

Diversity News

A Newsletter of the Washington State Bar Association



The Washington State Bar Association's Commitment to Diversity: "To advance and promote diversity, equality, and cultural understanding throughout the legal community . . ."

October 2011

Here's what's happening in the world of diversity (from the WSBA perspective). If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at chachdw@wsba.org.

New Stuff

Congratulations to our new members of the Board of Governors!

At the WSBA Annual Awards Dinner on September 22, we welcomed several new members to the Board of Governors:

Stephen R. Crossland, President

A Cashmere native, Stephen Crossland received his undergraduate degree in political science from Stanford University, and his law degree from the Northwestern School of Law at Lewis and Clark University, in Oregon. He served as Chelan County deputy prosecuting attorney from 1974–75, and has worked in private practice since then; he has had his own practice, Crossland Law Office, since 2001. He served on the WSBA Board of Governors from 1995–98, representing the 4th District. In 2002, he received the WSBA Award of Merit, the Association's highest honor.

Michele Radosevich, President-elect

Michele Radosevich is a partner at Davis Wright Tremaine, where she has worked in the commercial litigation department since 1995. Her primary focus is on state and local tax litigation. One of Radosevich's areas of expertise is working with the legislature and on legislative issues. A former Wisconsin state senator, Radosevich spent 10 years on the WSBA Legislative Committee, where she served as chair and vice-chair. She is currently an adjunct professor at Seattle University School of Law and serves on the University's Alumni Board of Governors.

James W. Armstrong, At-large

James Armstrong served for four years in the United States Marine Corps, received his undergraduate degree in political science from Western Washington University, and earned his law degree from Seattle University School of Law. He currently has his own firm, Armstrong Law Offices, where he focuses his practice on workers' compensation and Social Security disability. Armstrong has been particularly active in the Loren Miller Bar Association (LMBA), the oldest minority bar association in Washington state. He served for six years on the LMBA Executive Board, including a term as president.

Daniel G. Ford, District 7-East

Daniel Ford is statewide advocacy coordinator for the six offices of Columbia Legal Services, a nonprofit law firm that protects and defends the legal and human rights of low-income people. He is a graduate of the University of Chicago Law School, and received his undergraduate degree from the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, where he was born and raised. Ford began his practice in Wenatchee and the Yakima Valley, and has practiced in Seattle for the past 25 years. Most of his career has been focused on litigation, legislation, and rulemaking to protect the rights of immigrants. He has been an active member of the Latina/o Bar Association of Washington, serving on its board and as co-chair of its Judicial Evaluation Committee.

Vernon W. Harkins, District 6

Vernon Harkins, a partner at Rush, Hannula, Harkins & Kyler, LLP, has practiced law for 35 years. He focuses his practice on plaintiff personal injury and medical malpractice cases. He received both his undergraduate degree and law degree from Gonzaga University, and began his career in Spokane as a deputy prosecuting attorney. A Tacoma native, his ties to his community are strong. He has served as president of the Alumni Association and as chairman of the Board of Directors for Bellarmine Prep High School.

Brian J. Kelly, District 3

Brian Kelly is a principal in the law firm Hillier Scheibmeir Vey & Kelly P.S. His practice focus is business, tax, real property, probate, and municipal law, with an emphasis on business succession and estate planning. He earned both his bachelor's degree and law degree from the University of South Dakota. Both a lawyer and a certified public accountant, Kelly is a member of the American Institute and Washington Society of Certified Public Accountants. Since 2005, he has served on the Board of Directors of the Olympia Chapter of the Washington Society of CPAs

Wilton "Bill" S. Viall, District 8

Bill Viall received his undergraduate degree *cum laude* and his law degree from the University of Washington. His practice experience includes jury and bench trials in district and superior courts, practice in U.S. district and bankruptcy courts, and appeals to the Washington Court of Appeals and Washington State Supreme Court. For more than 20 years he served as the city attorney for Normandy Park. Since 1997, he has served as chief operations officer and counsel at Williams Kastner in Seattle.

We would also like to thank our outgoing governors for their service:

- **Brian Comstock, District 8**
- **Loren Etengoff, District 3**
- **Anthony Gipe, At-large**
- **Catherine Moore, District 7-East**
- **Patrick Palace, District 6**

Congratulations to the 2011 WSBA Annual Awards Recipients!

For a full description of the awards, and recipient bios, please see www.wsba.org/News-and-Events/Awards.

Award of Merit: Hon. **Mary E. Fairhurst, Joseph M. McMillan, Harry H. Schneider Jr., Charles C. Sipos**

Lifetime Service: **Robert D. Welden**

Excellence in Diversity: **Ramona L. Witt** (posthumous)

Outstanding Judge: Hon. **Steven C. González**, Hon. **Mary I. Yu**

Professionalism: **Craig A. Sims**

Excellence in Legal Journalism: **Tim Connor**

Angelo J. Petrus Award for Lawyers in Public Service: **Margaret E. Fisher**

Community Service Award: **Kripa Upadhyay**

Outstanding Young Lawyer: **David S. Keenan**

President's Award: Hon. **Marlin J. Applewick**

Pro Bono Award (presented jointly by WSBA and the Access to Justice Board): **Thomas E. Kelly Jr., Joanne M. Hepburn**

Norm Maleng Leadership Award: **Colleen Kinerk**

SBAW — Slavic Bar Association of Washington

Congratulations and welcome to the newest Minority Bar Association, the Slavic Bar Association of Washington! The Slavic Bar Association of Washington (SBAW) is a professional association of legal practitioners and law students with ties to or interests in Slavic cultures and languages. SBAW is organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes: to support members of the Bar and law students with Slavic ties; to educate others about Slavic ethnicity, culture, history, and people; and to aid the Slavic community and those within it aspiring to enter the legal field. For more information, or to join SBAW, please contact Aryna Andersen, president (9/2011–9/2012), at slavicbar@gmail.com.

The Board for Judicial Administration unanimously approved at their July 15, 2011, meeting a Resolution on Racial and Ethnic Bias in the Justice System. For the full text, please see www.courts.wa.gov/programs_orgs/pos_bja/?fa=pos_bja.resolutions.

The Washington State Minority and Justice Commission has released “Diversifying the Bench Guidebook: How to Become a Judicial Officer,” which demystifies and explains the process of becoming a judge. The Guidebook can be found online at www.courts.wa.gov/committee/pdf/Diversifying%20the%20Bench%20Guidebook.pdf. For more information, contact Monto Shan Morton, executive director of the Minority and Justice Commission, at 360-705-5327 or monto.morton@courts.wa.gov.

Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell Repeal Day! On September 20, 2011, the 18-year-old policy officially ended, allowing gays and lesbians in the military to serve openly. <http://n.pr/nYNvRT>

Alabama immigration law is now the strictest in the country. “Judge Lets Key Parts of Alabama Immigration Law Stand,” Birmingham, Ala. (AP). A federal judge refused Wednesday to block key parts of a closely watched Alabama law that is considered the strictest state effort to clamp down on illegal immigration, including a measure that requires immigration status checks of public school students. <http://usat.ly/nrSliR>

“7th Circuit: It’s Still Racial Bias Even if Not All in Protected Class Are Targeted,” by Sheri Qualters. Discrimination against some Hispanic employees violates federal anti-discrimination laws even if the company doesn’t discriminate against others, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit has ruled. <http://bit.ly/ncBmLI>

“An Argument for Diversity: Law Schools Reward Minority Mock Trial Victors with Cash Toward Tuition,” by Karen Sloan. Hearing her name announced as a winner of a mock trial competition held in March at Southwestern Law School in Los Angeles was a wake-up call for Tannis Watkins. “I didn’t think I was good enough,” said Watkins, 33, a mother of three of Puerto Rican descent who is working toward an associate’s degree in paralegal studies at Riverside, Calif., City College. <http://bit.ly/g18LOS>

“Can Civil Rights Be Religious Wrongs?” by Vivian Berger. High court should uphold a teacher’s right to bring a retaliation claim against a parochial school under the ADA. <http://bit.ly/oHgihA>

Legal Info of Interest

“Conservatives Allege Anti-White Bias at University of Wisconsin Law School,” by Karen Sloan. The University of Wisconsin Law School admitted a much higher proportion of blacks than whites and Asians with the same or higher academic credentials in 2005 and 2006, according to a study by the Center for Equal Opportunity, a conservative think tank based in Virginia that focuses on race and ethnicity. <http://bit.ly/rllH7o>

“Diversity Efforts Realize Modest Results, Institute Finds,” by Karen Sloan. Despite all the talk of boosting diversity in the legal profession, the percentage of minorities inched up from 9.7% in 2000 to 11.6% in 2009, according to a report by the Institute for Inclusion in the Legal Profession. <http://bit.ly/qb4Jwl>

“Immigrants Deserve Equal Access to the Courts,” by Laura K. Abel and Tina R. Matsuoka. ABA should vote to adopt language-access standards. <http://bit.ly/ov97CJ>

“Judge Preska and Work/Life Balance,” by Vivia Chen. Whether or not you agree with Southern District of New York Chief Judge Loretta Preska’s opinion in the Bloomberg L.P. discrimination case, it’s a must-read for any woman who works in a pressure-cooker profession like law or finance. <http://bit.ly/raQF8g>

“Justice Denied at Guantánamo,” by Allison M. Lefrak. The longer cases are delayed, the more credibility the U.S. judicial system loses. <http://bit.ly/nD3W1m>

“Mentorship Program Will Foster Diversity in the Profession,” by Karen Sloan. Attorney mentoring programs are a dime a dozen, but the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity hopes to break the mold by singling out up-and-coming attorneys and placing them in the direct path of law firm managing partners and the general counsel of some of the country’s largest companies. <http://bit.ly/p5LRC3>

“Obama Administration Insists Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell Ruling Was Mooted by Policy’s Repeal,” by Amanda Bronstad. With the repeal of Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell, a court ruling that the military’s ban on openly gay service members was unconstitutional is moot and should be wiped off the books, a Justice Department attorney told a federal appeals panel. <http://bit.ly/pWQvsU>

“Teacher Properly Ordered to Remove ‘God’ Banners from Classroom,” by Amanda Bronstad. A public school district in San Diego did not violate a math teacher’s constitutional rights in ordering him to take down large banners in his classroom that espoused the role of God in the nation’s history, a federal appeal court has ruled. <http://bit.ly/pOf7Tb>

“The Future (if any) of Class Litigation after ‘Wal-Mart,’” by John C. Coffee Jr. Plaintiffs have three options in response to the Court’s insistence that affirmative defenses receive individualized hearings. <http://bit.ly/nvoXsr>

Asian Bar Association of Washington Student Scholarship Foundation — 2011 Scholarship Information
The Asian Bar Association of Washington Student Scholarship Foundation (ABAWSSF) provides financial assistance in the form of scholarships to students of Asian heritage currently attending law schools in the state of Washington.

For 2011, ABAWSSF will award four scholarships to selected law students, in the following amounts:

- Yamashita Scholarship — \$6,000
- Sharon A. Sakamoto President’s Scholarship — \$4,000
- ABAWSSF General Scholarship — \$2,000
- ABAWSSF General Scholarship — \$2,000

For information on eligibility and application instructions, visit www.abaw.org. The deadline to submit your application materials is Wednesday, October 5, 2011 (if sent by mail), or Friday, October 7, 2011 (if submitted by email).

Opportunities

The Access to Justice Board is currently recruiting for new Board members. The ATJ Board will have four positions opening up in May 2012. Deadline for letters of interest is November 30, 2011. For more information, please contact Allison Durazzi at allisond@wsba.org or 206-733-5942. www.wsba.org/atj

The Goldmark Equal Justice Internship Program is accepting applications for 2012! A 10-week summer paid public interest law fellowship at Northwest Immigrant Law Project’s Tacoma Detention Center is available to one 2L or above law student. Please encourage law students you know to submit their materials. Application deadline is Friday, October 14, at 5:00 p.m.

The Korean American Bar Association of Washington and Middle Eastern Legal Association of Washington are recruiting attorneys for their legal clinics. For more information please visit KABA’s website at www.kaba-washington.org/pro-bono-legal-clinics, or MELAW’s website at www.melegal.org.

Upcoming Events

The WSBA Diversity Staff is happy to announce that we have successfully integrated the Diversity Calendar into the main WSBA calendar! Go to www.wsba.org to view all upcoming events. As always, please send any events you would like posted to Jennifer Carter at jenniferc@wsba.org.

October

October 12: Mother Attorneys Mentoring Association of Seattle Brown Bag Lunch, "Private Practice Series — Are You Being Fairly Compensated?" Noon to 1:00 p.m. For more information, visit www.mamaseattle.org.

October 14: Washington Women Lawyers Annual Banquet. Register online at www.wwwl.org.

October 20: Asian Bar Association of Washington's 22nd Annual Banquet. Tickets may be purchased exclusively on www.brownpapertickets.com/event/184498.

October 27: Task Force on Race and the Criminal Justice System. www.law.seattleu.edu/x8777.xml

October 28: Filipino Lawyers of Washington's Third Annual Barrio Fiesta. RSVP and purchase your tickets online at www.filipinolawyers.org.

October 28–29: WSBA Board of Governors Meeting, Tacoma. www.wsba.org/About-WSBA/Governance/Board-of-Governors

November

November 9: Mother Attorneys Mentoring Association of Seattle Brown Bag Lunch: "When Things Go Wrong at School." Noon to 1:00 p.m. For more information, visit www.mamaseattle.org.

November 10: Mother Attorneys Mentoring Association of Seattle Annual Banquet. For more information, visit www.mamaseattle.org.

November 15: Vietnamese American Bar Association of Washington's 7th Annual Banquet. <http://vabaw.com/default.aspx>