



Washington State Bar Association

1325 Fourth Avenue, Suite 600
Seattle, WA 98101-2539

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Contact

Stephanie Perry
Communications Specialist/Publications Editor
206-733-5932; stephaniep@wsba.org
Facebook: [facebook.com/WaStateBar.main](https://www.facebook.com/WaStateBar.main)
Twitter: twitter.com/WaStateBar

James Douglas Receives 2012 Community Service Award

(SEATTLE) — The Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) has presented Seattle attorney **James Douglas** with the 2012 Community Service Award. This award recognizes exceptional non-law-related volunteer work and community service. WSBA President Stephen Crossland presented the award at the WSBA Annual Awards Dinner on September 20, 2012, at the Hyatt at Olive 8 in Seattle.

Douglas is being recognized for his career-long dedication to serving the community, both through his work and through his commitment to volunteering. “James loves kids, loves baseball, loves his community, is passionate about life, and believes in quietly but intently and sustainingly giving back, empowering the disenfranchised to help themselves, and making sure that social justice is served by making sure significant populations have the basics to live (a roof over their heads) and that folks can work and play well,” said Seattle attorney and fellow Little League coach **Michael B. Goldenkranz**.

Douglas received his undergraduate degree from Stanford and served with the Peace Corps in Somalia before returning to earn his law degree from Yale. He began his legal career with NW Washington Legal Services from 1973–74, and was an attorney for Organizaciones Unidas, a community organization in San Benito, Texas, from 1974–77; in 1977 he co-founded what is now Douglas Drachler McKee and Gilbrough, from which he recently retired. His practice focused on representation of claimants for Social Security Disability benefits.

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Working Together to Champion Justice

Douglas leads volunteer teams for Habitat for Humanity's Global Village program, where he recruits volunteers and helps build homes for displaced and homeless communities around the world. He volunteers weekly tutoring children at a local kindergarten, and, with his wife, actively supports the Rainier Scholars program, which helps to mentor minority children from challenging circumstances. Douglas also oversaw the revival of the Rainier Valley Little League program, giving disadvantaged youth the opportunity to play alongside positive role models; he continues to serve as an umpire and plays in an adult softball league.

"Jim gave us the amazing gift to connect with our own children and the other children in our community through baseball," said **Joe Casalini**, a Rainier Valley Little League coach. "Jim was devoted to giving every kid in the neighborhood the opportunity to play. They had to work hard, but they loved working hard because they always knew they had a chance to win. It was nourishing, it was healthy, and it was real. I will always be grateful to Jim Douglas for the gift he has given to me, my sons, my teammates, and my community."

About the Washington State Bar Association

The WSBA is part of the judicial branch, exercising a governmental function authorized by the Washington State Supreme Court to license the state's 34,800 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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