



Washington State Bar Association

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Bruce Neas Named 2012 Recipient of Norm Maleng Leadership Award

(SEATTLE) — The Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) and Access to Justice (ATJ) Board have awarded Olympia attorney **Bruce Neas** the 2012 Norm Maleng Leadership Award, in recognition of his decades of service to the legal aid community. The award was presented on June 9 at the Access to Justice/Bar Leaders Conference at the Yakima Convention Center, in Yakima.

This award is given jointly by the WSBA and ATJ Board in honor of the legacy of Norm Maleng. Maleng, who served as King County prosecuting attorney for many years, was an innovative and optimistic leader committed to justice and access to justice in both civil and criminal settings. Within the profession, his leadership was characterized by his love of the law and commitment to diversity and mentorship; this award recognizes those who embody these qualities.

“Bruce has been a leader in the legal aid community for many years, but his leadership with respect to Washington state’s response to the foreclosure crisis over the past four years demonstrates his unwavering dedication to our client community,” said **Threesa Milligan**, director of King County Bar Association Pro Bono Services. “Bruce’s leadership has also been crucial in limiting the impact of the budget crisis on the legal aid community.”

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Working Together to Champion Justice

Neas has dedicated his career to legal services since his graduation from the University of Missouri – Kansas City School of Law in 1980. He was a managing attorney for Legal Aid of Western Missouri until 1984 when he became an attorney with Puget Sound Legal Assistance Foundation. From 1986 to 1996, he was the managing attorney of the Olympia office of Puget Sound Legal Assistance Foundation. Since 1996, Neas has been an attorney at Columbia Legal Services (CLS), where he has represented clients primarily in areas of housing, consumer, and education law. Neas was involved in the drafting and negotiation of landmark legislation, including the Foreclosure Fairness Act, the Manufactured Housing Dispute Resolution Program, the Wage Payment Act, the Domestic Violence Leave Act, and the Tenant Relocation Act. He was chosen by the Washington Attorney General to serve on the Washington Consumer Foreclosure Remedies Fund Committee to make recommendations on the distribution of the \$44 million available under the national mortgage settlement fund.

Neas is a past president of the Thurston County Bar Association, and in 2005, he was the recipient of the TCBA's Daniel Bigelow Lawyer of the Year Award. He is a founding board member of the Thurston County Volunteer Legal Services and the Cowlitz Wahkiakum Legal Aid programs. He is also the project manager for the CLS Institute for Foreclosure Legal Assistance Grant, which provides legal representation to homeowners facing foreclosure.

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. As a regulatory agency, the WSBA administers the bar admission process, including the bar exam; provides record-keeping and licensing functions; and administers the lawyer-discipline system. As a professional association, the WSBA provides continuing legal education for attorneys, in addition to numerous other educational and member-service activities. Connect with WSBA on our website, www.wsba.org, or via Facebook at facebook.com/wastatebar-main or on Twitter @WaStateBar.

The Washington State Bar Association'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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