

ACCESS TO JUSTICE BOARD 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



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Access to Justice Board 2022 Annual Report

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ACCESS TO JUSTICE BOARD

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<http://AllianceForEqualJustice.org>



Established by the Supreme Court of Washington
Administered by the Washington State Bar Association

CHAIR

Letter from the Chair

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Access to Justice Board, I am delighted to present the Board's 2022 Annual Report. Last year, we reported the success of the Access to Justice Conference and the inclusion of diverse community voices in the reform of our justice system. The Board promised then not to relent in the pursuit of fairness and the necessary reckoning for the historic injustice of the past.



**Francis Adewale, Chair
Access to Justice Board**

Our work with the Community Advisory Panel (CAP) and their impact in the formulation of civil legal aid policies and programs has been tremendous. With CAP members we prioritize hearing the voices of those with lived experience of injustice and compensate them fairly for their time. Their contributions to the development of ATJ Board policies such as the ATJ Technology Plan, discussion of court rules and reviewing progress of the Board's priorities has been profound. Other Access to Justice Commissions have reached out to embrace this unique approach to community justice.

In the last year, the ATJ Board and its Delivery System Committee (DSCo) invested a great deal of time and expense in reflection on how we conceive and roll out policies and ideas. The DSCo Strategic Planning subcommittee continues to work to reexamine our structure and funding and led an Alliance-wide assessment to inform potential changes to our guiding documents. The Civil/Criminal Desiloing subcommittee is leading a pathway to action that emphasizes a mutual aid approach to the endemic problem created by the barriers posed by our silo-ed justice systems. The Undocumented Communities subcommittee continues to advocate for increased funding and awareness to serve undocumented communities. They are working with the Office of Civil Legal Aid to develop a pilot project in Yakima and have hired consultants to conduct a needs assessment of the same area. DSCo continues to oversee the Mapping Project, which aims to use data to identify where services are provided across the state and where resources should be targeted to increase services.

CHAIR

One great impact of our investment in diverse community voices is the success of our recruitment committee in attracting applicants from all geographical corners of our state to serve as members of the Board. More than 50% of applicants were Black, Indigenous, and other people of color. We are welcoming:

- **Jane Smith**, a member of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Indian Reservation and second-generation tribal judge
- **Vanna Sing**, Southeast Asian from Cambodia and founder of Tacoma Community Healing Awareness (THAC) serving the Southeast Asian communities in the South Sound
- **Carnissa Lucas-Smith**, a King County Public Defender, Black woman, and recent law school graduate
- **Brynn Felix**, General Counsel with Peninsula Community Health Services in Kitsap County

This fulfills our promise at the end of the last conference to include voices of those impacted by our justice system from all over the state in the formulation of statewide civil legal policies. What is more, our new incoming Chair, Terry Price, will be the first openly gay Chair of the Access to Justice Board. The Board's internal equity workgroup is committed to continue efforts to conduct a race equity self-audit to identify practices that impede diverse recruitment and retention of Board members, staff, and volunteers, and develop strategies to eliminate those practices.

The Board commits to promoting systemic and internal race-equity practices, working toward a vision that race or color does not determine the availability and quality of services, fairness of outcomes, or opportunities for communities and individuals. This commitment is epitomized by the numerous reflections done in working and public sessions in the last year. But, by far the most profound reckoning we have done is the examination of the impact of our justice systems on Indigenous communities in our state. The Board and its committees committed to active listening and doing the immersive work to learn how we can better come alongside Indigenous communities in our state in the delivery of civil legal aid. We learned a lot. For instance, we eschewed the performative land acknowledgment at meetings that are not founded on knowledge and reckoning for the injustices of the past and rectification of the


CHAIR

same. Our work, which is still ongoing, will continue to unearth all forms of injustice and disparities and make the Board accountable to Indigenous communities in our state.

One of the important priorities of the Board in the past year is to support and uplift partnerships among legal aid providers and with justice-involved and community-based organizations. In furtherance of this objective, the Board co-sponsored the online hate and discrimination CLE with Cardozo Society titled “Online Harassment & Cyberstalking: Navigating the New Frontier of Hate Crimes: Implications in Domestic Violence, the First Amendment and Access to Justice.” It also collaborated with WSBA Board of Governors on the Small Towns and Rural Attorneys project to increase representation in rural communities.

Over the next year the Board looks forward to continuing these important actions, including increasing our partnerships with the Community Advisory Panel and other community partners.

Sincerely,



Francis Adewale, *Chair*
Access to Justice Board

ALLIANCE

Building a Healthier Alliance for Equal Justice

The Delivery System Committee (DSCo) has been in the process of strategic planning, evaluating the Alliance for Equal Justice's role, purpose, and effectiveness and determining a planning process to update the current State Plan. As part of this process, DSCo reviewed foundational documents that serve as guideposts for the ATJ Board and the Alliance for Equal Justice.

One of the foundational documents are the [Hallmarks](#) for Equal Justice, which DSCo recognized had not been updated since 2014. Much has happened since then including a racial justice reckoning and movement to actively bring community partners into our collective work. In discussing the need to review and update the Hallmarks, DSCo determined that the process should be informed by community partners and those who have been directly impacted by systemic oppression.

Before engaging in updating the State Plan and Hallmarks, DSCo determined it would be helpful to first engage in a self-assessment of the Alliance. In spring 2022 we deployed the [Healthy Alliance Assessment](#) tool with the help of [RoadMap Consulting](#) to survey Alliance members on their perceptions of the leadership, structure, and purpose of the Alliance. The Assessment helped us to identify where we are in the "life cycle" of Alliance so we can chart a course for the future. The survey helped us identify our strengths and challenges.



ALLIANCE

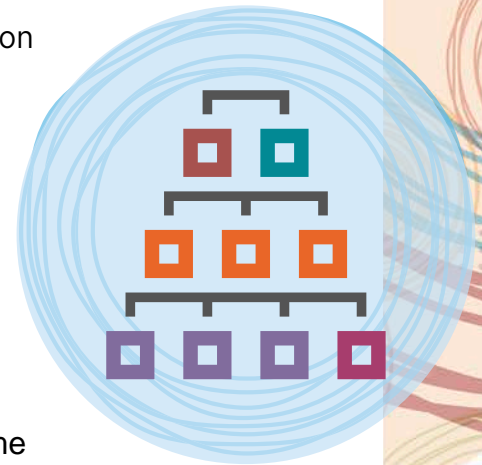
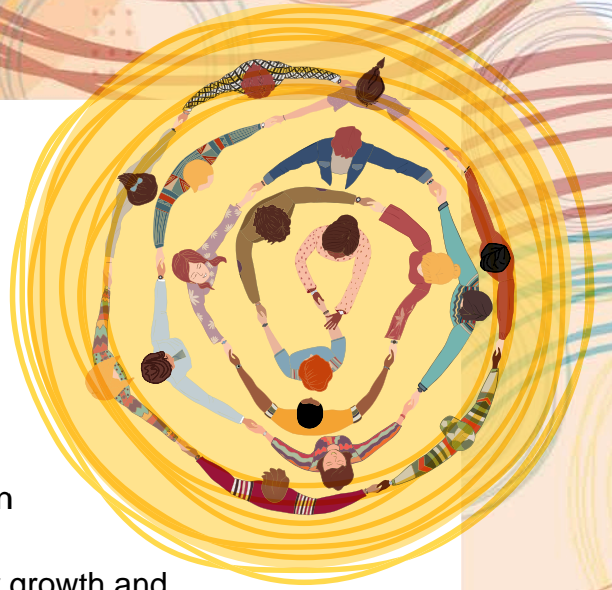
The Assessment shows that Alliance members recognize that the mission, vision, goals, the State Plan, and strategic planning are areas of strength. Access to justice principles, dedication to equity, strong shared commitment to work were identified as ethical strongpoints. The strongest elements and capabilities agreed upon by those surveyed were collaboration, connection, and networking. Areas for growth and learning as a network were also uncovered

There was agreement on the need for clarity on organizational roles, structures, recruitment and onboarding strategies, leadership development, and communications between organizations and decision-makers. The Assessment also surfaced those decision-making processes that need clarity and improvement.

Addressing power dynamics and equity were keys point that came up numerous times with smaller organizations who feel they do not have as much of a voice. Engaging community members and those most directly impacted was noted as very important. There was also a consensus that Alliance members need more space to better connect and learn from each other

The Assessment also uncovered a desire to explore the overall purpose of the Alliance, including who the members are and the respective roles in dismantling systems of oppression and direct client legal services.

The strategic planning work continues to inform DSCo in the effort to be collaborative, relevant, and effective in our work and relationship with communities who have been most harmed by systemic oppression. The Assessment provided us with issues to address as we move towards updating the Hallmarks and the State Plan. ■



CAP

The Community Advisory Panel's Vision Grows

The first year of the Access to Justice Board's Community Advisory Panel (CAP) was an inspiring, informative, and meaningful step toward actualizing the commitments laid forth in the Board's **2020**

racial justice call and commitment to action. The CAP consists of leaders from communities disproportionately impacted by the legal system who are serving as key advisors to the ATJ Board on how to center community voices in decision making.

Practicing the mantra that "change moves at the speed of trust," CAP has had to endure the pressure and pain points of pursuing change in a culture that is difficult to move.

One CAP participant articulated this understanding, saying:

"Getting into this, we knew it was going to be hard—getting the legal system to change their thinking and way of doing things"

The collective commitment and resilience of CAP members to seek systems transformation and true access to justice for all, in the face of resistance and critique, has resulted in greater influence, deeper analysis and truth telling, and supportive funding.



And another in the same conversation offered:

"There is always a tension between a present and future state. There is no surprise that there is a tension, and the tension arises when there is a significant transformation about to happen."

CAP

EXPANDING INFLUENCE

Starting in the winter of 2021, the Community Advisory Panel presented at the National Access to Justice Commissions Meeting sharing about the innovative work of CAP, highlighting the essential and nuanced work of centering the voices and building right relationships with those most impacted by systems decisions. The presentation allowed the group to acknowledge our shared learnings, pain points, and promising future. CAP has also played a greater role in providing invaluable input on ATJ Board initiatives, including recruitment to expand community voices on the Board, feedback on the recently adopted ATJ Technology Plan, and input on the Board's progress with its priorities. Additionally, CAP meets regularly to discuss strategies to increase community representation and voices in Alliance for Equal Justice efforts. They recently provided guidance for a community engagement roll-out to break down barriers between the civil and criminal systems and met with the new staff of the Equity and Access to Justice team at the Administrative Office of the Courts.

Community Advisory Panel Members

- **Jordan Chaney**
Jordan Chaney Poet, Governor's Task Force on Independent Investigations of Police Use of Force; *Tri-Cities*
- **Andre Dwayne Henderson**
Civil Survival & Olympic College student, *Kitsap County*
- **Karyn Kameroff, MA, MSW, SWAICL**
Member of the Choctaw Nation working with the Cowlitz Tribe & Clark County Investigative Response Team for the Use of Deadly Force, *Clark County*
- **Carol Caliyah Mitchell**
Living and Leading with Soulfulness and Institute for Black Justice, *Pierce County*
- **Marissa Perez**
Cedar Rising Coalition, *King County*
- **Yonas Seifu**
Collective Justice NW & small business advocate, *King County*
- **Angel Tomeo Sam**
Peer Re-entry Navigators & formerly The Bail Project Spokane and Spokane Regional Law & Justice Council Racial Equity Committee, *Spokane*
- **Duaa-Rahemaah Williams**
Community Member, *Spokane*

CAP

INCREASING SCOPE

Looking to the next two years, we believe that it is time to expand the Community Advisory Panel's scope to promote and model community leadership within the Alliance for Equal Justice and provide broader systemic input. The first two years with the Community Advisory Panel have involved establishing staffing and infrastructure for the panel, building relationships with the Advisors, and learning how best to integrate the Advisors into Board decision-making. However, the vision has always been to establish the Advisory Panel as integral players in the systemic work of the Alliance. This can include but is not limited to:

- Providing strategic insights into policy work, both of the ATJ board and in relationship with other Alliance members.
- Participating as key voices in the development and review of future State Plans.
- Continuing to bring a community perspective to learning spaces such as the Access to Justice Conference and other Alliance-wide forums.
- Taking a leadership role in designing and articulating what it means for Alliance members to become more fully community-centered and anti-racist.

With the generous support of a Legal Foundation of Washington Race Equity Grant, we are embarking on a path forward over the next two years to implement this vision. ■



RACE EQUITY

Inside-Out Approach to Race Equity

Particularly since the launch of the current State Plan and the overarching goal of race equity, the ATJ Board has been working to create a more inclusive culture, review and improve our operations with an equity lens, and increase the diversity of perspectives and lived experience on the Board.

In 2021, the ATJ Board continued and strengthened its commitment to race equity by reflecting on how interpersonal, institutional, and structural racism affect access to justice. The Board worked with race equity consultant Kyana Wheeler to continue to learn about race equity on a systemic, organizational, and personal level. The Board is using an equity workbook created by Ms. Wheeler as we continue to deepen our self and other-awareness.

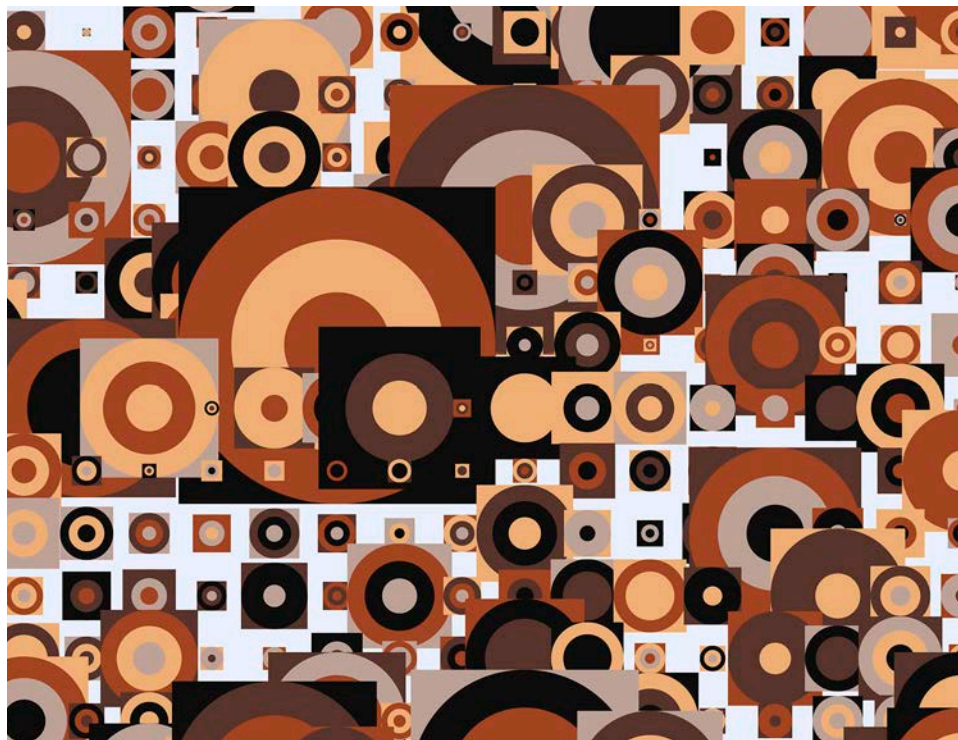


In 2022, the Board engaged equity coaches from JustLead Washington to do an organizational assessment to identify strengths and areas for improvement. JustLead's equity coaches had candid conversations with every Board member and staff and designed an anonymous survey. The assessment showed that the Board's strengths include our collective commitment to race equity, respect for each other and diversity of perspectives. The areas for growth include building trust and a more inclusive space and culture. Another growth area is operationalizing our commitment to take leadership from impacted communities and work in solidarity with those communities in ways that are authentic and effective.

RACE EQUITY

One way the Board has been working toward walking its talk on diversifying the Board and bringing more community-based leaders to the table was through its work to fill four open member positions. This year, the Board recruited beyond the legal community, seeking candidates through the Community Advisory Panel and other community-based networks. The Board received a record number of applications from the most diverse group of people to date. More than half of the Board applicants were people of color and many applicants had firsthand experience of struggling to access to justice. The Board is excited to welcome the following four new and important voices to the Board:

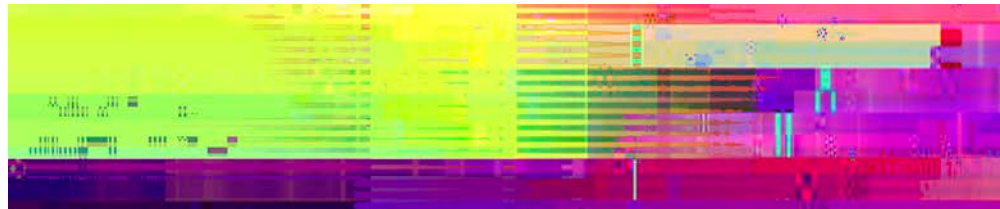
- **Jane Smith**, a member of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Indian Reservation and second-generation tribal judge
- **Vanna Sing**, Southeast Asian from Cambodia and founder of Tacoma Community Healing Awareness (THAC) serving the Southeast Asian communities in the South Sound
- **Carnissa Lucas-Smith**, a King County Public Defender, Black woman, and recent law school graduate
- **Brynn Felix**, General Counsel with Peninsula Community Health Services in Kitsap County



TECH PLAN

ATJ Tech Justice Plan Launches

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, technology remains integral to access to justice particularly for people who experience poverty and represent themselves in court. The ATJ Board's Technology Committee continues to be leaders in our state to push for tech justice innovations and solutions. Over the last year, the ATJ Technology Committee launched the [ATJ Technology Justice Plan](#), which laid out specific projects that it will pursue using the ATJ Technology Principles. The [2020 ATJ Technology Principles](#) were drafted pre-pandemic, and the pandemic has shown just how essential fairness and justice are when implementing new court technology.

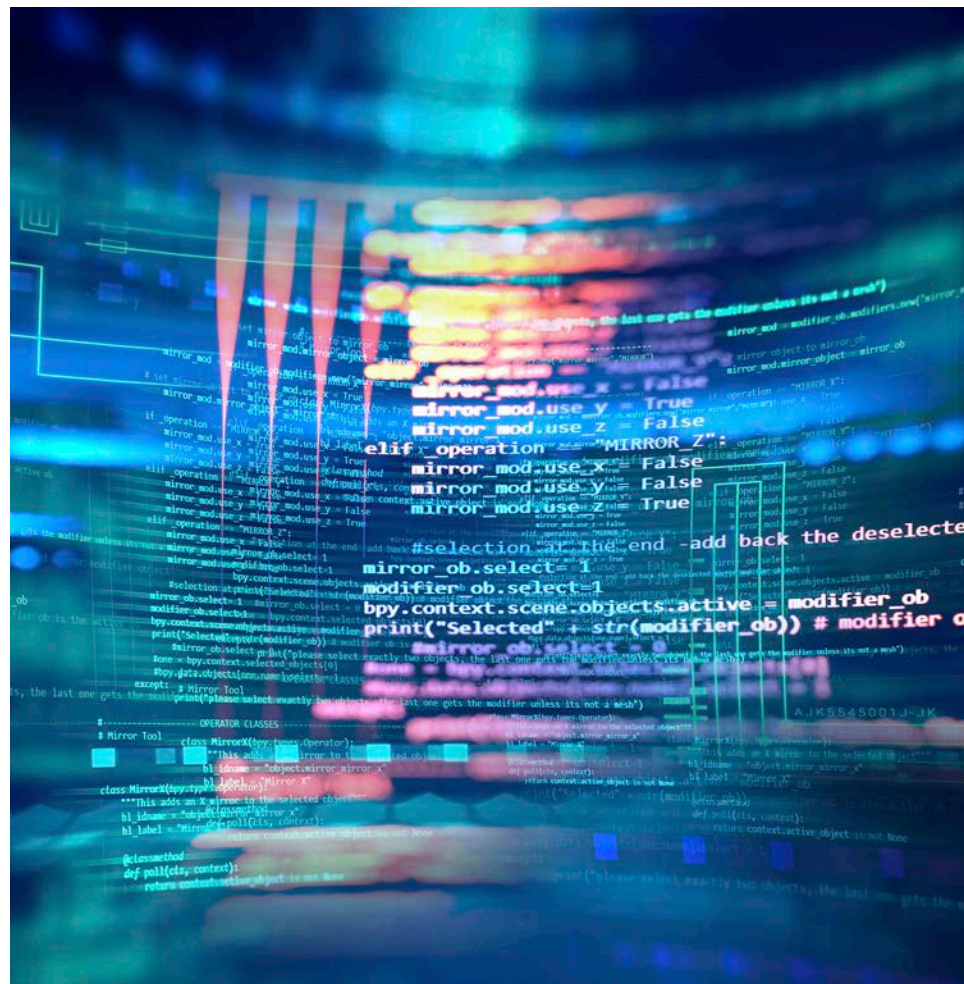


With the pandemic, innovations like accelerated implementation of e-filing and remote hearings have the potential to leave some court users behind or even shut out completely. This is particularly true of self-represented litigants. The Technology Justice Plan identifies some of the barriers for these groups. This includes systemic issues like the digital divide as a result of many parts of the state where broadband and signal reception are poor or just unavailable. But there are also court-related difficulties (confusion about court processes, difficulty with fee waivers or legal financial obligation reductions) where technology could assist. The Plan foresees even more robust online data services for litigants to get information like using YouTube videos in several languages rather than written words. Likewise, the Plan foresees the use of technology to pay court fees or legal financial obligations, or automated ways to apply for fee waivers. Additionally, the Plan anticipates greater use of online legal algorithms and websites/apps for people who cannot afford or find legal services. The ATJ Technology Committee has heard from Michael Cherry, chair of the Practice of Law Board (POLB), about the work of the POLB to design a legal regulatory lab sandbox to explore ways to better regulate online legal service providers. While this is a complex area, it is essential that Washington adopt a position that protects vulnerable consumers.

TECH PLAN

In addition to launching the new Tech Justice Plan, the Committee continues to serve as a place for members to bring their court technology experiences together for sharing and problem-solving. The Committee heard from the Administrative Office of the Court's new Equity and Access Team about how to better coordinate services. The Committee has also been an informational hub for issues like the data breach with the Odyssey Portal, and how to get that information out to court users. The Committee chairs continue to serve as liaisons to various court technology-related groups like the Superior Court User Work Group, Court of Limited Jurisdiction Court User Work Group, and Judicial Information Systems Committee, which provides some opportunities to learn and share concerns from the perspectives of self-represented litigants and litigants who experience poverty.

Technology concerns, especially user experience issues, continue to proliferate. The ATJ Technology Committee has substantial expertise in this area and will continue to monitor and advise. ■



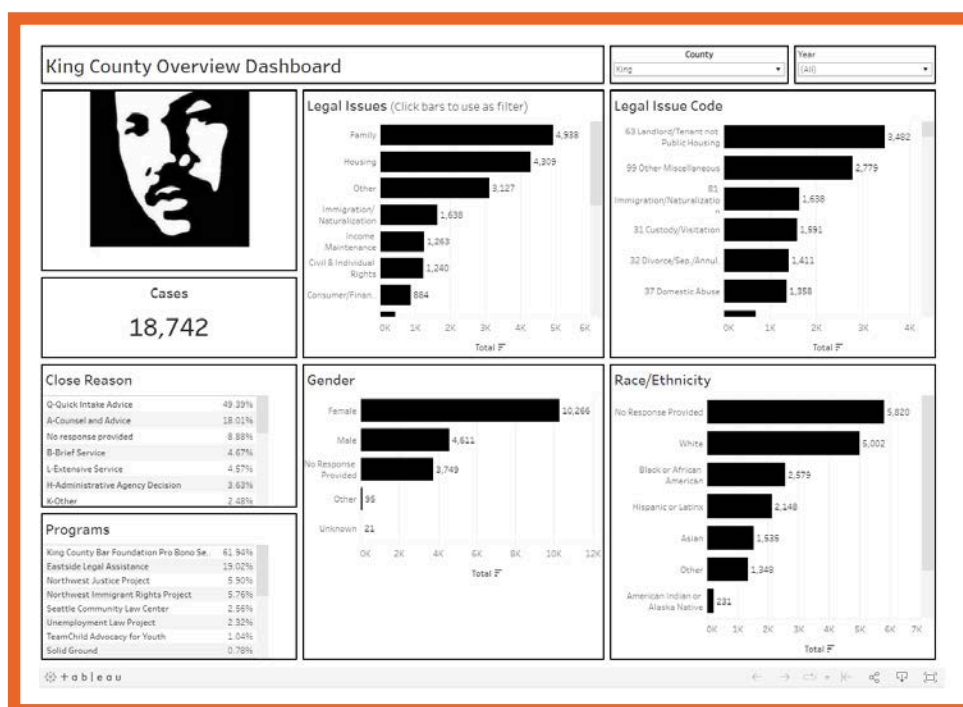
WaLAMP

Washington Legal Aid Mapping Project Takes Form

The Washington State Legal Aid Mapping Project (WaLAMP), led by Michael Terasaki, is a project of the ATJ Board's Delivery Systems Committee that continued its work to survey legal aid providers and services in Washington state. The mapping tool provides two sets of information:

1. Where all types of legal aid providers are located around the state and what services they offer.
2. The demographics and locations of different client-eligible populations, which could be cross-referenced to indicate where services match needs and where there are gaps.

In January, WaLAMP released its first annual report, covering the year 2020 and containing more than 41 pages of data and insights into the legal aid landscape of Washington state. In addition to creating the 2020 report, WaLAMP engaged Scott Gower, a data visualization specialist at Project 3 Consulting, to create a new set of user-friendly and informative maps and tables that incorporate census data. These new maps allow us to see how well specific demographic populations are or are not being served by legal aid programs in Washington.

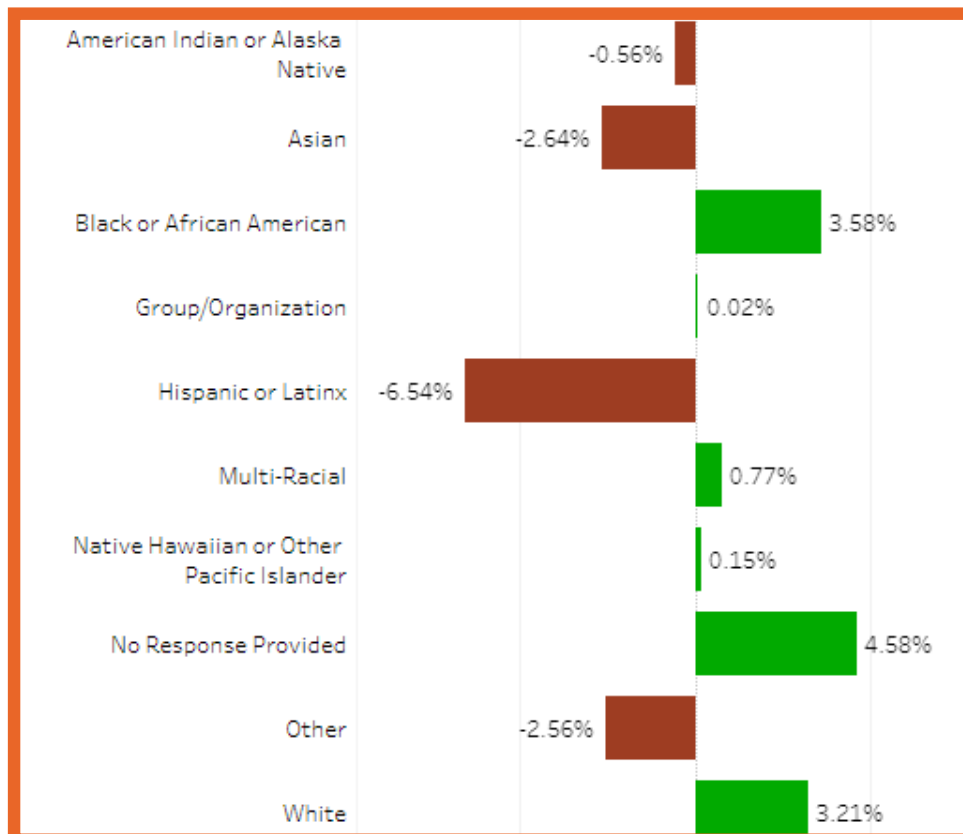


WaLAMP

Explore the county dashboard [here](#) and the interactive map [here](#).



As a volunteer-driven project, WaLAMP has spent the first half of 2022 collecting the data for the 2021 service year. Once this data is collected, the 2021 service numbers will be added to the WaLAMP maps and tables, likely in Fall of 2022. This data can be used to make informed decisions about where to direct resources and funding. ■



DESILIOING

Breaking Down the Barriers Between Civil and Criminal

Advocates in Washington have long recognized that the systems responsible for delivering legal services to those with civil legal needs and criminal legal needs are deeply siloed from one another. The impact of these siloed systems falls heavily and disproportionately on Black, Indigenous, other People of Color and marginalized communities across the state. In Washington, legal services providers do not, largely, practice holistic methods of providing legal services to our clients; however, it is well known that civil legal aid needs impact individuals' criminal cases, and vice versa. Our siloed systems create accessibility issues for the client communities, resulting in the increased likelihood that the legal needs of underserved and underrepresented communities are being left unaddressed.



In 2021, the Delivery System Committee launched a Civil/Criminal Desiloing Subcommittee to explore intentional, well-planned efforts to break down these barriers. The Subcommittee committed time to understanding the attempts to address the problem of siloed systems that have already been explored, what has worked and what needs more intentional solutions. In doing so, the Subcommittee has developed a multi-phase project proposal that prioritizes the following:

- Using an intersectional lens, acknowledging that to meet the needs of diverse communities we must see the full range of identities and backgrounds and how they interact.
- Leaning into movement lawyering principles, which recognizes that system actors have a wealth of knowledge and skills to navigate the complexities of the legal landscape, but that to truly transform systems and shift power, we need to center, build with, and be accountable to community-led BIPOC movements.

DESILING

By intentionally engaging with diverse stakeholders who are often left out from sharing perspectives, experiences, and ideas, the equity and justice community will be better able to move towards a more equitable and transformative outcome. The first phase of the plan includes intentional outreach and building relationships with community-based organizations, grassroots/movement-based collectives and organizers, impacted community-members, and other stakeholders. Specific action steps to break down the silos have not been identified yet as we need the critical input from the community to drive solutions. We will also invest in operationalizing the project with staff and other infrastructure to ensure that we are creating the adequate space for this work to thrive. We anticipate this project to last a few years and look forward to providing continual updates on progress.

As we address the barriers to justice that marginalized communities face, we must acknowledge that our legal system as historically hoarded decision-making power. This project to desilo the civil and criminal legal systems instead seeks to shift power back to impacted groups to identify solutions and build thriving communities.

REBALANCING POWER



Source: JustLead Washington

UNDOCUMENTED

Undocumented Community Needs Assessment Paves the Way to More Resources

In August 2020, the ATJ Board adopted the Delivery System Committee's (DSCo) [findings and recommendations on equitable legal aid access for undocumented communities](#). The first portion of findings focuses on the importance of increasing resources dedicated to serving undocumented communities. In 2021, the Committee and others successfully advocated for removing the provision in OCLA's statute that denied access to state-funded legal aid services on the basis of immigration status.

While the restriction was lifted, no money was appropriated to directly serve undocumented people. It is imperative to create mechanisms to ensure that services reach undocumented people by tracking data. We must ensure that funds are allocated to serve this community who continues to be overlooked. Funding is very much central to true access to justice.



To that end, in the summer of 2022, DSCo launched a needs assessment of the undocumented community in Yakima Valley, Washington. The assessment will include demographic and economic data, the availability of legal services, the legal and structural inequities that harm the undocumented community, and recommendations for addressing barriers. This needs assessment will be used to make the case for funding and increased resource during the 2023 legislative session and with other funders. ■

EJC

The Equal Justice Coalition Leads on Public Investments

The EJC is a committee of the ATJ Board that is managed and funded by LFW. Its purpose is to advocate for public funding for civil legal aid. Staffed by the Legal Foundation of Washington's Communications and Advocacy Director, the EJC works with contract lobbyists as well as elected officials, Alliance for Equal Justice partners, and stakeholders.

**EQUAL
JUSTICE
COALITION**

STATE FUNDING UPDATE

Despite the limited nature of this year's 60-day supplemental session, Washington state legislators responded to significant civil justice needs by approving several key new investments.

The Legislature funded an increase of more than \$8 million for programs through the state Office of Civil Legal Aid, including for legal assistance around eviction prevention, the right to counsel in eviction proceedings, domestic violence, and civil relief related to the State v. Blake decision. Additional new funds for legal services include postconviction and reentry assistance and helping cover a shortfall after a federal cut to the Victims of Crime Act, which serves survivors of domestic violence and others through several legal aid programs and community organizations in Washington.



FEDERAL FUNDING

The EJC's traditional spring effort in support of maintaining and expanding federal Legal Services Corporation (LSC) funding did not take place in 2022 as LFW underwent a transition and Alexandra Deas assumed the Communications and Advocacy Director position at the beginning of June. Instead, César Torres, Executive Director of the Northwest Justice Project (the sole state recipient of LSC funding) will travel to D.C. in mid-September 2022 and meet with members of the Congressional delegation in conjunction with an LSC conference.

The EJC's 2021 report noted good prospects for the first significant LSC increase in many years after the House of Representatives followed President Biden's lead and approved a historic \$600 million LSC funding level (a 29% increase). However, the President's FFY-2022 Build Back Better budget blueprint faced severe headwinds, with final action delayed for 6 months (until March 2022, almost a month after the start of the war in Ukraine). In a highly unusual result, the final budget mark for LSC—\$489 million—fell even below the Senate budget approved amount of \$525 million (a 10% increase). This funding level fell far short of even conservative projections, resulting in NJP experiencing a significant federal funding shortfall.

For FFY-2023 the House of Representatives has approved \$675 million for LSC (President Biden's budget requested \$700 million). This is the largest amount ever included in a congressional appropriations bill for legal services. The Senate is on track to approve \$539 million (a 10% increase). Despite continued Congressional bipartisan support for LSC, and among the Washington delegation in particular, the prospects of even worse dysfunction surrounding the upcoming elections makes it impossible to predict an orderly adoption of FFY-2023 spending bills, much less to hazard any projections as the final budget mark for LSC.



PRO BONO

Pro Bono Council Year in Review

The mission of the Statewide Pro Bono Council is to further access to justice by supporting and advocating on behalf of the Volunteer Lawyer Programs (VLPs) in Washington state. Major efforts of the last year focused around bringing services back for in-person meetings, hearings, clinics, and events.



RETURN OF IN-PERSON SERVICES

Volunteer lawyer programs across the state spent the last year juggling a return to (new) normal with the realities of a legal system forever changed by COVID-19. Responding to client needs, VLPs reopened their doors at least part-time and restarted many of the in-person legal clinics and consultations that existed back in 2020.

While increased use of courtroom technology, like Zoom or remote hearings, continues to allow many clients to participate in their own cases more easily, those without access to fast internet or technology benefitted from a return to in-person options for hearings and appointments. Volunteer Lawyer Programs, as lean and nimble organizations, were able to provide support for clients in both situations. For example, Skagit Legal Aid revived the annual in-person “Skagit Law Day Clinic” for in-person advice, and most VLPs now offer a safe, private “Zoom room” space for clients without technology access to use during virtual hearings and consultations.

INCREASED INVESTMENT IN NATIVE COMMUNITIES

Pro Bono Council and volunteer lawyer programs spent the last year renewing our commitments to serve native communities and fostering relationships with tribal governments and organizations. Some programs, like Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Legal Aid, increased dedicated staffing for outreach and support of Native Community neighbors. Some programs expanded partnerships with local Tribal courts, like Skagit Legal Aid who hosted a Swinomish Tribal Court CLE event that culminated in the swearing-in of more than 25 new Swinomish Tribal Bar members.

“CWLA’s amazing staff is connecting and learning more about serving the everyday civil legal needs of tribal members with a legal clinic offered regularly at the Administrative Offices of the Cowlitz Tribe. Funding for our general operation is supporting this focused, culturally sensitive work and allows us to offer this program led by staff from the native community.”

**Lori Bashor-Sarancik,
Executive Director of
Cowlitz Wahkiakum Legal Aid**

PRO BONO

RECOGNITION FOR (A LIFETIME OF) GOOD WORK DONE!

This year, longtime PBC Member and volunteer lawyer program board member Gail Smith received the WSBA APEX Lifetime Service Award. This special award is given for a lifetime of service to the legal community and the public. Gail has served on the board of LAW Advocates in Whatcom County, and on the board of Skagit Legal Aid. He is also an inaugural member of the Washington Pro Bono Council. Congratulations, Gail!

DEMENTIA ADVANCED LEGAL PLANNING

This year, the Pro Bono Council launched a new, statewide program to provide free legal assistance to those in need of advanced legal planning documents to plan for the progression of dementia. In partnership with the Washington Dementia Action Collaborative and DSHS, Pro Bono Council staffing increased to operate the new program. Now anyone over the age of 60, anyone with a family history of dementia, or anyone living with dementia of any age can obtain free legal support for dementia legal planning (power of attorney and advanced directive documents). ■

SERVICE NUMBERS

**40,131
hours**

attorney services provided to low-income clients, including thousands of staff attorney hours through the state eviction “right to counsel” program

**15,382
clients**

received no cost legal services

**17,910
hours**

in volunteer attorney work provided

**2,722
clients**

received direct representation
(500 more than last year!)

PRO BONO



Swinomish Attorneys, Skagit Legal Aid Director, and representative of the National Native American Law Students Association at a well-attended Tribal Law CLE that concluded with the swearing in of more than 25 new Swinomish Tribal Bar members.



Cowlitz Wahkiakum Legal Aid director Lori Bashor-Sarancik and PBC Manager Michael Terasaki present at a well-attended community education event about guardianships, conservatorships, and dementia advanced legal planning.

PRO BONO



ELAP staff attorney Dorothy Leggett, Health Center Business Director at Healthpoint's Midway Clinic, Magdalena (Magda) Herrera de Leonis, and ATJ Board Member Esperanza Borboa at the 2022 "Breakfast for Justice" in Bellevue, Washington.



Clark County Volunteer Lawyers Program Volunteer Manager Mia Demay and Survivor Support Program Manager Colin Newton table at the "Pride in the Park" event in Vancouver, Washington.

RULES

Rules Committee Overview

In 2022, the Access to Justice Board Rules Committee continued to thoroughly consider and provide input concerning court rules that potentially create and reduce barriers to accessing the civil and foster care legal systems. For example, the Board wrote in support of amendments to Code of Judicial Conduct Rules 2.2 and 2.6, designed to assist judicial officers in better understanding how they can work with unrepresented litigants. Relatedly, the Rules Committee once again wrote in support of General Rule 40, relating to informal family law trials, emphasizing that the findings of the 2015 Civil Legal Needs Study Update concerning the pressing needs of unrepresented family law litigants support doing more to serve litigants in that area of law.

Also in judicial ethics, the Board wrote in support of amending Code of Judicial Conduct Rule 2.3, making express the requirement that judicial officers not mistreat individuals on account of their gender identity and gender expression.

Significantly, the Rules Committee wrote a lengthy comment expressing the Board's views on proposed amendments to Civil Rule 39 relating to remote trial proceedings and proposed new General Rule 41 relating to remote jury selection. While neither supporting nor opposing the proposed amendments and new rule, the Rules Committee urged consideration of the potential impact of the rules on historically marginalized communities, along with several other important access considerations. ■



LEADERSHIP

2021-2022 ATJ Board Members

Francis Adewale, *Chair*

Esperanza Borboa

Michael Chin

Hon. Frederick P. Corbit

Hon. David S. Keenan

Lindy Laurence

Michelle Lucas

Salvador A. Mungia

Mirya Muñoz-Roach

Terry J. Price, *Chair-Elect*

STAFF

Diana Singleton

Chief Equity and Justice Officer

Bonnie M. Sterken

Equity and Justice Specialist

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Access to Justice Board would not be able to accomplish its work without the dedication and support of its many committee volunteers. The Board is grateful to the support and guidance of its standing committees over the past year.

COMMITTEES AND CHAIRS

Access to Justice Conference Planning Committee:

Jenae Ball and Esperanza Borboa

Delivery System Committee:

Michael Terasaki, Francis Adewale and Esperanza Borboa

Equal Justice Coalition:

Kara Masters

Pro Bono Council:

Eloise Barshes and Elizabeth Fitzgearld

Rules Committee:

Hon. David Keenan and Chris Durban

Technology Committee:

Terry Price and Stephen Seely