

Washington State Bar Association

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Jacob Brennan Receives Outstanding Young Lawyer Award

Young lawyer created Washington state's first annual veteran-oriented legal aid clinic and resource fair

SEATTLE, WA [Sept. 27, 2013] — The Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) has presented Spokane attorney **Jacob Brennan** with the 2013 Outstanding Young Lawyer Award. The award is in recognition of his work in creating Washington state's first annual veteran-oriented legal aid clinic and resource fair. WSBA President **Michele Radosevich** presented the award at the WSBA Annual Awards Dinner on Sept. 26, 2013, at the Grand Hyatt Seattle.

Army OneSource originally contacted the Spokane County Young Lawyers Division (SYLD) for help in creating a referral network of local attorneys willing to accept military clients for non-military legal issues; as they recognized the urgent need for estate planning services among veterans, the project evolved into a free will clinic for veterans. Brennan volunteered to chair a committee dedicated to creating the clinic, working with Army OneSource and partnering with Gonzaga University School of Law, the Washington Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Spokane Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Brennan enlisted help from SYLD members to create estate planning documents, built a website (www.wavetswillclinic.com) allowing participants to register and submit information online, and recruited attorneys, notaries, and law student volunteers to staff the clinic. He also coordinated an estate planning training CLE for volunteer attorneys. The first clinic was held in October 2012, serving more than 85 veterans, and a second 2013 clinic has already been scheduled.

"The Vets Will Clinic provided hands-on legal training for attorneys, law students, and paralegals; provided mentorship opportunities for attorneys with more experience in estate planning; and offered an invaluable service for an often overlooked population: our veterans," said New and Young Lawyers At-large Governor **Robin Lynn Haynes**. "Mr. Brennan spent hundreds of hours in meetings to coordinate all the moving parts... [he] is respected among his peers and elders, and he never hesitates to help another attorney."

Brennan received his undergraduate degree from the University of Washington in business administration, and his law degree from Gonzaga University School of Law. He is an associate at the Spokane law firm of Etter, McMahon, Lamberson, Clary & Oreskovich, P.C., where his practice focuses on civil litigation, medical malpractice defense, complex commercial litigation, and employment law. He also serves on the WSBA's Amicus Curiae Brief Committee, as president-elect of the Spokane County Bar Association Young Lawyer Division, and is on the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division Affiliate Assistance Team. Brennan was previously honored as a 2012–13 Scholar of the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division.

About the Outstanding Young Lawyer Award

This award recognizes one attorney who has made significant contributions to the professional community, especially the community of young lawyers, within their initial years of practice. Recipients must be active WSBA members within five years of admission to any bar association or under 36 years of age.

About the Washington State Bar Association

The WSBA is part of the judicial branch and is authorized by the Washington State Supreme Court to license the state's 35,400 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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