

2009 Washington State

Access to Justice Conference

Justice: Hope and Help in Hard Times

and

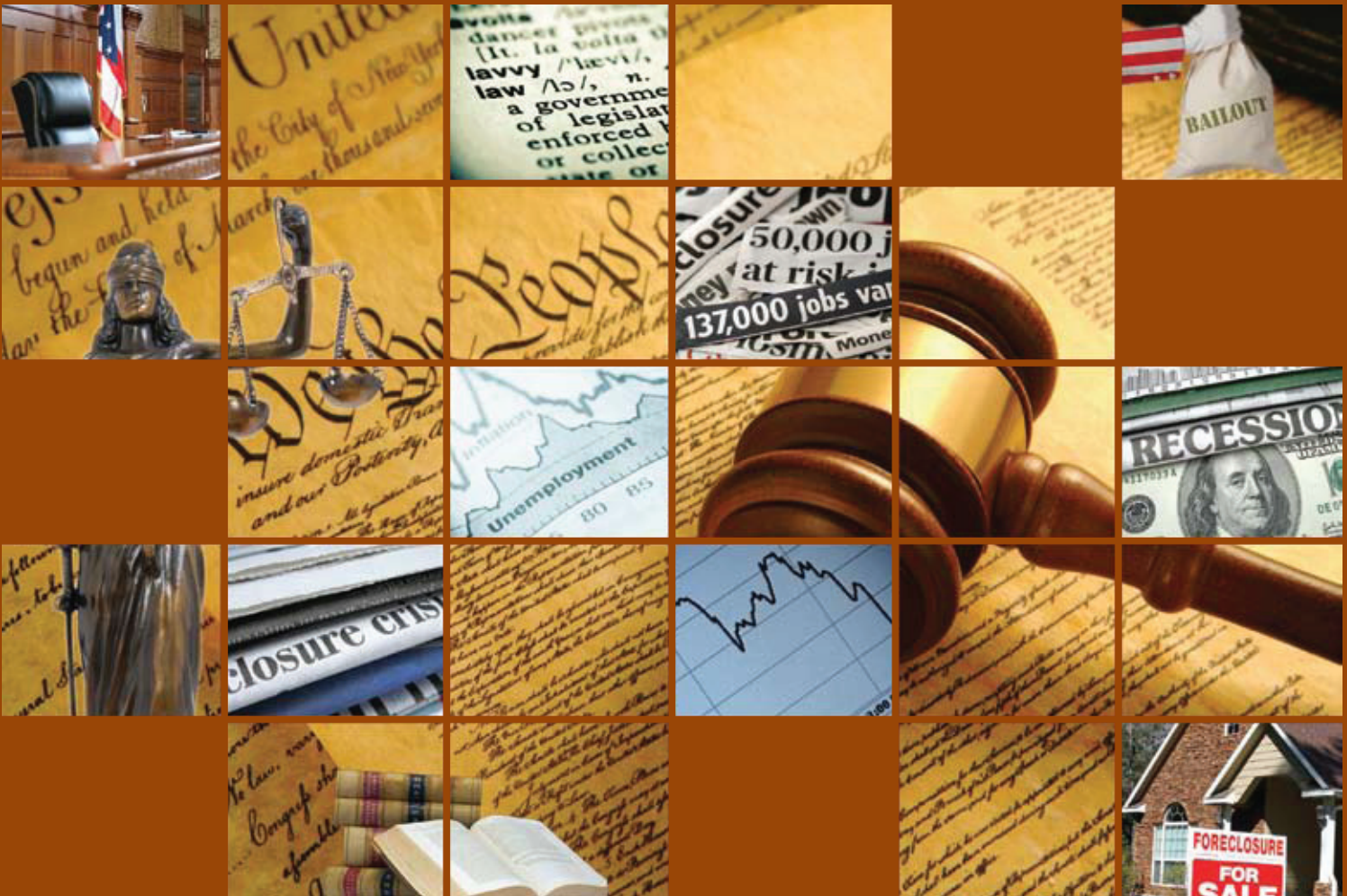
The Washington State Bar Association

Bar Leaders Conference

Leading in Changing Times



WASHINGTON STATE
ACCESS TO JUSTICE CONFERENCE



May 29-31, 2009 • Yakima Convention Center • Yakima, Washington

Keynote Speaker:

Benjamin Danielson, MD

Medical Director, Odessa Brown Children's Clinic

Conference Program

Friday, May 29

9:00 am – 7:00 pm

Registration

Yakima Convention Center Lobby

Preliminary Conference Meetings

*All meetings are at the Yakima Convention Center unless otherwise noted.**

9:00 am – 5:00 pm

WSBA Board of Governors

Suite 300/400

11:00 am – 5:00 pm

WSBA Leadership Institute and the Oregon State Bar Leadership College

Room A

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Access to Justice Board

Room H

10:30 am – 2:00 pm

Civil Legal Aid Oversight Committee

Conference Room 1

10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Volunteer Attorney Program Staff & Specialized Legal Services Program Staff

Room F/G

Noon – 1:00 pm

WSBA Board of Governors and Access to Justice Board Lunch

Suites 200/500

Noon – 5:00 pm

Northwest Justice Project

Suite 100

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Practice of Law Board

Suite 600

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Washington Young Lawyers Division

Room B

6:00 pm

Welcoming Reception (appetizer buffet and no-host bar)

Yakima Convention Center
Rooms D & E

Welcoming remarks

Dan Gottlieb, Chair, Access to Justice Board

Mark Johnson, President, Washington State Bar Association

Bob Tenney, President, Yakima County Bar Association

Keynote address by **Dr. Benjamin Danielson**

ATJ's Got Talent: Home Grown Entertainment, Relevant and of Unique Quality

Registrants of the Bar Leaders Conference and the Access to Justice Conference are welcome to "cross over" between conferences. All workshops are open to registrants from both conferences.

Saturday, May 30

All meetings are at the Yakima Convention Center unless otherwise noted.*

7:00 am – 5:30 pm

Registration

Yakima Convention Center Lobby

7:00 – 8:15 am

Breakfast buffet

Room D

7:30 – 8:15 am

Alliance for Equal Justice Orientation

Room E

First-time Access to Justice Conference attendees should plan to attend this session, but all are welcome! This session is a great opportunity to learn how to give an effective orientation to individuals and groups - new staff members, boards, community groups - who are interested in the Alliance for Equal Justice and the work that we do. Please plan to finish your breakfast in time to arrive at the Orientation by 7:30 a.m.

7:30 am – 5:00 pm

Justice Joint: Rediscover Your Passion!

Room 400

ATJ and BLC players in the Palm Springs of Washington visit the Justice Joint when shoulders begin to slump and the tell-tale signs of a meltdown appear. You won't need to catch an aerial tramway though to check email, laugh at clips from conferences past, enjoy a comforting cup of coffee, chat, snack and relax among Alliance displays and resources.

8:30 – 10:00 am

CONCURRENT SESSIONS



Access to Justice Conference

Unemployment Benefits: A Life Raft for Low-Income Clients in Recessionary Times

Rooms A/B

The workshop discusses the eligibility requirements for unemployment benefits so attendees can give accurate advice to people about when, if, and how to apply. One may be eligible even if one quits or is fired. We will also cover lesser known, but helpful programs administered by the Employment Security Department.

Neil Gorrell, Employment Security Department; Marc Lampson, Unemployment Law Project; Laurie Powers, Unemployment Law Project; John Tirpak, Unemployment Law Project and Ted Wade, Employment Security Department

Improving Access for Limited English Proficient and Deaf and Hard of Hearing Clients: How Technology Can Help

Rooms F/G/H

Washington state has many organizations and institutions providing services to the immigrant and limited English proficient population. Over four years ago, these groups, including courts, interpreters and translators, advocates, medical providers, and governmental agencies, formed the coalition known as the Washington State Coalition for Language Access (WASCLA). Their goal was to use a collaborative effort to create internal written policies for working with the limited English proficient population, improve access to interpreting and translation services and the quality of those services, develop training resources, and to encourage others to be involved in the process. Participants will take away some tips for improving services with technology and will have a chance to hear why Washington state is a national leader in the area of language access.

Martha Cohen, Office of Interpreter Services, King County Superior Court; Gillian Dutton (moderator) Northwest Justice Project; Katrin Johnson, Administrative Office of the Courts; Robert Lichtenberg, Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

How Does the Civil Right to Counsel Movement Promote Health and Economic Justice?

Room E

This interactive workshop examines traditional and non-traditional strategies for working with tenants/homeowners facing housing loss in diverse situations. Starting with the premise that housing is a basic human right we explore how the right to counsel movement is part of a comprehensive system to promote the health and wellbeing of communities.

Ishbel Dickens, Columbia Legal Services; Merf Ehman, Columbia Legal Services (moderator); Jonathan Grant, Solid Ground; Renee Lamberjack, University of Washington Evans School of Public Affairs; John Pollock, Public Justice Center



Bar Leaders Conference

Roundtable Discussion with the Washington State Supreme Court Justices and WSBA Board of Governors - WSBA Activities: Keller v. State Bar of California and GR 12 - Finding the Line Between Activities Authorized and Not Authorized

Room C

Certain actions taken by the WSBA Board of Governors have generated controversy among the membership. Join an engaging discussion among members of the Supreme Court and the Board of Governors as they debate the permissible parameters of GR 12 and the Keller decision with respect to such decisions as the Board's resolution supporting same-sex marriage and its decision to file an amicus brief in a recent death-penalty case and whether the actions fell within GR 12 and Keller. Should GR 12 be amended to narrow the scope of permissible activities by the WSBA?

Discussion facilitated by the Honorable Gerry L. Alexander, Chief Justice, Washington State Supreme Court and WSBA President Mark Johnson

10:00 – 10:15 am

Break

10:15 – 11:45 am

Access to Justice and Bar Leaders Conference Plenary Session: Understanding the Origins and Underlying Factors Contributing to the Current Economic Crisis and the Role of Lawyers and the Legal System Moving Forward

Room C

An economist, academician and lawyer will lead a discussion exploring underlying factors contributing to the current economic crisis, the impact of the crisis on society's poorest and most disadvantaged people, and how this crisis could lead to new opportunities to promote equal justice for all.

Bruce Neas, Columbia Legal Services; **Professor John A. Powell**, Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity, Ohio State University; and **Professor Christian Weber**, Seattle University Albers School of Business and Economics

12:00 Noon

Lunch

Room D

Access to Justice Board and Washington State Bar Association Award Presentations:

Civil Equal Justice Community Partnership Award, presented to **Dean Kellye Testy**, Seattle University School of Law

Access to Justice Leadership Award, presented to **Kellee E. Spangenberg**, Coordinator, Spokane County Bar Volunteer Lawyers Program

Access to Justice Judicial Leadership Award, presented to the **Honorable Judith Hightower**, Seattle Municipal Court

Washington State Bar Association Pro Bono Award, presented to **Jonathan Yeh**, Blank Law & Technology, P.S. and **Dan R. Young**, Law Office of Dan R. Young

ATJ Board/Washington State Bar Association Norm Maleng Leadership Award, presented to the **Honorable Mary Yu**, King County Superior Court

Special recognition: **Superior Court Judges Association**

1:30 – 5:00 pm

Columbia Legal Services Meeting

*Yakima Red Lion Hotel Lower Terrace

1:30 – 3:00 pm

CONCURRENT SESSIONS



Access to Justice Conference

Pay Day Loans: Exploring Industry Practices, Benefits and Harms, and Alternatives

Room C

In 1995, Washington State provided an exemption to the usury laws allowing short-term lenders, aka "Pay Day Lenders," to charge up to 391% APR for two-week loans. Since that time, pay day lenders, whose customers are primarily those without economic alternatives, have multiplied exponentially within our state.

This workshop will explore the pay day loan industry, its practices, the harms and benefits to those who use it, Washington's laws regulating this industry, how other states and the federal government have addressed this issue, and alternatives to providing short-term credit to those who need it – usually those with low paying jobs and few financial resources.

Donald Horowitz, ATJ Board Technology Committee (moderator); **Salvador Mungia**, Washington State Bar Association President-Elect (moderator); **Bruce Neas**, Columbia Legal Services; **Aiko Schaefer**, Washington State Budget & Policy Center

Foreclosure: The Crisis That Hits Home

Room E

This workshop is not meant to be a nuts and bolts foreclosure defense course, but a chance to hear the perspective from a state regulator and a longtime legal aid lawyer, as well as a discussion of foreclosure scams that inevitably sprout up. Come with your questions and ideas on what lawyers can do about this problem that disproportionately impacts our clients and their families.

Fred Corbit, Northwest Justice Project; **Octavia Hathaway**, Washington Credit Union League (moderator); **TBA**, Office of the Attorney General; **Professor John A. Powell**, Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity, Ohio State University; **Joseph Vincent**, Department of Financial Institutions

Starting a Medical-Legal Partnership in Your Community

Rooms F/G/H

Medical-legal partnerships exist to improve child health outcomes by putting legal aid attorneys in clinics and hospitals to train doctors and advocate for children's unmet legal needs. We will give an overview about starting the first MLP in Washington State, and some of the questions and issues we encountered getting our program off the ground.

Scott Crain, Northwest Justice Project; **Jennie Richey**, Seattle Children's Hospital; **Mary Elizabeth Steele**, Davis Wright Tremaine



Bar Leaders Conference

What the Future Holds: The Practice of Law in the 21st Century

Rooms A/B

Various trends affecting the legal community are changing the profession as we know it. These trends include the changing demographics of our membership, outsourcing of legal work offshore, enhanced technology, and new trends and developing business models for the delivery of our services. As a profession, how are we dealing with this shifting landscape and what will the legal profession be like 10, 20 or 30 years from now. Join this thought-provoking discussion as panelists explore these developments and discuss how an evolving profession will meet the needs of the clients it serves.

Douglas C. Lawrence, shareholder, Stokes Lawrence P.S., former Governor and Treasurer, Washington State Bar Association, 8th Congressional District; **Paula Littlewood**, Executive Director, Washington State Bar Association; **Marty Smith**, Managing Director, MetaJure, Inc.; the **Honorable Debra Stephens**, Justice, Washington State Supreme Court

3:00 – 3:30 pm

Break – Refreshments in the *Justice Joint*

3:30 – 5:00 pm

CONCURRENT SESSIONS



Access to Justice Conference

Current Issues in Consumer Bankruptcy Law: The Pros and Cons of Bankruptcy Law in the Economic Crisis

Room C

This session will cover issues such as the impact of the 2005 bankruptcy law changes on both clients and lawyers, and how these changes relate to the current economic crisis; new changes to the law since it was adopted in 2005, and the pros and cons of alternatives to bankruptcy.

Carter Fjeld, Velikanje Halverson; **Larry B. Feinstein**, Vortman & Feinstein; **Melissa Ann Huelsman**, Law Offices of Melissa A. Huelsman

Economic Migration and the Growing Divide

Room E

Based on the popular education model developed by United for a Fair Economy, this workshop explores the historical and contemporary forces that create economic refugees and the equal justice implications that follow. Working in both small and large groups, we will develop strategies for decreasing wealth inequalities.

Michael Clyburn, Seattle University School of Law, **Riddhi Mukhopadhyay**, Seattle University School of Law

Coming Home: Meeting the Legal Needs of Washington's Veterans

Rooms F/G/H

Over 670,000 veterans live in Washington state. As of 2006, Washington was sixth in the nation in the number of homeless veterans with approximately 6,800. Learn about our Washington veterans, their legal assistance needs, and how civil legal aid providers, private attorneys, and law schools can help meet those needs.

David Brown, Yakima County Department of Community Services; **Beth Colgan**, Columbia Legal Services Institutions Project; **Steve Fredrickson**, Northwest Justice Project; **Barry Pfundt**, Center for Justice (moderator)



Bar Leaders Conference

Challenges Facing New Lawyers and Pro-Active Solutions

Rooms A/B

Panel moderator, attorney Luz Herrera, will expand the discussion begun at the Washington Young Lawyers Division's "Young Bar Leaders Summit" in March 2009. The interactive format with the audience will focus on unemployment facing new lawyers in this economy, high student loan debt, filling the gaps in civil legal aid while keeping skills developed through pro bono/volunteering, diversity and inclusion in the legal profession, and concern for work-life balance. Participants will develop action plans to address various problems facing young and recently admitted attorneys.

Wilberforce Agyekum, Washington Young Lawyers Division (WYLD) Committee for Diversity Co-chair; **Jaime Hawk**, WYLD President; **Naomi Kim**, WYLD Committee for Diversity Co-chair; **Carla C. Lee**, Washington State Bar Association Board of Governors

5:30 – 7:30 pm

Laurel Rubin Externship Advocacy Program (REAP) Dedication Ceremony at Wilridge Winery

REAP is a brand new collaboration between the Alliance for Equal Justice and all three law schools in Washington state. Please join us for a complimentary reception to help kick off this historic initiative. Please plan to drive/carpool. Driving directions are in the conference registration packets. A bus with the capacity for about 15 people will be in front of the main entrance to the Yakima Convention Center at 5:30 pm as part of the carpool effort.

9:00 pm

Campaign for Equal Justice President's Party

*Yakima Red Lion Hotel - Pool Suite Room 126

Each year the LAW Fund President hosts this casual get-together to celebrate the Alliance for Equal Justice. Please join Dick Manning for "adult beverages" and snacks poolside. All are welcome.

7:30 – 8:30 am

Breakfast buffet

Room D

8:00 am

Registration

Yakima Convention Center Lobby



Access
to Justice
Conference

8:30 – 10:00 am

Making the Greatest Impact in Times of Crisis to Meet the Legal Needs of the Most Vulnerable

Room C

The recent dramatic downturn in the national and world economy occurred with a swiftness that virtually nobody predicted. Facing huge budget shortfalls, state and local government are looking at cutting social services and reducing funding for legal aid programs. Simultaneously, the demand for legal aid services is unprecedented throughout our state. Low income people with critical legal problems in need of assistance are growing in numbers and desperation.

In a time of crisis, the legal community must work together to make the greatest impact possible on public and private funding to allow our legal aid programs to provide timely legal help that will benefit families, neighborhoods, the community and our overall economy. A united front on our charitable giving and legislative advocacy are more important than ever. This session explores the Alliance community's efforts to grow public awareness, expand advocacy efforts and increase charitable support for legal aid at this critical time. 'Best practices,' existing tools, infrastructure and coordination of efforts will all be explored, as will our current obstacles to success.

This session will be led by a panel of extraordinary volunteers who use their time and talent to increase support for legal aid in Washington.

10:00 am

Conference Wrap-up and Door Prizes

Room C

Thank You for Attending!

Please help us evaluate the Access to Justice Conference by completing the evaluation form on-line at <http://atjconference.wordpress.com>.

Evaluation forms for the Bar Leaders Conference can be found in the conference registration packets.

The ATJ Conference/Bar Leaders Conference has been accredited with six (6) general CLE credits. Please make sure that you have signed the Attendance Record at the conference registration desk. Information about how the CLE credits will be added to your WSBA MCLE record is in the conference registration packet. In accordance with MCLE policy, we will report your attendance directly to the Washington State Bar Association.

You can find the link to electronic versions of all Access to Justice workshop materials at www.wsba.org/atj.

Bar Leaders Conference materials will be online at: www.wsba.org/barleadershomepage.htm.

In celebration of "going green" with conference materials, there will be a drawing of name tags at the last conference session on Sunday morning. You must be present to win the fabulous prize!



THE ALLIANCE
for Equal Justice

IT'S NOT JUSTICE IF IT'S NOT EQUAL