Civil Rights Section
WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

Civil Rights Law

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Do you have an article you would like to publish in our newsletter? All articles will be considered. Articles accepted may be edited for content. If you would like to contribute an article, please contact Patricia Paul: patriciapauljd@msn.com.

Our Mission

The mission of the Civil Rights Law Section of the Washington State Bar Association shall be to educate and advocate for civil liberties and equal rights in the context of civil rights law and the legal issues of Washington State residents, with particular focus on those who have traditionally been denied such rights and equal treatment under the law including, but not limited to, racial, ethnic, or religious minorities; elderly; gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered; immigrants; those with cognitive or physical disabilities; impoverished; and homeless.

Nominations for WSBA Civil Rights Law Section, 2012-2013

~ A note from Patricia Paul, Current Chair ~

Sharon Payant, Past Chair of the WSBA CRLS, selected the Nominating Committee: two from the executive committee, Amy Kim and Nancy Talner; and one from the section membership, Courtney Ackley. Amy Kim was selected as Chair of the Nominating Committee and these are their recommendations for the three slates that are open. There is one nomination for each position. All trustee positions are ongoing and Michael Ewetuga will be the chair in the coming year.

Members of the Section may nominate persons to serve in any of these elected officer positions by written nominations to the nomination committee received no later than 15 days prior to the Annual Meeting during which the election is to be held.

The Annual Meeting will be held Thursday, August 9th, from 11:30 to 5:00 pm, at Seattle University Law School in the Annex. The Annual Event includes a CLE Seminar, with annual awards presented at noon, and the annual election/meeting immediately after and the cle seminar follows.

Chair-elect: Courtney Ackley

Courtney Ackley is a member at Ackley Law Group, PLLC, where she practices plaintiff's civil litigation alongside her husband. She is a graduate of the University of Washington and Seattle University School of Law. Courtney is a member of the American Bar Association, the King County Bar Association, and the Washington State Association for Justice Diversity Committee. Outside of the law, Courtney enjoys cooking, practicing yoga, and rooting for the Seahawks and the Mariners.

Secretary: Calandra Sechrist

Calandra Sechrist has served as a Program Supervisor with the Equity and Civil Rights Office at the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) since January 2010. Prior to joining OSPI, Calandra received her law degree from the University of Washington, and provided legal services to at-risk youth and children in foster youth while interning with Columbia Legal Services and the University of Washington Children and Youth Advocacy Clinic.

Treasurer: Amy Kim

Amy Kim has served as an attorney for the Office for Civil Rights (OCR), U.S. Dept. of Education since 2002. Prior to working for OCR, she worked for the Office of the General Counsel, U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services. She obtained a B.S. in biochemistry and J.D. from the University of Washington. In addition to volunteering with various community organizations, including International Community Health Services, she has served as treasurer for the Civil Rights Law Section since October 2011.

New Civil Rights Guidelines for Washington Public Schools

by Calandra Sechrist, Program Supervisor, OSPI Equity & Civil Rights Office

Should school districts allow transgender students to use the restroom of their choice?

Are school districts required to provide translation and interpretation services for parents with limited English proficiency?

May a school district exclude a service animal if a student or staff member is allergic to the animal?

To assist school districts in handling these and other challenging situations, the Equity and Civil Rights Office of the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) published comprehensive civil rights guidelines in February 2012. These guidelines, titled "Prohibiting Discrimination in Washington Public Schools," provide practical tips, examples, and resources to assist school districts in providing all students an education free from discrimination. In addition to informing school districts of their responsibilities, these guidelines serve as a resource for parents and students and may help to resolve issues before they escalate to formal complaints and litigation.

These guidelines were written in response to the legislature's passing of HB 3026 in 2010 (codified as chapter *28A.642* RCW), which prohibits discrimination in Washington public schools on the basis of race, creed, religion, color, national origin, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, veteran or military status, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal. This law is similar to the sexual equality law that has been in the school code since 1975 (chapter *28A.640* RCW). These laws charge OSPI with the responsibility of developing rules and guidelines to prevent and eliminate discrimination in Washington public schools.

As the state education agency, OSPI oversees K-12 education in Washington State. Among our efforts to address discrimination in schools, the Equity and Civil Rights Office works with parents, students, and school employees to resolve allegations of discrimination, and monitors school districts to ensure that their policies, procedures, and practices do not result in discrimination.

Have questions about civil rights in schools? Check out the guidelines at *http://bit.ly/zlgs4Q*, or contact the Equity and Civil Rights Office at 360-725-6162 (TTY: 360-664-3631) or by e-mail at *equity@k12.wa.us.*

Civil Rights Law Section
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2011-2012

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patriciapauljd@msn.com

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Contact the Section:
For general questions, please e-mail your inquiries to *sections@wsba.org*. To get involved in the Section and for more information, please contact the Section chair, *Patricia Paul*.

The Civil Rights Law Section welcomes articles and items of interest for publication. The editors and Board of Trustees reserve discretion whether to publish submissions.

Send submissions to: Patricia Paul (*patriciapauljd@msn.com*).

This is a publication of a section of the Washington State Bar Association. All opinions and comments in this publication represent the views of the authors and do not necessarily have the endorsement of the Association nor its officers or agents.

Invites You to a Section Social

Thursday, August 9, 2012

5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

@

The Chieftain Irish Pub & Restaurant

http://www.thechieftainseattle.com/

908 12th Avenue, Seattle, WA

The social will immediately follow our Annual CLE Seminar held at Seattle University Law School. Network with members and prospective members of the WSBA Civil Rights Law Section. Some appetizers will be provided by the Section.

http://www.wsba.org/Legal-Community/Sections/Civil-Rights-Law-Section

CLE on OSPI Guidelines: Prohibiting Discrimination in Washington Public Schools

Co-Sponsored by the WSBA Civil Rights Law Section

The Equity and Civil Rights Office of the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) published comprehensive civil rights guidelines in February 2012. These guidelines, titled "Prohibiting Discrimination in Washington Public Schools," provide practical tips, examples, and resources to provide all students an education free from discrimination.

When: August 29, 2012
3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. (mini-CLE)
5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. (networking social)

Where: Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
600 Washington St SE, Olympia

CLE Credits: 1.5 general credits

Cost: Free for Civil Rights Section members and law students
$25 for non-section members

PowerPass Eligibility: No

More information and registration.

*A Networking Social for the WSBA Civil Rights Law Section will occur immediately after the mini-CLE at the Waterstreet Café and Bar, 610 Water Street, Olympia, Washington, from 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm. Some appetizers will be provided by the Section.

Civil Rights Law Section
WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

Invites You to a Section Social

Wednesday, August 29, 2012

5:00 pm to 6:30 pm

@

Waterstreet Café and Bar

http://www.waterstreetcafeandbar.com

610 Water Street, Olympia, Washington

Network with members and prospective members of the WSBA Civil Rights Law Section. Some appetizers will be provided by the Section.

Please RSVP to: patriciapauljd@msn.com

This social immediately follows a mini-CLE titled: OSPI Guidelines: Prohibiting Discrimination in Washington Public Schools

http://www.wsba.org/Legal-Community/Sections/Civil-Rights-Law-Section

mywsba

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- View and update your profile (address, phone, fax, email, website, etc.).
- View your current MCLE credit status and access your MCLE page, where you can update your credits.
- Complete all of your annual licensing forms (skip the paper!).
- Pay your annual license fee using American Express, MasterCard, or Visa.
- Certify your MCLE reporting compliance.
- Make a contribution to LAW Fund as part of your annual licensing using American Express, MasterCard, or Visa.
- Join a WSBA section.
- Register for a CLE seminar.
- Shop at the WSBA store (order CLE recorded seminars, deskbooks, etc.).
- Access Casemaker free legal research.
- Sign up to volunteer for the Home Foreclosure Legal Assistance Project.
- Sign up for the Moderate Means Program.