

WSBA Small Town and Rural (STAR) Practice Inaugural Summit

Thursday, June 6 – Friday, June 7, 2024
Gonzaga University School of Law
721 N Cincinnati St, Spokane, WA 99202

**IN-PERSON
EVENT**

**WASHINGTON STATE
BAR ASSOCIATION**

WSBA Small Town and Rural (STAR) Practice Inaugural Summit

WSBA CLE – STAR001 SPO

DATES

Thursday, June 6 and
Friday, June 7, 2024

IN-PERSON

VENUE

Gonzaga University
School of Law
721 N Cincinnati St,
Spokane, WA 99202

6.0 CLE CREDITS

6.00 – Other

*Or depending on choice of
concurrent sessions:*

4.75 – Other

1.25 – Ethics - DEI

REGISTRATION

\$30.00 – Standard

Space is limited. \$30 registration fee includes two receptions, continental breakfast, and lunch.

CO-CHAIRS

Laurie Powers – *Gonzaga University School of Law, Spokane, WA*

Merf Ehman – *Columbia Legal Services, Seattle, WA*

Kevin Plachy – *Washington State Bar Association, Seattle, WA*

REGISTRATION

Online at [WSBA Small Town and Rural \(STAR\) Practice Inaugural Summit](https://mywsba.org) (mywsba.org).

WSBA|CLE
Invested in your success.™



The Washington State Small Town and Rural Practice Summit will convene a broad range of stakeholders, including judges, attorneys, and law school students from across Washington State to discuss and learn about the challenges and opportunities facing rural communities and the legal professionals practicing within them.

This first of its kind event will be thought-provoking and solution-driven as we explore:

- Rural Legal Needs
- Resource Allocation
- Access to Justice Issues
- Career Fulfillment
- Opportunities and Challenges Associated With Small Town and Rural Law Practice

Featuring U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Salvador Mendoza Jr., Washington Supreme Court Chief Justice Steven C. González, Washington State Superior Court Judges, prosecutors, public defenders, public interest attorneys, private practitioners, and law school leaders, the event will include keynote presentations, panel discussions, and breakout sessions.

The Summit will be held at Gonzaga University School of Law and opens with a hosted reception on the evening of Thursday, June 6. Lunch is included during the Friday, June 7 keynote address and a final hosted reception will close out the event on Friday afternoon.

WSBA IN-PERSON MEETINGS & EVENTS:

WSBA policy encourages attendees of WSBA meetings and events to follow the [CDC's COVID-19 Community Level guidance](#) (e.g., masks are recommended in indoor public transportation settings), as well as any applicable state or local health authority requirements based on location of the event. As a friendly reminder, if you are sick, or exhibiting signs or symptoms of COVID-19, we request that you stay home. For more information on COVID-19 Prevention Actions from the CDC, see [How to Protect Yourself and Others | CDC](#).

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

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LODGING INFORMATION:

There are several hotels located nearby Gonzaga University School of Law. Follow the links below to be taken to the information for each hotel.

- [Holiday Inn Express Spokane Downtown](#)
- [Courtyard by Marriott Spokane Downtown](#)
- [Oxford Suites Spokane](#)
- [Ruby River Hotel](#)
- [Doubletree by Hilton Spokane-City Center](#)



DAY 1, THURSDAY EVENING, JUNE 6, 2024

6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. **Welcome Reception –**
Gonzaga University School of Law

DAY 2, FRIDAY, JUNE 7, 2024

8:00 a.m. **Check-in • Walk-in Registration**
Coffee and Continental Breakfast

8:30 a.m. **Welcome**

■ Jacob Rooksby – Dean of Gonzaga University School of Law,
Spokane, WA

8:40 a.m. **Why Access to Justice in Small Towns and Rural**
Communities Is a Statewide Concern

40 minutes, 0.75 credits Other

Chief Justice González will discuss funding of the courts, the constitutional right to counsel, the need for confidence in the court system, and the challenges faced in providing justice in rural communities. Q & A to follow.

■ Washington Supreme Court Chief Justice Steven C. González –
Washington Supreme Court, Olympia, WA

9:20 a.m. **BREAK**

(Day 1 continued next page)

*(Day 2 continued)***9:30 a.m. Issues and Opportunities in Small Town and Rural Practice***75 minutes, 1.25 credits Other*

The need for small town and rural attorneys is faced across practice areas. This facilitated speaker panel will discuss the legal issues faced by clients in those communities, the unique challenges of representing clients in rural communities, and the many opportunities to establish a successful career in a small town or rural community.

- █ Sonia Rodriguez True – Yakima County Superior Court Judge, Yakima, WA
- █ Dolly Hunt – WAPA Past President/Pend Oreille County Prosecuting Attorney, Newport, WA
- █ Brett Ballew – Office of Public Defense Lead Attorney, Olympia, WA
- █ Rusty McGuire – McGuire, DeWulf Kragt & Johnson PLLC, Davenport, WA
- █ **MODERATOR:** Jaime Cuevas, Jr. – Ramsey Companies, Inc., Wapato, WA

10:45 a.m. BREAK**11:00 a.m. Brainstorming Solutions for Issues in Small Town and Rural Practice***45 minutes, .75 credits Other*

STAR Committee members will facilitate small group brainstorming sessions on innovative solutions to the problems presented in the earlier presentation. Attendees will examine current laws, rules, and programs that can be improved to facilitate change. The breakout groups will return to share solutions together to prioritize solutions and create a plan moving forward.

- █ Merf Ehman – Executive Director, Columbia Legal Services, Seattle, WA

11:45 a.m. HOSTED LUNCH BUFFET with KEYNOTE SPEAKER**Law Practice in Rural Communities and Pathways to the Bench***50 Minutes, .75 Other*

Judge Mendoza will discuss his experience as first a practitioner and then a judicial officer in multiple Eastern Washington counties. From these beginnings to his current appointment to the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, Judge Mendoza's career covers the landscape of rural legal practice in Washington State. He will share his insights on the benefits and challenges of practicing in a smaller community, and how these experiences can create a successful pathway to leadership as a judicial officer.

- █ U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Salvador Mendoza, Jr. – U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, Richland, WA

(Day 1 continued next page)

*(Day 2 continued)***12:50 p.m. BREAK**

Afternoon Concurrent Sessions

OPTION A:

1:00 p.m. Attracting Lawyers to Rural Practice: How to Find Them, How to Keep Them

75 Minutes, 1.25 Other

Attorneys and recruiters from private practice, government, and public interest organizations will share their experience in hiring legal interns and attorneys for small town and rural positions. Learn what tips and incentives have produced the most success and what pitfalls to avoid.

- César E. Torres – Executive Director, Northwest Justice Project, Seattle, WA
- Rusty McGuire – Partner, McGuire, DeWulf Kragt & Johnson PLLC, Davenport, WA
- Laura Contreras – Directing Attorney, Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, Granger, WA

OPTION B:

1:00 p.m. Bridging Diversity: Navigating Intersectionality in Rural Practice

75 Minutes, 1.25 Ethics – DEI

Explore the nuanced and multifaceted challenges and ethical considerations of practicing law and fostering inclusivity in rural areas. Join us for a conversation on insights and strategies for creating equitable and supportive environments in rural practice areas that not only enhance the services provided to clients but also supports diversity within the legal profession.

- Vanessa Arno Martinez – Attorney & Co-Founder, Martinez Law, PLLC, Wenatchee, WA
- Paula Arno Martinez – Attorney & Co-Founder, Martinez Law, PLLC, Wenatchee, WA
- Zaida Rivera – Visiting Assistant Professor of Law, Seattle University School of Law, Seattle, WA
- Blanca Rodriguez – Deputy Director of Advocacy, Columbia Legal Services, Seattle, WA

2:15 p.m. BREAK*(Day 2 continued next page)*

*(Day 2 continued)***OPTION A:****2:30 p.m. Effectively Onboarding and Supervising Legal Interns and New Attorneys***75 Minutes, 1.25 Other*

Being an effective supervisor of a law student or new attorney requires some planning, but there is no reason to reinvent the wheel. Learn how to onboard and train your new talent using best practices for orientation, assignment clarification, giving and receiving feedback, and collaboration.

- Ethan Jones – Lead Attorney, Yakama Nation Office of Legal Counsel, Toppenish, WA
- Laurie Powers – Assistant Dean, Professional Development and Externships, Gonzaga School of Law, Spokane, WA
- Erin Lloyd – Assistant Dean, Center for Career Development, University of Washington School of Law, Seattle, WA

OPTION B:**2:30 p.m. Myths & Stereotypes About Rural Practice***75 Minutes, 1.25 Other*

Learn from attorneys who have always practiced in rural communities and from those who relocated from the “big city” about what the day in the life of a small town and rural lawyer really is like—and how technology is changing the landscape.

- Ashley Cummins – Seattle University School of Law, Seattle, WA
- Rachel Cortez – Attorney, Law Office of Rachel Cortez, Walla Walla, WA
- Sarah Glorian – Managing Attorney, Northwest Justice Project, Aberdeen, WA
- Tony Gonzalez, Deputy Director Advocacy, Columbia Legal Services, Wenatchee, WA

3:45 p.m. Closing Remarks • Adjourn

- Kari Petrasek – STAR Committee Chair, Petrasek Law PLLC, Mukilteo, WA

4:00 p.m. Wine & Cheese Hour

Gonzaga Law School patio

Thank you for attending!

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REGISTRATION

ONLINE ▶ Go to www.wsba.org and enter **STAR001 SPO** in the search box. Payment by credit card.

BY PHONE ▶ Call **800-945-9722 or 206-443-9722** with credit card and registration/order form in hand. Our service provider will charge you a separate, non-refundable transaction fee of 2.5% on all bank card transactions.

BY MAIL ▶ Please fill out this registration form and mail to WSBA seven business days prior to the program along with your check payable to WSBA. Credit card payments by mail or fax are no longer accepted.

Name WSBA #

Address

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Phone Email

- Please omit my name from the networking list made available to exhibitors and/or attendees.
 Registrations received less than 48 hours before a seminar are not guaranteed a coursebook or other presentation materials on-site.
 If special accommodations are needed, please email cle@wsba.org or call toll-free at **1-800-945-9722**.

PRICING AND PAYMENT

#STAR001 SPO, attend in Spokane, 6/6/24 through 6/7/24

\$30.00 – Standard

For lodging information,
please see page 3 in this brochure.

Check enclosed, payable to “WSBA” for the amount of

MAIL TO: Washington State Bar Association, 1325 Fourth Ave, Suite 600, Seattle, WA 98101-2539

PAYMENT POLICIES

Payment: Individual registrants must use a separate form, however, payment may be made with a single check for multiple parties.

Refunds: Registration fees may be refunded, less \$25 for handling, for written cancellations postmarked, emailed, or faxed by 5 p.m. up to three business days before the seminar. No refunds will be provided after that date, but you will receive the coursebook. You may send a substitute (e.g., someone from your firm) in lieu of canceling.

OFFICE USE ONLY Date Check # Total