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Joan Kleinberg Receives Norm Maleng Leadership Award

*Director of centralized legal intake and delivery system acknowledged
for commitment to access to justice*

SEATTLE, WA [Sept. 28, 2018] – The Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) and the Access to Justice Board jointly presented Joan Kleinberg the 2018 Norm Maleng Leadership Award. This award is given to those who embody the qualities of the late King County Prosecutor Norm Maleng and follow his legacy as a leader committed to justice and access to justice in both civil and criminal settings. Recipients have a love of the law and a commitment to diversity and mentorship. WSBA President William D. Pickett presented the award at the WSBA APEX (Acknowledging Professional Excellence) Awards Dinner on Sept. 27 at the Sheraton Seattle.

As one of the founders of the Northwest Justice Project, Kleinberg has spent more than 40 years providing civil legal aid assistance to Washington residents and was pivotal in the development of the state's access to justice community. She is recognized as the creator of the Coordinated Legal Education Advice and Referral (CLEAR) phone hotline, an innovative tool that provides people more immediate access to legal aid. Recently, she helped improve Legal Server, a computerized case-management system, which has served as a model to benefit programs across the country.

She has contributed to many Access to Justice Board initiatives, including the ATJ Technology Principles adopted by the Washington Supreme Court in 2004, which have subsequently become a model for many states and several Canadian provinces.

"Joan's an innovative legal thinker," said King County Superior Court Judge David Keenan. "Joan treats every low-income client as if they have all the resources in the world and they're entitled to the same services that any paying client at the biggest law firm is entitled to. The policies change, the technology changes, but I think what hasn't changed is Joan's devotion to the civil legal needs of low-income people in Washington."

About the Washington State Bar Association

The WSBA operates under the delegated authority of the Washington Supreme Court to license the state's nearly 40,000 lawyers and other legal professionals. In furtherance of its obligation to protect and serve the public, the WSBA both regulates lawyers and other legal professionals and serves its members as a professional association—all without public funding. The WSBA's mission is to serve the public and the members of the Bar, to ensure the integrity of the legal profession, and to champion justice.

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