

About the Speakers:

Honorable Bruce W. Hilyer (retired)

Hon. Hilyer (ret.) was on the King County Superior Court bench for nearly 12 years and served as the presiding judge from 2008 - 2010. Hon. Hilyer received his JD from the University of Washington School of Law, and graduated with Order of the Coif and high honors in 1979. He began his career at the King County Prosecutor's Office, a later went on to serve as the legal counsel to the Seattle City Mayor's office during Mayor Charles Royer's term. He has worked with firms and as principal of his own law office emphasizing complex commercial, environmental and health litigation.

Over the last 20 years, Hon. Hilyer has served on several King County boards and associations, received the 2010 KCBA Judge of the Year award, and has been a contributor to multiple CLE and CJE presentations on litigation and court administration. He currently serves on the King County Bar Foundation's board of directors, he is a father of two children, enjoys hiking, bird hunting, fishing, skiing and is a licensed pilot.

Hunter Abell

Hunter Abell is a senior associate at Williams Kastner whose practice emphasizes civil litigation and Indian law. A native of Washington, Mr. Abell was raised on a ranch on the rural Colville Indian Reservation in Ferry County. Prior to joining Williams Kastner, Mr. Abell served in the U.S. Navy Judge Advocate General's (JAG) Corps where he obtained extensive trial experience in criminal defense and as a prosecuting attorney. His legal experience in the U.S. Navy includes his role as Liaison Officer in the Central Criminal Court of Iraq in Baghdad, Iraq where he worked to assist prosecuting insurgents accused of attacks against Iraqi and Coalition forces.

Mr. Abell graduated from The College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, VA and earned his JD from Gonzaga University School of Law. Mr. Abell currently serves as a member of the Gonzaga University School of Law Board of Advisors. Prior to serving on active duty in the U.S. Navy, Mr. Abell received his LLM from Georgetown University Law Center.

Mr. Abell has served as an adjunct faculty member for Brandman University to teach courses on Western Legal Tradition and Social and Political Theory to military and civilian students. Mr. Abell is a reservist in the U.S. Navy Reserve and his personal military decorations include the Joint Service Commendation Medal and the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal.

Mr. Abell is married to his wife, Sara and enjoys hiking, waterskiing, and horseback riding. Mr. Abell is active in the Washington State Bar Association and currently serves as Chair of the Professionalism Committee. In addition, Mr. Abell is a member of the Litigation Section and the Indian Law Section.