 legal clinic. Mark your calendar to attend this webinar on May 3 from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. To RSVP, please email Ariel Speser at ariels@nwjustice.org.

Online Directory of Pro Bono Opportunities

The WSBA is pleased to announce the launch of www.ProBonoWa.org, an online directory of pro bono opportunities around the state. Designed to link attorneys with opportunities to serve low- and moderate-income clients in Washington, www.ProBonoWa.org will connect attorneys with organizations in need of pro bono attorneys. As part of WSBA's strategic goal to enhance the culture of service among its members, the WSBA is excited to maximize the valuable work and dedicated commitment of pro bono attorneys. The WSBA will maintain and update www.ProBonoWa.org, ensuring that attorneys seeking volunteer opportunities have the most up-to-date information available needed to link their skills with the clients who need it most.

Special thanks to the Northwest Justice Project, Probono.net, and the Washington Young Lawyers Division Pro Bono & Public Service Committee for their invaluable partnership and support to launch ProBonoWa.org!



Home Foreclosure Legal Aid Project

The Home Foreclosure Legal Aid Project is a partnership between WSBA and the Northwest Justice Project which provides pro bono legal assistance to Washington homeowners facing foreclosure. Interested in volunteering? Sign up at www.mywsba.org.

Thanks to those who attended the **Mediation Advocacy CLE trainings** on February 28 in Seattle and March 20 in Everett! It was great to see all of you! We had almost 100 people live and webcasting the February training and 65 in March. Did you miss the training? No problem — visit www.wsba.org/publicservicetraining to view the PowerPoint presentations and course materials.

Save the date! Free Foreclosure Prevention Mediation Advocacy training on April 20 at First United Church in Tacoma. Sponsored by the Home Foreclosure Legal Aid Project and Tacoma-Pierce County Volunteer Legal Services (VLS). Call the Tacoma-Pierce County VLS at 253-572-5134 or email vlis@tacomaprobono.org for information and registration details.

Tacoma Foreclosure Legal Clinic Needs Volunteers

Volunteers are needed to help homeowners facing foreclosure. The WSBA Home Foreclosure Legal Aid Project and Tacoma-Pierce County Volunteer Legal Services are seeking volunteer attorneys to help homeowners avoid foreclosure at a free legal clinic on Saturday, May 5, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Tacoma. Free webinar training will also be available for those registered to volunteer at the May 5 clinic. The Northwest Justice Project's Foreclosure Prevention Unit will host a live foreclosure prevention webinar on May 3, from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. (1.5 CLE credits pending). To register for the webinar and clinic, email Ariel Speser at ariels@nwjustice.org.



Moderate Means Program

Formed through a partnership between WSBA and the law schools of Gonzaga University, Seattle University, and the University of Washington, the Moderate Means Program (MMP) is a statewide reduced-fee lawyer referral service for moderate-income families and individuals in Washington state. Sign up at www.mywsba.org today to get involved.

Moderate Means Program Press Conference: We will announce the official launch of the MMP website and online application for clients at an upcoming press conference. Please consider joining us for this event on April 3 at 11:30 a.m. at the WSBA offices, located at 1325 4th Ave., Ste. 600, in Seattle. Special thanks to Chief Justice **Barbara Madsen**, Seattle University School of Law Dean **Mark Niles**, University of Washington School of Law Dean **Kellye Testy**, and WSBA President **Steve Crossland** for their participation in this special event. For an early preview of the MMP website for clients, visit www.moderatemeanswa.org. (Watch your inbox for additional details about our eastern Washington press conference at Gonzaga University School of Law, coming soon!)

Thanks to the 360 attorneys who have signed up to participate with the Moderate Means Program. We value your participation and partnership in connecting moderate-income clients with affordable legal assistance! Watch for email or voicemail messages from MMP law student volunteers — they are looking for attorneys to accept family, consumer, and housing case referrals in all counties around the state.

We are pleased to announce that our first live MMP family training was a success! Approximately 45 attorneys participating in the Moderate Means Program around the state attended the March 13 CLE in person and via web-cast to learn about and discuss parenting plans, relocation, and working with guardians ad litem. Special thanks to the presenter, Juanita Cope of the Eastside Legal Assistance Program, for volunteering her time and expertise. We recorded this training and will post it online at www.wsba.org/publicservicetraining. Watch your inbox for a notice from us when it is available for you to access.

It is not too late to sign up for our next free family law training about Calculating Child Support for Low- and Reduced-Income clients on April 10 at 11:00 a.m. Visit www.wsba.org/publicservicetraining to register for live and online attendance today! (Please note that you must sign up for each family law training individually to gain access to the online classroom or attend in person.)

MMP housing attorneys, we need you! Moderate Means Program law student volunteers have been referring family and consumer cases to MMP participating attorneys since June 2011. We have just expanded MMP service to include housing case referrals. Housing attorneys, please watch for emails and messages from eager law students who would like to send you referrals for reduced-fee cases.



Pro Bono and Legal Aid Committee

WSBA's Pro Bono and Legal Aid Committee (PBLAC) activities promote and encourage pro bono service and address the administration of justice as it affects indigent persons. Please visit the WSBA website for more information about [PBLAC](#).

Long Distance Lawyer Pilot Project Seeks Volunteers: The Pro Bono and Legal Aid Committee's Long Distance Lawyer project links attorneys from urban areas with low-income clients from rural parts of the state. Using technology to communicate with and represent clients, lawyer volunteers supplement the pool of pro bono attorneys in rural Washington counties to provide low-income clients access to legal help. To pilot this concept, PBLAC needs attorneys to provide remote assistance for certain types of family law and landlord-tenant cases. If you would like to volunteer, contact WSBA's PBLAC staff liaison Catherine Brown at 206-733-5905 or catherineb@wsba.org.

WYLD

Washington State Bar Association
YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION

Washington Young Lawyers Division

Read about the [WYLD programs](#) and [contact a chair](#) to learn about current projects and opportunities to volunteer.

WYLD Public Service/Pro Bono Committee — a Call to Arms

The WYLD Public Service/Pro Bono Committee needs you! The Committee's mission is to serve as an incubator for new pro bono service opportunities and to provide information and tools to help connect new lawyers with service opportunities. Committee meetings are held via conference call the second Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. Get involved and help to shape WYLD's involvement in pro bono and public service initiatives. Contact Committee Chair Ben Nivison or Chair-elect Alicia Levy for additional details. We would appreciate your assistance in helping us develop and implement project ideas that support our mission!

The Washington First Responder Will Clinic needs additional attorneys to draft estate planning documents for local police officers and firefighters in Redmond on Saturday, April 14. Your participation can provide considerable peace of mind through a small piece of your day. The Clinic is a program of the WSBA Young Lawyers Division, and provides basic estate-planning documents — wills, powers of attorney, and healthcare directives — for Washington first responders and their spouses/domestic partners at no cost. Participants come to the clinic with a prepared questionnaire, review with volunteer attorneys, and leave with drafted and executed documents. Volunteers for this clinic must have their own malpractice insurance and should have basic estate planning experience. If you are available to assist, please sign up online at <http://bit.ly/GCsuTC>. For more information, see www.wsba.org/willclinic.

News and Resources

Note: The WSBA does not promote, sponsor, or otherwise endorse the trainings or programs listed herein. This list is intended for informational purposes only.

“Bank of America Reaches Deal on Housing,” by Nelson D. Schwartz. Bank of America will provide deeper-than-anticipated principal reductions for about 200,000 homeowners under newly disclosed terms of last month's foreclosure settlement with state and federal authorities. <http://nyti.ms/GSWwHt>

“Courts Approve Increase in CLE Bonus for Lawyers Who Offer Pro Bono Services,” by Joel Stashenko. Experienced lawyers can now earn more than 40 percent of the continuing legal education credits they must complete every two years by providing pro bono services to low-income New Yorkers. <http://bit.ly/Ae6Ouw>

“Cuts in Legal Aid Would Harm Those Already Financially Strapped.” Guest columnists Richard McDermott, presiding judge of the King County Superior Court, and Barbara Madsen, chief justice of the Washington Supreme Court, voice concern that at a time of increasing legal needs for low-income residents, legal aid resources are facing cuts. <http://bit.ly/wmYAtC>

“Five Myths about Pro Bono,” by Esther F. Lardent. Among them are the notions that law firms only want “sexy” matters and that the amount of pro bono work is dropping precipitously at large firms. As a stereotypical inside-the-Beltway political junkie, one of my favorite media features — especially in election years — is the *Washington Post’s* “five myths” column. <http://bit.ly/GSuBsB>

“Lender With an Unusual Offer: A Second Chance,” by Shaila Dewan. Three years ago, after the government moved in to save big banks from failure, many homeowners facing foreclosure started asking, “Where’s our bailout?” Anmarie Zaparesky got hers. <http://nyti.ms/GKiQVp>

“State’s High Court Hears Suits Against Mortgage Clearinghouse,” by Sanjay Bhatt. The state Supreme Court heard arguments Thursday in two cases that could determine whether the nation’s largest electronic mortgage-tracking system has legal authority to foreclose on delinquent homeowners in Washington — a decision that has wide implications for homebuyers and sellers. <http://bit.ly/yMg3Ny>

“The Banks Win Again.” March 17, 2012. *The New York Times* editorial. Last week was a big one for the banks. On Monday, the foreclosure settlement between the big banks and federal and state officials was filed in federal court, and it is now awaiting a judge’s all-but-certain approval. On Tuesday, the Federal Reserve announced the much-anticipated results of the latest round of bank stress tests. <http://nyti.ms/GL5zov>

Contact Us

News, please! Do you have success stories, newsworthy items, or additional information for the next *Public Service Connection*? Please send them to the WSBA at publicservice@wsba.org.

For more information about WSBA’s public service projects, please visit www.wsba.org or contact Public Service Program Manager Catherine Brown at 206-733-5905 or catherineb@wsba.org.

A special thanks to our volunteers! We appreciate your dedication to service, and we value your partnership as we expand the menu of public service opportunities throughout the Washington state legal community.