



Martin Luther King Jr. Day Is Monday, Jan. 21

As Martin Luther King Jr. Day approaches, the WSBA Civil Rights Law Section honors the legacy of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and encourages us all to remember his work as a civil rights advocate and nonviolent activist.

- Fifty years ago, Dr. King delivered his famous “I Have a Dream ...” speech, in which he articulated his dream of a society where equality, liberty, peace, and opportunity would flourish.
- 2013 also marks 150 years after the Emancipation Proclamation and 50 years since the murder of NAACP Field Secretary Medgar Evers, whose [widow will deliver the invocation](#) on Jan. 21 as part of President Obama’s inauguration.
- In 1964, Dr. King became the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. He worked tirelessly to achieve civil rights until his assassination in 1968.

2012–13 Civil Rights Law Section Events

The mission of the Civil Rights Law Section is to educate and advocate for civil liberties and equal rights in the context of the legal issues of Washington state residents. The Section focuses on issues involving the civil rights of racial, ethnic, religious, sexual orientation minorities, immigrants, those who are mentally or physically disabled, the impoverished, or homeless; and freedom of speech, freedom from state-promulgated religion, and privacy rights. Lawyers who practice in any of these areas of law, or who are interested in these topics, are encouraged to [join the Civil Rights Law Section](#).

Here are just a few highlights of the Civil Rights Law Section’s work in 2012–13. If you’d like more information about the Section and how to join, visit their [webpage](#).

- **Mini-CLE on Major U.S. Supreme Court Civil Rights Case Review (November 2012)** — Presentations included a review of two major civil rights cases in the recently concluded 2011–12 Supreme Court term regarding voting rights (*Perry v. Perez*), and Immigration (*Arizona v. United States*); a case on the docket for the 2012–13 term regarding affirmative action (*Fisher v. University of Texas*); and a panel presentation discussing ethical concerns posed by the joint defense of individuals and municipalities in Section 1983 cases.
- **Awards presented at the Annual Meeting (September 2012)** — The Civic Leader Award was presented to **NDNS for Justice** for their generous commitment of time, support and inspiration to the endeavors of civil rights law. The Distinguished Service Award was presented to **Ann Benson**, in recognition of her exceptional leadership and devoted service to civil rights law.
- **Brown Bag Event (March 2012)** — Darcy DuComb, of the Seattle City Attorney’s Office, spoke on a race and social justice initiative, SB 6284, which was later signed into law by Governor Gregoire.
- **Civil Rights Tax Relief Act** — The Executive Committee voted in favor of the WSBA Board of Governors to take a position in support of the Civil Rights Tax Relief Act of 2011.

WSBA Invites You to Observe the Day of Service

In 1994, Congress designated the Martin Luther King Jr. federal holiday as a national day of service. It is the only federal holiday observed as a national day of service — a “day on, not a day off.” The MLK Day of Service is a part of [United We Serve](#), the President’s national call-to-service initiative. It asks Americans from all walks of life to work together to provide solutions to our most pressing national problems.

Learn more about the MLK Day of Service on the official [website](#). Then, find out how you can get involved on Jan. 21 and throughout the year by visiting the WSBA [Volunteer Opportunities](#) page.