

Washington State Bar Association

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Project Safety Receives Legal Innovation Award

Collaborative effort to provide legal services acknowledged for innovation in the practice of law

SEATTLE, WA [Sept. 28, 2018] – The Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) presented Project Safety the 2018 APEX Award for Legal Innovation. This award recognizes legal professionals, law firms, courts, law schools, individuals, or organizations who demonstrate leadership in promoting innovation in the practice of law. WSBA President William D. Pickett presented the award at the WSBA Annual APEX (Acknowledging Professional Excellence) Awards Dinner on Sept. 27 at the Sheraton Seattle.

Project Safety is a collaborative effort that provides marginalized victims of crime access to legal services they otherwise would not have had. It is an innovative approach involving a cross-sector of the community—the Eastside Legal Assistance Program, Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, Northwest Justice Project, King County Bar Association, King County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office, and the YWCA’s Sexual Violence Legal Services—with the goal of providing crime victims with legal assistance to resolve civil legal issues and help victims stabilize their lives. Beginning in 2017, Project Safety opened 444 cases in the first year alone, serving 348 clients. Sixty four percent of the clients were people of color and over 40 percent used interpreters. Most, if not all, of the clients would not have been able to afford legal help without Project Safety.

“Project Safety is a unique collaboration that crosses the criminal-civil silos and ensures continuity of legal help for crime victims in King County,” James Bamberger, Director of the Office of Civil Legal Aid wrote in the nomination packet for Project Safety. “... We are proud of the work of the attorneys and advocates involved in the day-to-day work and the demonstrated impact that this project is making in the lives of crime victims, particularly victims of color.”

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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