

Washington State Bar Association

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Brian Buckley Receives WSBA Pro Bono Award

Award recognizes attorney's work in advancing access to justice for low-income people in Washington

SEATTLE, WA [Sept. 27, 2013] — The Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) has presented Seattle attorney **Brian Buckley** with the 2013 Pro Bono Award. The award is in recognition of his long-standing commitment to advancing access to justice for low-income individuals in Washington. WSBA President **Michele Radosevich** presented the award at the WSBA Annual Awards Dinner on Sept. 26, 2013, at the Grand Hyatt Seattle.

Buckley has dedicated his time to providing pro bono representation throughout his career, including as cooperating counsel with Legal Voice, Northwest Justice Project, and Columbia Legal Services. Recently, he worked with Legal Voice and the Northwest Justice Project as lead cooperating counsel representing Abeda Jafar, an indigent victim of domestic violence who was denied a fee waiver in Snohomish County Superior Court when she sought a parenting plan to protect her child and herself from abuse. Due to budget cuts, courts throughout Washington have denied fee waivers to low-income individuals. Buckley argued before the Washington State Supreme Court that the state and federal constitutions, state court rules, and the principles of the legal profession require the waiver of court fees for indigent citizens seeking legal redress for important rights. In May 2013, the Supreme Court agreed and unanimously ruled that Washington courts cannot impose filing fees or other charges on indigent litigants as a precondition to their right to seek judicial relief.

“Brian Buckley is a formidable litigator who, throughout his career, has generously given his time, pro bono, to work on important social justice issues,” said **Leslie Savina**, Northwest Justice Project advocacy coordinator. “For clients without means or resources, he is the very best sort of lawyer: he listens with a kind heart, he understands their difficult circumstances, and, above all, he works very, very hard on their behalf.”

Buckley received his undergraduate degree from Willamette University and his law degree from the University of Washington School of Law, where he served on the editorial board of the *Washington Law Review*. Buckley is a partner at Fenwick & West LLP, where his practice focuses on the defense and prosecution of high-stakes commercial litigation.

Buckley has served for over 11 years on the Board of Directors of Wellspring Family Services, a nonprofit organization that works to end family homelessness in King County. He is also a member of United Way of King County's Early Learning Impact Council and Community Building Committee. Buckley is a frequent judge and mentor at the University of Washington School of Law.

About the WSBA Pro Bono Award

This award is presented to a lawyer, non-lawyer, law firm, or bar association for outstanding cumulative efforts in providing pro bono services.

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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