

# Welcome Lindy Laurence, new Access to Justice Board member

By Jessica DiPietro, Temporary Administrative Assistant and Justice Project Coordinator,  
Washington State Bar Association

📦📦📦📦📦 *Lindy, currently a project coordinator and paralegal for the Tacoma-Pierce County Bar Association Volunteer Legal Services Program, is passionate about creating a just society. She is a single mom of two multi-racial children, and she leads by example, making time to give back to her community. She is looking forward to aligning the goals of the Board with that of the Alliance in order to best serve the community. "In an ideal world, every client would have effective counsel," Lindy says, "yet there is still a lack of awareness around the need for legal aid, social justice, and pro bono work." Lindy is looking forward to strengthening collaborative relationships within the Alliance and ensuring the continuity, expansion, and longevity of the equal justice movement in Washington state.*



**Q. Jessica:** What interests you about the mission of the ATJ board?

**A. Lindy:** Creating a just society where everyone, regardless of status or cause, has equal access to legal advice, assistance, and representation when needed is really a passion of mine. I have a deep belief in the necessity of legal aid and am looking forward to helping further that purpose through my work with the Board.

**Q. Jessica: What are you looking forward to during your time on the board?**

**A. Lindy:** I believe that the justice system must continue to collaborate with people, professions, and organizations to meet the legal and law-related needs of the public, and I'm looking forward to strengthening collaborative relationships within the Alliance, as well as working to further the work that others have done before me in ensuring the continuity, expansion, and longevity of the equal justice movement in Washington State. I can't wait to dive in!

**Q. Jessica: What in your background led you to the board?**

**A. Lindy:** I have a deep appreciation of cultural, social, and religious diversity from my family background and believe I can bring these perspectives to the ATJ Board. Further, I know and understand the ways in which personal history can create powerful barriers to accessing legal help and trusting legal professionals. As a single mom raising two multi-racial children, I have a deep passion for advocating for parents, families, and anti-racist and anti-oppression movements. And in my role with Volunteer Legal Services, I am constantly engaging with attorneys and asking them to give their time and talents to do pro bono work. I believe that if I'm asking others to serve and do this work, I also need to serve others and work to bring like-minded people together.

**Q. Jessica: What is a memorable accomplishment in your justice work history?**

**A. Lindy:** Easy question!! I worked with a Spanish-speaking pro se client who came to our program trying to enforce a settlement agreement in her divorce case. The other party was represented by counsel, and in the final documents none of the agreed terms were reflected. I was able to help her get access to attorneys who prepared her to go to trial. She effectively presented her case, and got an even more favorable outcome at trial. She was so grateful, felt so empowered. In an ideal world, every client would have effective counsel. But until we reach that point, it's inspiring to see clients get educated and empowered to effectively solve their own legal problems.

**Trying to reach an ATJ Board member? Find the current roster and their contact details at <http://www.wsba.org/Legal-Community/Committees-Boards-and-Other-Groups/Access-to-Justice-Board/ATJ-Board-Members>**