



## **Karen Murray Receives WSBA Public Service Award**

*Public defense attorney is recognized for her dedication to volunteer work and access to justice*

SEATTLE, WA [Sept. 27, 2013] — The Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) has presented Seattle attorney **Karen Murray** with the 2013 Public Service Award. The award is in recognition of her public defense work and her volunteerism in the Washington legal community. WSBA President **Michele Radosevich** presented the award at the WSBA Annual Awards Dinner on Sept. 26, 2013, at the Grand Hyatt Seattle.

Murray has dedicated her legal career to public defense, first as a staff attorney at Associated Counsel for the Accused Division, King County Department of Public Defense (ACAD), and currently as a supervisor in Seattle Municipal Court. Her goal is to make a positive difference for others and to ensure equal access to justice for all.

“Karen represents the best of public defense — a public defender who cares deeply for her clients and for the way the public views public defense,” said **Donald Madsen**, managing director of Associated Counsel for the Accused and 2013 WSBA Lifetime Service Award recipient. “Karen is an outstanding woman who is committed to improving her community, impacting the lives of people she knows and strangers she has never met.... Learning about her many generous acts will be an inspiration for others to follow.”

Murray is the chair of the ACAD Community Engagement Committee, which participates in activities such as Operation Nightwatch to feed the homeless and the Food Lifeline Food Frenzy. A former King County Bar Association (KCBA) board member, she co-chairs the KCBA Martin Luther King Jr. Annual Luncheon Committee; she serves as coach and mentor for students in the Future of the Law Institute, which introduces high school students to career options in the law; and she is actively involved in groups such as the KCBA Public Policy Committee and Death Penalty Roundtable Forum. She is an active member of the Washington State Minority and Justice Commission and served on the first Race and the Criminal Justice System roundtable at the Washington State Supreme Court.

A past-president of the Loren Miller Bar Association (LMBA), Murray is also involved with LMBA activities; she mentors summer externs, sponsors its Summer of Success program, is a member of its scholarship committee, and helped to establish the Annual Elder Law clinic to serve members of the African-American community. She received the LMBA’s Ronald R. Ward President’s Award in 2012 in appreciation of her many contributions.

“I am very humbled by this award and even somewhat embarrassed,” said Murray. “My mother always taught her children that you give whatever you can to others that are less fortunate because it is the right thing to do, and if you get recognized for your efforts, it’s icing on the cake (but not the reason for doing it). And every day she demonstrated that. Even though she raised eight children by herself and struggled financially, she probably was the richest woman alive because of her giving spirit. We watched her give whatever she had to those less fortunate and it taught us that we too could make a difference. I will be dedicating this award to her.”

### **About the WSBA Public Service Award**

This award recognizes a WSBA member who exemplifies the WSBA's culture of service: one who gives back in meaningful ways to others, to his/her community, or to the profession.

### **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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