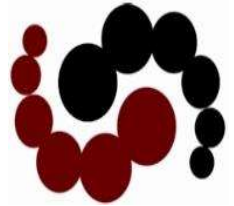




WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

Civil Rights Law Section



June , 2021

To:

From: Tobin Klusty, Chair of the Civil Rights Law Section

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR CIVIL RIGHTS LAW SECTION AWARDS

Each year, the Civil Rights Law Section (CRLS) recognizes individuals and organizations who have made notable contributions to the cause of civil rights.

Our Section's mission is to educate and advocate for civil liberties and equal rights in the context of civil rights law and legal issues of Washington State residents. In pursuit of this mission, we believe that anti-racism, racial equity, and community-centered lawyering are central to the fair administration of justice and to advancing and protecting the civil rights of all people. Carrying the legacy and standing on the shoulders of those who have fought for equity and civil rights, we believe it is necessary for us to continue our obligation as lawyers to repair the harm done to communities of color caused by the legal system. We recognize that we do not have all the answers but the process of working collaboratively with and learning from impacted communities is a valuable place to start.

To that end, a primary focus of the CRLS Awards Ceremony this year is to seek nominations from community members and groups to recognize individuals who have worked closely with impacted communities to make our system equitable and better for all. We appreciate that many of these individuals are often not recognized for their extraordinary work, so we are asking for your help to identify these champions of civil rights for the following awards:

Frances B. North Civic Leader Award: Nominees must be attorneys, individuals or organizations that represent or advocate on behalf of people or legal issues regarding civil rights, civil liberties, or basic human rights such as freedom from discrimination, protection from abuse, or obtaining essential human services like healthcare and shelter.

The CRLS renamed its Civic Leader Award in 2019 to honor the life of Frances B. North (1919-2017), a Seattle civic leader known for her role in uniting the business sector, public schools, and city government to end segregation. Frances was the first African American woman allowed to work on the sales floor of Bests/Nordstrom. Frances brought friends, relations, and colleagues of diverse economic, cultural, religious, and ancestral backgrounds together to fight for civil rights and to celebrate in style. We honor those who carry her spirit and fortitude with this award.

Keeper of the Flame Award: Nominees must be legal professionals or legal organizations whose work carries forward civil rights protection, keeping the flame alive of past civil rights movements for future generations.

Their demonstrated commitment to protecting and advancing civil rights brings hope that our futures are in good hands.

The CRLS Executive Committee created this award in 2020 to encourage and honor those in the first half of their careers who use the tools of the legal profession toward societal healing and justice.

Distinguished Service Award: Nominees must be attorneys who have demonstrated throughout their career perseverance and commitment to the expansion or defense of civil rights protections at the local, state or national level.

Nomination Process

If you would like to nominate someone for an award, please submit the following in a Word document:

- (1) your name and contact information;
- (2) the name of your nominee and, if known, the nominee's contact information; and
- (3) a statement explaining your support of the nominee for a particular award. Please limit your nomination statement to no more than 2 pages.

Before midnight on Sunday, August 1, 2021, please send your nomination(s) to the following individuals in the same email:

- (1) Section Chair – Tobin Klusty (tobink@mazzonelaw.com)
- (2) Community Connections Committee Member – Molly Matter (molly@amendlawmatter.com)
- (3) Awards Committee Member – Sarah Derry (derry@workerlaw.com)