

WASHINGTON STATE MINORITY AND JUSTICE COMMISSION



"The Messengers"

Yadesa Bojia

Annual Report 2006

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WASHINGTON STATE MINORITY AND JUSTICE COMMISSION



WASHINGTON STATE MINORITY AND JUSTICE COMMISSION

Washington State Supreme Court

Temple of Justice

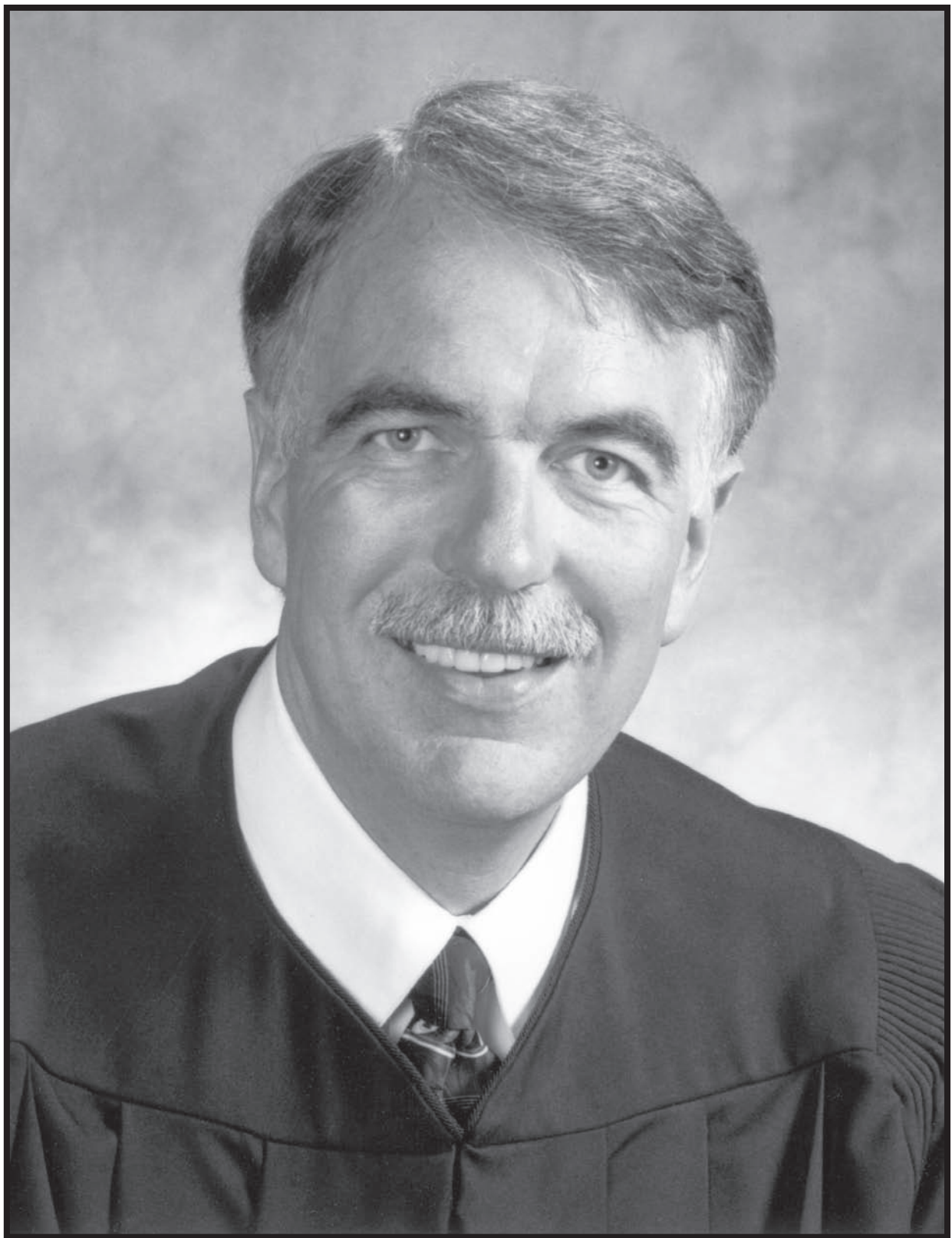
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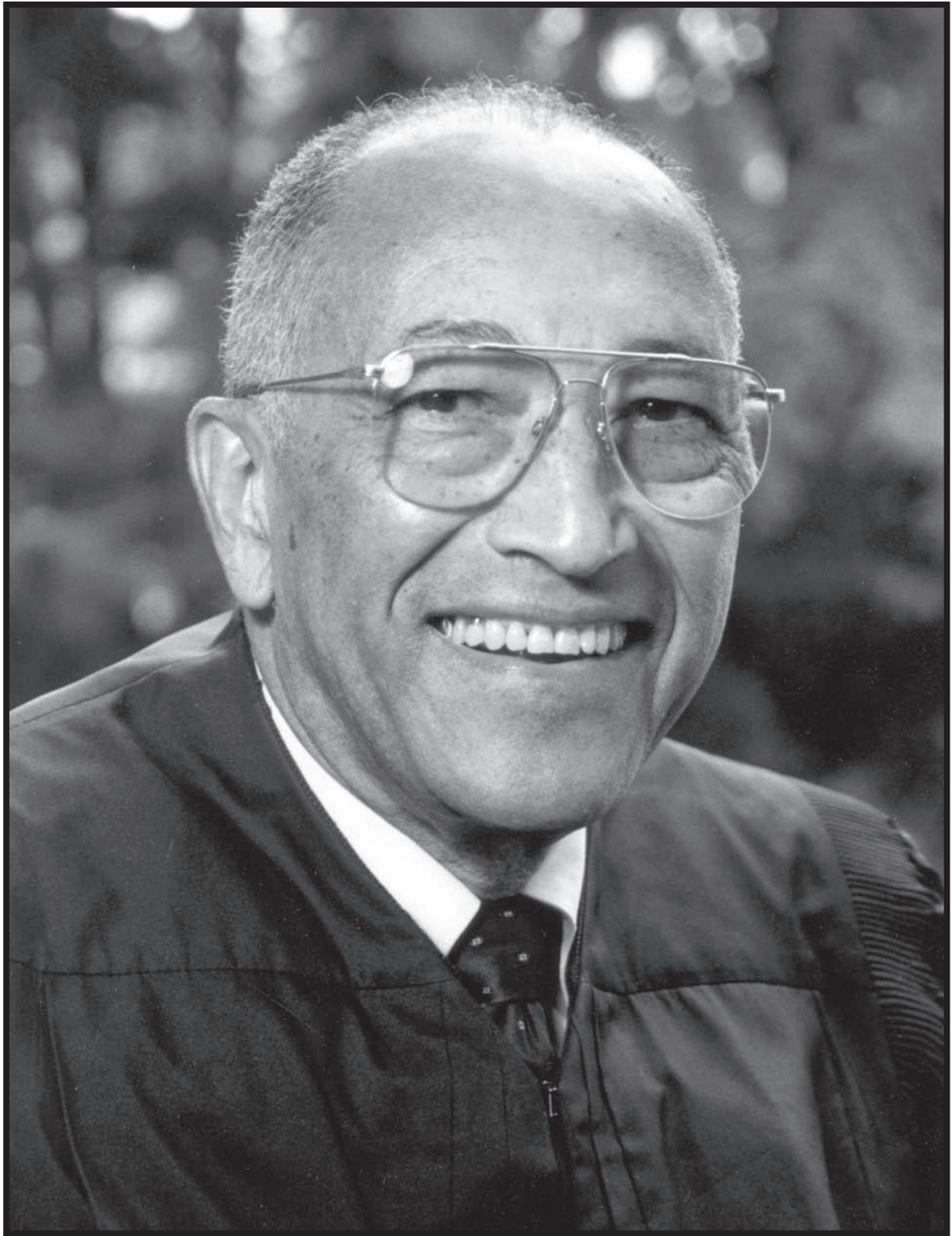
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Annual Report 2006



Justice Charles W. Johnson
Associate Chief Justice
Co-chairperson
Minority and Justice Commission



Justice Charles Z. Smith (Retired)

Co-chairperson
Minority and Justice Commission



Celebrating the courts in an inclusive society

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COVER ARTWORK

“The Messengers” represents a community of people sharing challenge and happiness together. It depicts a sense of community for common good.

When I was painting “The Messengers” I was thinking about all of us as global citizens holding hand in hand for a better world. Unfortunately, though, in life we will face positive and negative situations. We only live life successfully when we all unite regardless of our color, ethnicity, social background or religious belief.

The rich colors in the background represent the diversity of issues we as a community face

today. The outlined figures of people depict the community in general. I named it “The Messengers” because in my native land (Ethiopia) community plays a special role in one’s life. As messengers the neighbors in a community will break the good or the bad news to members of their community. The bottom line is that even if someone goes through sorrow or happiness, at the end it will be okay when the community stands behind it.

Yadesa Bojia



ABOUT THE ARTIST



Yadesa Bojia

Born in Ethiopia, Yadesa Bojia emigrated to the United States in 1995. His interest in art started in his childhood. Even though he does not remember when he actually started painting, his school commissioned him, as a six-grader, to paint a mural called “enem ende ababa.” This painting was displayed in his school until he emigrated to the United States.

Yadesa Bojia’s first exposure to art was as a child gazing at murals often found in Ethiopian Orthodox churches. These murals used line drawings filled with bold vibrant colors. They are famous for communicating religious histories to their audiences.

In Seattle Mr. Bojia studied art at Seattle Pacific University from which he earned a Bachelor’s degree in Visual Communication. He also attended Seattle Central Community College from which he received an Associate of Arts degree in Graphic Design.

Yadesa Bojia’s exposure to both African art and Western art provides him a unique opportunity to understand their relationship as well as their differences. While studying art, he examined how every art genre and classification derived or inherited from each other and the existence of one was based on that of the other. He also examined the influence of African art upon Western art and vice versa.

Yadesa Bojia believes his work is the by-product of the cultural differences he enjoyed while living in Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia, and in Seattle, Washington. He also believes artists have a very unique opportunity, as well as responsibility, to work for justice and equality and communicating it to their respective communities.

Yadesa Bojia lives in Shoreline, Washington with his wife Hewan.





Sekio Matsumoto

We dedicate this 2006 Annual Report of the Washington State Minority and Justice Commission to graphic artist Sekio Matsumoto who in 1994 created the Equal Justice logo which in 1994 was adopted as the official symbol of the Washington Commission and in 2001 as the official symbol of the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts. Mr. Matsumoto was born in Seattle, Washington on January 20, 1932 and died there on July 6, 2006.

The logo design was originally conceived by Mr. Matsumoto in 1977 when he was asked by the American Baptist Churches, USA to demonstrate inclusiveness of a diverse racial, ethnic and linguistic population in the national church membership. His original artistic rendition of the concept was a striking visual reminder that persons of all "colors" were equal and expressed themselves in various languages. The work has received worldwide acceptance as an expression of inclusiveness.

The Washington State Minority and Justice Commission in 1994 asked Mr. Matsumoto if he could adapt his concept from a celebration of religion to a celebration of justice. The result is the "Equal Justice" version of the work that first appeared on the cover of the 1994 Report of the Washington State Commission and was later adopted, with copyright permission, as a symbol for the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts. Occasional use is made of it by the National Center for State Courts.

We are understandably proud of this logo, which visually represents the significance of cultural diversity and inclusiveness in the achievement of equality before the courts.

At the October 27, 2006 meeting of the Washington State Commission in Seattle, the members noted Mr. Matsumoto's death and passed a resolution commending his life and his contribution to the Commission and the National Consortium through his extraordinary art and humanitarian instincts. A similar resolution was passed by the Board of Directors of the National Consortium at its May 3, 2007 meeting in Brooklyn, New York.

Although an extraordinarily talented artist, Sekio Matsumoto was a modest person who without fanfare went about his life of community service, religious pursuits, and devotion to his family. He received many awards for his community service. In this dedication we focus attention on this person whose art will continue to inspire us for many years in the future.

Who was this gentle man, Sekio Matsumoto? Given the name Glenn Sekio Matsumoto, he was born in Seattle in 1932 to Masayo and Jiro Matsumoto, both of whom were born in Okayama, Japan and emigrated to the United States. During World War II the family was interned in the Minidoka Relocation Center in Hunt, Idaho. In

Seattle his mother worked as a hotel maid. His father, who learned the tailoring trade while interned at Minidoka, worked as a tailor for a Seattle company manufacturing special order clothing. The parents reared six children—all of whom were artistic and skilled sewers and knitters.

Upon the family's return from Minidoka to Seattle, Sekio Matsumoto graduated from Garfield High School and attended the Burnley School of Art (Art Institute of Seattle) and the University of Washington. He served in the United States Army in the early 1950's. He was employed by several advertising agencies before joining the Boeing Company as a graphic designer where he worked for 30 years, retiring in 1993. There he designed pamphlets for airplanes and the Boeing United Way program "The little engine that said, 'I think I can, I think I can'" posters for the Special Olympics, and the Eagle Program design for Boeing Computer Services. He eschewed computer generation for his art. All his work was meticulously drawn by hand. He liked to dabble in watercolors, calligraphy and woodcarving.

Sekio Matsumoto was an active member of the Japanese Baptist Church in Seattle and active in Boy Scout Troop 53 at the church. He designed many covers for church bulletins and projects such as building of its new sanctuary. Whenever there was a need at the church for art work, he quietly came up with an idea. He designed the church logo and designed the program for the church's Centennial. He also did art work for the Scout Troop. He designed souvenir baseball caps for Boy Scouts visiting from Japan.

Sekio Matsumoto enjoyed many sports: tennis, bowling, volley ball, and golf. He belonged to the Bayview Golf Club and designed the club logo. He later belonged to the Boeing Retirees Golf League.

Sekio Matsumoto is survived by his wife of 41 years, Louise, and their son, Brian. He is also survived by two sisters, Shiz Fukuma and Fumi Hirai, and one brother, Nobuo Matsumoto. He was preceded in death by his parents and by two sisters, Kazuko Leffers and Takako Watanabe.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Washington State Minority and Justice Commission thanks and acknowledges the following persons for their contribution, preparation, and layout of this report: Justice Charles Z. Smith, Judge LeRoy McCullough, Judge James M. Murphy, Judge Dennis D. Yule, Judge Kenneth H. Kato, Judge Deborah D. Fleck, Ms. Erica S. Chung and Monto S. Morton.

The Commission expresses gratitude to Co-chairpersons Justice Charles Z. Smith (retired) and Justice Charles W. Johnson for their leadership, inspiration, support and commitment in advancing the work of the Commission and in eliminating racial, ethnic and cultural bias in our State court system. The Commission also expresses gratitude to all our members for their continued support and work in advancing the mission and goals of the Commission.

With particular reference to this 2006 Report, the Commission acknowledges the contribution of Ms. Sudha Shetty for her article sharing her personal experience as an attorney. Special appreciation is given to Ms. Camille Monzon-Richards for sharing intimate insights on her family.

The Commission expresses its profound gratitude to the justices of the Washington State Supreme Court for their continued support of the Commission and their commitment to diversity by their periodic orders renewing the Commission; the Washington State Legislature for its continuing support of our education programs, research activities and other projects through budget allocations; and Ms. Janet L. McLane, Administrator for the Courts, for her participation on and support of the Commission.

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INTRODUCTION

The Washington State Minority and Justice Commission was created by the Washington State Supreme Court in 1990 as successor to the Washington State Minority and Justice Task Force, which was created by the court in 1987 at the request of the Washington State Legislature. In a third periodic order the Supreme Court on September 13, 2005, renewed the Commission for an additional period of five years through December 2010. In creating the Commission and subsequent Orders of Renewal, the Supreme Court acknowledges there is a continuing need to identify and eradicate all racial, ethnic, and cultural bias in our State court system.

The purpose of the Minority and Justice Commission is to determine whether racial and ethnic bias exists in the courts of the State of Washington. To the extent that it exists, the Commission is charged with taking creative steps to overcome it. To the extent that such bias does not exist, the Commission is charged with taking creative steps to prevent it.

The primary functions of the Minority and Justice Commission in pursuit of its mandate are:

First, to improve the administration of justice by developing and presenting educational programs designed to eliminate racial, ethnic and cultural bias in the judicial system;

Second, to eliminate racial and ethnic bias from the State court system through identification of problems and through implementation of recommendations ensuring fair and equal treatment for all;

Third, to engage in empirical research studies examining whether racial and ethnic disparities exist in the criminal justice system;

Fourth, to increase racial and ethnic diversity in the court workforce through development and implementation of recruitment and workforce diversity education programs; and

Fifth, to publish and distribute a regular newsletter, *Equal Justice*, and an annual report.

The Washington State Minority and Justice Commission is co-chaired by Supreme Court Justice Charles W. Johnson and Justice Charles Z. Smith (retired). The work of the Commission is carried out through its five sub-committees: *Education*, chaired by Judge LeRoy McCullough, King County Superior Court; *Evaluation and Implementation*, chaired by Judge James M. Murphy (retired), Spokane County Superior Court; *Outreach*, co-chaired by Judge Dennis D. Yule, Franklin and Benton County Superior Courts, and Brian A. Tsuchida, Federal Public Defender; *Research*, chaired by Judge Kenneth H. Kato, Court of Appeals, Division III; and *Workforce Diversity*, chaired by Judge Deborah D. Fleck, King County Superior Court.

The Commission consists of not more than twenty-one members appointed by the Supreme Court and at least twenty “technical support members” appointed by the Commission.

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SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS



Celebrating the courts in an inclusive society

The Washington State Minority and Justice Task Force, precursor to the Minority and Justice Commission, in its preliminary work discovered there were significant needs for cultural diversity education and for increasing diversity in the workforce within the court system of Washington State. The Task Force also illuminated the need for continuing objective research in the treatment of people of color who enter the justice system, as well as those in the legal profession, and the need for developing liaisons with mainstream and ethnic bar organizations. The Task Force, therefore, in 1989 recommended creation of the Washington State Minority and Justice Commission with specific mandates.

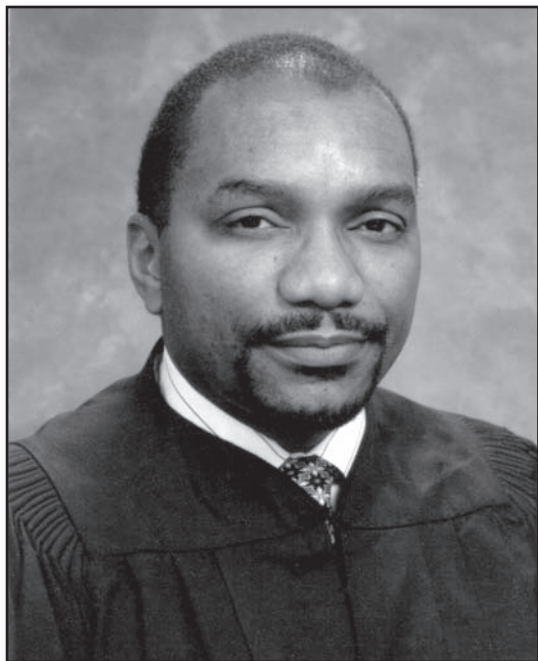
The Washington State Supreme Court, on October 4, 1990, issued an Order creating the Commission and three subsequent Orders of Renewal. The Commission established five sub-committees to accomplish its mission:

- *The Education Sub-Committee* strives to improve the administration of justice by eliminating racism through education. It focuses on the need to increase cultural awareness and engender mutual respect in persons who deliver court services and represent our court system.

- *The Outreach Sub-Committee* is to facilitate communication between the Commission and the legal community in order to share information, address concerns of minorities or persons of color in the legal profession, and implement programs to improve the status of minority members of the state bar.
- *The Research Sub-Committee* designs, funds, and conducts research projects relating to problems experienced by racial and ethnic minorities in our justice system.
- *The Workforce Diversity Sub-Committee* strives to promote equal employment opportunities and to increase the number of racial and ethnic minority employees at all levels of the courts.
- *The Evaluation and Implementation Sub-Committee* was created in September 1998 in response to suggestions that the Minority and Justice Commission become more active in implementing recommendations by authors of research reports published by the Commission.



EDUCATION SUB-COMMITTEE



Judge LeRoy McCullough

Sub-committee Chairperson

The mission of the Education Sub-committee is to improve the administration of justice by eliminating racism through education. It focuses on the need to increase cultural awareness and engender mutual respect in persons who deliver court services and represent our court system. In 2007, the Sub-committee will be reviewing its mission statement to reflect our desire to investigate effects of indirect and institutional racism as it impacts the justice system.

Consistent with the mission statement, the Education Sub-committee has regularly presented cultural diversity education programs at the Judicial College for newly elected or appointed judicial officers. In addition, the Education Sub-committee has accepted invitations to present sessions on cultural inclusiveness to the annual Institute for New Court Employees and Bailiffs.

On January 25, 2006, the Sub-committee presented an advanced level cultural diversity edu-

cation session at the week-long Judicial College. The Judicial College is a training conference for newly elected and appointed Washington State judges and commissioners from all levels of Washington State courts. Professional consultants Benita Horn and Peggy Nagae were joined in their educational presentations by Commission members Judge James M. Murphy and Judge Vicki Toyohara. The educational program, "Navigating the Minefield of Cultural Competence," received 4.6 out of 5.0 for both Effectiveness and Communication Skills.

On March 15, 2006, the Sub-committee presented a basic level cultural diversity education program at the Institute for New Court Employees and Bailiffs. This was a week-long training conference for new court employees and bailiffs that utilized the expertise of consultants Peggy Nagae and Mary Bogan. Participants found this session, "Bridges to Cultural Competency in the Court," to be very effective and gave it a 4.8 out of 5.0 assessment. Attendees also believed the faculty was well prepared (rating them 4.9 out of 5.0), that the goals were clear (rated 4.8 out of 5.0), and that the goals were achieved (rating it 4.7 out of 5.0).

On September 27, 2006, the sub-committee presented an intermediate level cultural diversity education training as a follow-up to the basic course presented at the District and Municipal Court Managers Association conference in 2005. For this session, the Sub-committee secured the services of professional consultants Benita Horn and Peggy Nagae. Their presentation of "Managing Teams with Enhanced Cross Cultural Skills" was made to more than 100 district and municipal court managers. From the 78 evaluations received, the session received 4.32 out of 5.00 for format, 4.35 for content, 4.14 for quality, and 4.47 for overall value.

As a follow-up to a popular and successful education session presented at the Fall 2005 Judicial Conference, "Beyond the Conviction: Collateral Consequences of Adult and Juvenile Criminal Convictions" with an emphasis on persons of color, the Education Subcommittee facilitated access by judicial officers and other interested persons to those materials through the Administrative Office of the Courts' intra-website (internal, non-public website). The session, which drew approximately 100 judges, received 4.56 out of 5.00 for effectiveness and 4.56 out of 5.00 for the quality of the presenters and materials. The material may be accessed under Judicial Resources, then under Sentencing, then under Collateral Consequences of Sentencing. Please refer to the following address:

<http://inside.courts.wa.gov/index.cfm?fa=controller.showPage&folder=judgesResources&file=sentencing>.

The Education Subcommittee is indebted to the Commission Co-Chairpersons, Commission members, and our Executive Director and assistant, for their inspiration, support and positive

feedback. The sub-committee plans to present additional creative programs and sessions in 2007 and beyond as it embraces its mission.

The 2006 Education Sub-committee members are:

Judge Greg D. Sypolt, Vice Chairperson
 Ms. Ann E. Benson
 Chief Judge Ronald E. Cox
 Lonnie Davis
 Ms. Regina J. Jones
 Judge Richard A. Jones
 Judge Ron A. Mamiya
 Ms. Denise C. Marti
 Judge Richard F. McDermott, Jr.
 Ms. Janet L. McLane
 Ms. P. Diane Schneider
 Judge Vicki J. Toyohara



EVALUATION AND IMPLEMENTATION SUB-COMMITTEE



Judge James M. Murphy (Retired)

Sub-committee Chairperson

The Evaluation and Implementation Sub-committee was created in September 1998 in response to suggestions that the Minority and Justice Commission become more active in implementing recommendations by authors of research reports published by the Commission.

The Sub-committee is chaired by Judge James M. Murphy, retired from the Spokane County Superior Court. Other members of the Sub-committee include Judge Deborah D. Fleck, King County Superior Court; Robert C. Boruchowitz, Director of The Defender Association; and Jeffrey C. Sullivan, Chief Assistant United States Attorney for the Western District of Washington.

For the past several years, the Sub-committee has devoted its efforts to implementing recommendations from research completed by Dr.

George S. Bridges in October 1997, "A Study on Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Superior Court: Bail and Pre-Trial Detention Practices in Washington." The Sub-committee proposed changes to Superior Court Criminal Rule 3.2 and Rules for Courts of Limited Jurisdiction Criminal Rule 3.2, which were adopted by the Supreme Court in September 2002. Under CrR 3.2 and CrRLJ 3.2, the Sub-committee developed a form, "Order re Release of Accused for Non-Capital Offense" for use by judges when addressing the decision of release of the accused; contributed to revision of the Criminal Benchbook, a resource manual for judges maintained by the Administrative Office of the Courts; and composed a "script" for application of criminal court rules 3.2 as a preamble to criminal court rules 3.2 in the Criminal Benchbook.

The Sub-committee also proposed changes to Superior Court Criminal Rule 2.2 and Courts of Limited Jurisdiction Criminal Rule 2.2 requiring issuance of a summons as an initial means of notifying a defendant to appear in court unless the court finds reasonable cause to believe that the defendant will not appear in response to a summons, will commit a violent offense, will interfere with witnesses or the administration of justice or is in custody. These changes, effective September 1, 2006, are consistent with the presumption of innocence and CrR and CrRLJ 3.2 requirements. They also will reduce the number of cases initiated by a warrant and therefore will reduce the expenditure of public funds on incarceration before arraignment. Finally, because the number of warrants is often viewed as a failure to appear in court, this change will give judges a more accurate view of that issue when making decisions regarding release of the accused, including whether to require bail.

In 2006, the Sub-committee studied the issue of whether offenders were being arrested and jailed solely for failure to pay their legal financial obligations (LFOs) and whether they are denied counsel in administrative hearings by the Department of Corrections (DOC). Preliminary review indicates that DOC has not provided counsel despite a Court of Appeals opinion stating that it should be decided on a case by case basis.

For felons who have completed their sentences except for payment of their LFOs. These decisions may be brought before a judge for review and sanctions. The Clerk of each County is responsible by statute to collect the LFOs imposed by judges.

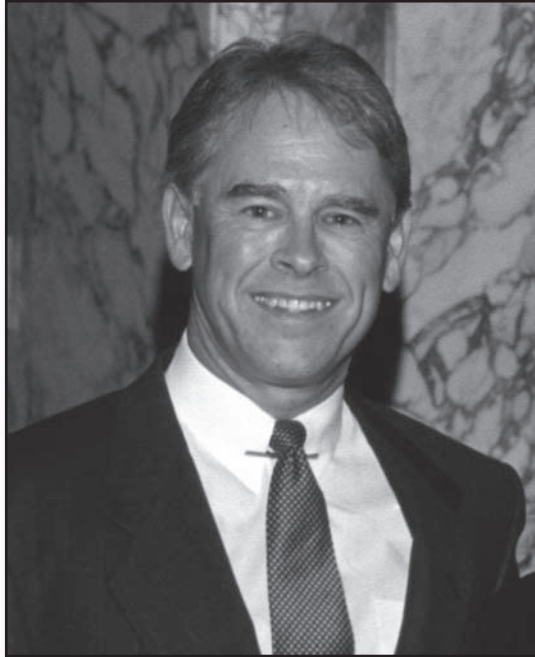
The Sub-committee deferred further study of LFOs until completion of the empirical research project, which is studying the nature and impact of LFOs in Washington State. Members of the Sub-committee anticipate that the qualitative research will yield additional useful information, including the possible disproportionality of offenders being sanctioned by incarceration, as well as the percentage of offenders denied representation of counsel.

In 2007, the Sub-committee will review the demographic composition of the judiciary. Currently, no formal data exists.

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OUTREACH SUB-COMMITTEE



Judge Dennis D. Yule
Sub-committee Chairperson

MEMBERSHIP

In 2006 Judge Dennis D. Yule, Benton/Franklin Counties Superior Court, became Chairperson of the Sub-committee upon the resignation of co-chairperson Brian A. Tsuchida, Assistant Federal Public Defender with the Federal Public Defender's Office for the Western District of Washington.

We acknowledge the contributions, dedication, and work of Mr. Tsuchida. We will miss his participation and contribution and wish him well as he moves forward from the Commission.

The Sub-committee is fortunate to have the following members and appreciates their active participation:

Ms. Myrna I. Contreras, Attorney at Law, Contreras Law Offices; Judge Douglas W. Luna, Associate Judge, Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska; Eric A. Jones, Attorney

at Law, Emmaus Consulting PLLC; Ms. Amalia C. Maestas, Office of Legal Counsel, Muckleshoot Tribal Court; Ms. Rosa Melendez, Regional Director, Community Relations Service, United States Department of Justice; and Magistrate Judge Mary Alice Theiler, United States District Court for the Western District of Washington.

ACTIVITIES

During 2006, the Sub-committee met regularly to address its responsibilities to facilitate communication and exchange between the commission and the public, and focused on two major projects: publication of the commission newsletter and co-sponsorship of a Youth and Justice Forum.

NEWSLETTER

Over the past several years much of the work of the Outreach Sub-committee has focused upon production, publication and distribution of the commission's newsletter, *Equal Justice*. The purpose of the newsletter is to expand awareness and encourage greater understanding of issues relating to diversity and elimination of bias in our state's justice system. The June 2006 issue of *Equal Justice* featured articles concerning disparities in Washington's juvenile criminal justice system. The juvenile justice system involves or impacts every community in many ways. This issue included articles from both lawyers who practice in juvenile court and superior court judges who preside there. While the challenge of eliminating bias and disparity in the juvenile court is a difficult and complex one, important steps have been taken in both recognizing and documenting the issue of disparity and in reducing disparity through innovative programs and coordinating the resources of judges, court staff, lawyers and community leaders.

YOUTH AND JUSTICE FORUM

The sub-committee continued to engage in other activities and programs, as well, in the discharge of its mission to promote and facilitate Commission communication with the community. One activity was a Youth and Justice Forum.

In March 2006, the Outreach Sub-committee participated as a co-sponsor of the fifth annual Youth and Justice Forum held in the Tri-Cities. The purposes of the forums, which have attracted each year more than 150 middle and high school students, are to encourage students, particularly those from communities or demographic groups that have historically been under-represented in the justice system workforce, to explore employment opportunities in the justice system, to build trust between students and local leaders, including law enforcement, and to enhance students' understanding of their rights and responsibilities as members of the community.

One of the objectives of co-sponsorship of this event is to develop and refine a format that can be utilized in other areas of the state to educate not only students but also members of the bench and bar about diversification of the justice system workforce. The anecdotal comments were exceptionally positive from students, chaperones, and professional volunteers.

In addition to the newsletter and forum, during 2006 the Sub-committee worked on development of strategies and activities to recommend to the Commission, with the goal of enhancing communication and interaction with the bench, bar and public.

Past issues of the newsletter are available on the Commission's website at: <http://www.courts.wa.gov>, under Boards and Commissions, then under the Minority and Justice Commission.

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RESEARCH SUB-COMMITTEE



Judge Kenneth H. Kato
Sub-committee Chairperson

The mission of the Research Sub-committee is to design, fund and conduct research projects relating to problems experienced by racial and ethnic minorities coming before the courts in our justice system.

Consistent with its mission, the Sub-committee initiated an empirical research project in 2006. The Commission entered into an interagency agreement with the University of Washington Department of Sociology to study the effects of legal financial obligations (LFOs) that often accompany criminal conviction and to investigate the nature and impact of LFOs in Washington State, as a follow-up to our education session on collateral consequences presented at the Fall 2005 Judicial Conference and explored extensively in treatises included in the 2005 Annual Report.

The proposal and contract states “The debt that may result from a criminal conviction can be significant, and may include fees associated with the costs of public defense, drug investigations, compensation for victims, DNA analysis, filing fees and other court costs and penalties. In addition, debt can accumulate from incarceration related expenses including processing fees, room and board, medical and dental visits, telephone use, drug testing, and participation in programs such as work release and electronic monitoring. The dearth of academic attention paid to this issue is surprising given that these financial obligations can have a profound impact on individuals’ ability to secure housing, obtain employment, pay child support, and secure citizenship rights. In Washington State and elsewhere, the inability to meet one’s legal financial obligations has rendered people ineligible to restore their voting rights (ACLU 2004; Manza and Uggen 2006). In fact, comparatively high incarceration rates among African-Americans, combined with a state law barring felons from voting until they have paid all of their financial obligations, has resulted in the disenfranchisement of roughly 25% of all African-American men who are otherwise eligible to vote in Washington State (ACLU 2004). Nonetheless, there is some evidence that counties within Washington State are increasingly imposing LFOs in order to help subsidize rising criminal justice costs (see, for example, Pierce County 2003).

“Washington State is a particularly interesting site to investigate this issue. Consistent with incarceration patterns nationally, Washington State is disproportionately incarcerating people of color: In 2005, Whites were incarcerated at a rate of 393 per 100,000 in state prisons and local jails; the rate for Latinos was 527 and for Blacks, 2,522 (BJS Inmates at Midyear 2005). This same

year, Washington State's general incarceration rate of 465 (per 100,000 residents) was below the national rate of incarceration of 738. On the other hand, Washington State has the highest U.S. rate of probationers among U.S. states – 3767 per 100,000 residents (Glaze & Palla 2004). Washington State is thus an important setting to investigate the assessment of LFOs and their impact on the lives of people with felony convictions.”

In a March 2006 decision, *Madison et al v. State of Washington*, our Supreme Court ruled that the state's denial of the right to vote to felons who are unable to pay their LFOs in their entirety violates the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment. However, it seems likely that this issue will continue to be litigated.

The Study Addresses Four Important Question Areas:

First, what are the legal and social characteristics of individuals who have been assessed LFOs in Washington State counties? How do monetary fees imposed, the discharge rate and time to discharge vary by jurisdiction and by the legal and social characteristics of the defendant?

Second, how do LFO's affect the lives of those who possess them, and, in particular, how do these debts affect the reintegration process?

Third, how does the imposition of LFOs vary by county? What proportion of LFOs are suspended and how? How much money have the counties been able to recover?

Finally, how does the level of LFO assessment across Washington State counties compare with what is legally permissible as outlined in the Revised Code of Washington (RCW 9094A.760)?

The qualitative and quantitative research will be executed in 2007 by Dr. Katherine Beckett, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Sociology, and Dr. Alexes Harris, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of Washington. They will submit their first draft report in December 2007 and final report in August 2008.

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WORKFORCE DIVERSITY

SUB-COMMITTEE



Judge Deborah D. Fleck
Sub-committee Chairperson

The purpose and scope of the Workforce Diversity Sub-committee have their origins in the initial efforts of the Minority and Justice Task Force. Based on the findings in the Task Force's 1990 Final Report, which noted that persons of color are under-represented in the workforce of the court system, the Task Force recommended that a workforce diversity program be developed and implemented immediately. As a direct result, the Sub-committee was created with a defined mission and goals.

The mission of the Workforce Diversity Sub-committee is to promote equal employment opportunities and to increase the number of racial and ethnic minority employees at all levels of the courts. The primary goals to advance the mission are: to provide workforce diversity education to existing court personnel; to promote recruitment and retention of minority court

personnel; to develop resource materials to educate and to promote diverse recruitment and retention within each county's court system; and to obtain adequate funding to continue these efforts.

Consistent with its mission, the Sub-committee pursued projects in 2006, adding to its past accomplishments through the dedication and work of its members.

Ms. Patty Chester
Ms. Bonnie J. Glenn
Uriel Iñiguez
Ms. Yemi Fleming Jackson
Dean Sandra E. Madrid, Ph.D.
Judge James M. Murphy, Retired
Ms. Karen W. Murray
Anthony (Tony) Orange
Ms. Sudha Shetty
Jeffrey C. Sullivan
Ms. Brenda E. Williams

KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT THE 50th ANNUAL FALL JUDICIAL CONFERENCE

One of the projects of the Sub-committee is to sponsor a keynote speaker for the Fall Judicial Conference every other year. The purpose is to highlight the impact of diversity on the justice system and the importance of diversity in the courts. The Sub-committee worked with the Chief Justice of our Supreme Court to invite and secure a speaker of national stature to give the keynote address at the 50th Annual Washington Judicial Conference in September 2007 in Vancouver, Washington. The Honorable Robert Bell, Chief Judge of Maryland Court of Appeals, the highest court in Maryland, who currently serves as President of the Conference of Chief Justices,

has graciously accepted the invitation to serve as the keynote speaker. He will speak on “Inclusiveness of the Judiciary” at the conference, which is attended by judges from all levels of our State court system. In accordance with the theme of Chief Judge Bell’s address, on the following day the Education Sub-committee will be presenting an education session titled “Do you know your Arab, Muslim, and Sikh neighbors?” The education session will address the cultural norms and religious values of Arab, Muslim, and Sikh Americans and explore ways to balance the issue of accessibility of the courts while maintaining the safety and decorum of the courts.

DIVERSIFYING THE BENCH GUIDE

The Washington State Bar Association Committee for Diversity, Minority Bar Associations, Seattle University School of Law and the University of Washington School of Law, the Workforce Diversity Sub-committee are finalizing a guide tentatively titled, “Diversifying the Bench.” Mem-

bers of the Sub-committee and students from the Black Law Students Association and the Latino Law Students Association from Seattle University and the University of Washington Law Schools have committed their time and energy to developing this guide that will provide critical information to those interested in becoming a judicial officer. The Sub-committee members believe that if the information is readily accessible and transparent, many more qualified attorneys will choose to pursue a career as a judicial officer. The guide will include information relating to the election and appointment processes at all court levels, including court commissioner positions as well as employment as administrative law judges in the executive branch of local and state government. In collaboration with our partners in the bar and the law schools, the Sub-committee hopes to complete this guide by the end of 2007.



FEATURED ARTICLES



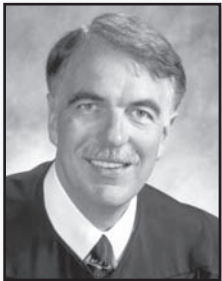
Celebrating the courts in an inclusive society

A NATION OF IMMIGRANTS

As we celebrate the courts in an inclusive society, we are reminded that in our great country, the United States of America, we are all immigrants or descendents of immigrants with the exception of indigenous peoples who inhabited our continent thousands of years before “America” was “discovered” by Europeans like Lief Ericsson, Cristoforo Colombo (Christopher Columbus) and Amerigo Vespucci.

Aside from the social, political and economic discussions about immigrants in the United States, we focus on the practical reality of immigration in the lives of all Americans. Members of the Washington State Minority and Justice Commission and staff have submitted personal statements reflecting upon their country of origin or that of their parents or other ancestors. These statements demonstrate the rich tapestry of our inclusive population in the United States.

Charles W. Johnson



I was born in Tacoma, Washington. Both of my parents were born in Pierce County. Both sets of my grandparents immigrated from Norway before 1910.

Charles Z. Smith



I was born in the United States in 1927. My father was born in Cuba in 1882 and emigrated with his parents to this country in 1898 as refugees from the Spanish American War. My mother was born in the United States in 1900. Her paternal grandfather was born into slavery. His mother presumably came from Africa in bondage. His father came from Ireland.

Bryan Adamson



I was born in Ohio in 1963. My mother is African-American, and my father is African-American and Cherokee Indian. They both were born and raised in South Central Alabama, migrating to Ohio in 1955. My mother's parents were sharecroppers, yet owned their land. My father's parents were also farmers, stewards of land my paternal great-grandfather had acquired.

Ann E. Benson



I am a face of the melting pot that is the United States (and increasingly the world). My family history holds Sicilian economic refugees wagering on a better life, Quebecois potato farmers migrating westward in search of more land, mixing in a dash of Native American Cree along the way, civil war soldiers of Anglo origin, and rounded out by German entrepreneurs. Hard, industrious souls, many of whom endured in their time the kind of discrimination and ill treatment that newer generations of immigrants are facing today.

Robert C. Boruchowitz



My mother was born in Jersey City, New Jersey, in a family that has Dutch and English roots. My father was born in Naples, Italy. His father was Belgian and his mother was Dutch. My grandfather's family moved to Belgium from Latvia and my grandmother's family moved to the Netherlands from Lithu-

ania. When my father was 16, he, his brother, his parents and grandparents fled their home in Marseilles, France to escape the Nazi invasion. After crossing Spain and spending time in Lisbon, Portugal, they were able to seek refuge in the United States. My father was drafted into the United States Army, served in North Africa and France, and became an American citizen. My uncle completed his education in Europe and settled in Argentina.

Patty Chester



My ancestors on my mother's side were traced back to 1674 in Baldenheim, Base Rhin, France. Five generations later they emigrated to Illinois, where my grandfather was born in 1897. His great, great grandmother was a Blackfoot Indian from a tribe in upper Quebec, Canada. My paternal grandmother's family can be traced back to Skanevik, Hordaland, Norway in 1750. Little is known about my paternal grandfather's family as my great grandfather left my grandfather at a train station in Iowa when my grandfather was 10 years old. My grandfather, who was a traveling salesman, spent the rest of his life searching for his father, but was never able to find a trace of him.

Erica S. Chung



I was born in Chong-Ju, South Korea, but was raised in Los Angeles, California. Both my parents were born in South Korea during the Japanese occupation. My father was born in Seoul in 1933 and served in the Korean War. My mother was born in Um-Sung in

1942. My family immigrated to the United States on February 14, 1975 to join my father's side of the family who immigrated several years before. We received our citizenship on November 16, 1983.

Myrna I. Contreras



I was born in Eagle Pass, Texas, reared in the Yakima Valley in Washington. My mother was born in Mexico. My father was born in Texas, but reared in Monterey, Mexico. My mother immigrated to the United States about 50 years ago. My father returned about 60 years ago. My paternal grandparents were born in Mexico. Their parents immigrated to Mexico from Spain and France in the 1700s. My maternal grandparents were born in Mexico. My grandmother's father was one-half Spanish. Her mother and her father were from Mexico.

Ronald E. Cox



I was born in the United States of America. My father was born in Panama and raised in Barbados and Trinidad in the British West Indies. He immigrated to the United States in the 1930s, moving to New York City. My mother was also born in the United States to emigrants from the West Indies. She was raised in Philadelphia, where my parents met. After they were married, they moved to Honolulu, Hawai'i, where I was raised.

Deborah D. Fleck



I understand that my ancestry includes people who came from England, Ireland, Germany, Scotland, and France. My extended family includes people who are from the South Pacific Islands, as well as Asian Americans and African Americans. Although I have no information that I have persons of color in my ancestry, I was always pleased as a child when people thought I was Native American or Asian, for example.

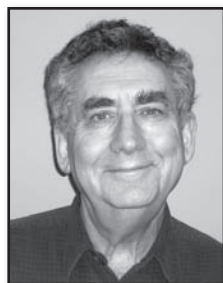
Bonnie J. Glen



My father was born in Virginia and is the youngest of 23 children. Both his parents were African American, but had a mixture of Native American and White. Both of their parents were mixed also with Black, Native American, and White. There were not many records available to trace back history. However, we can trace back some Native American roots to the Cherokee. Original relatives were said to have traveled on the "Trail of Tears" and lived in North Carolina and then Virginia. My father's folks were said to have migrated from North Carolina to Virginia. My African heritage is hard to trace as well. There are very few records due to slavery and the mixing of races. Historically people were not legally allowed to mix races. Although this occurred, many did not claim their children privately—much less publicly—to trace back records. My mother was born in New York and raised in Baltimore, Maryland. She was adopted, but is told to have roots from Puerto Rico and the Caribbean.

I am a proud mixture of many great races and cultures. I would hope to know more some day.

Donald J. Horowitz



I was born in the United States in 1936. My biological father was born in Brooklyn, New York in 1910 to parents who had both emigrated from the Ukraine a few years earlier. My mother was born in 1910 in a very small village in Belarus near the Polish border named Dokscycz. Her father had migrated to the United States in late 1909, and she and her mother and two older sisters came to the United States in 1912. Her younger brother and younger sister were born in the United States. Her brother was a United States soldier during World War II, and was killed in battle in Italy in 1945. My mother has always said her age was two years younger than she actually was, and I never understood that until about 10 years ago when she told me that she always felt her life began when she came to this country. All of them were Jews, and came to this country to escape consistent and ongoing persecution and pogroms.

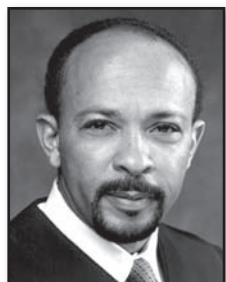
Uriel R. Iñiguez



My name is Uriel Rodriguez Iñiguez. I am the oldest of 11 children, son of Mexican migrant farm workers who immigrated to Washington State from Michuacan, Mexico in 1973. I and four of my siblings were born in Michuacan, Mexico and immigrated with our parents in 1973. On my father's side of the family, my grandfather was a mestizo and my grandmother was a descendent of second generation

immigrants from Portugal. On my mother's side of the family, my grandmother is a Native American from Mexico and my grandfather is a descendent of fourth generation immigrants from Spain.

Richard A. Jones



I was born in Seattle, Washington on September 5, 1950. My mother was born in Bocas del Toro, Panama in 1908 and raised primarily in Belize, British Honduras. Her father made application for United States citizenship for his entire family in 1931 in New Orleans, Louisiana. My father was born in Charleston, South Carolina in 1899. His mother was of African heritage born in the United States.

Kenneth H. Kato



My maternal and paternal grandparents immigrated to America from Japan in the early 1900's. My father was born in Lodi, California, and my mother in Tacoma, Washington. In their youth they both went to Japan to live with relatives and came back to this country just before World War II. During the internment, my father was at Tule Lake camp. Then living in Spokane, my mother did not have to go to camp because she was east of the Columbia River. My parents met after the war and were married in Spokane. My mother passed away in 1981, but my father is alive and well at 91.

Douglas W. Luna



My grandmother was a member of the Tlingit Indian Tribe, Eagle moiety, Wolf Clan, Box House and was born in Chatham, Alaska. Her first husband was Chinese from Southern China. They had four children.

With the children she moved to Seattle in 1922. My grandfather was born in Cavite, Philippines and came to the United States via service in the United States Navy beginning in 1916. He met and married my grandmother in the 1920s. My grandparents had four children, the first born being my mother. My father also came from Cavite, Philippines via the United States Navy in the 1930s. My daughter, through her mother's side, can trace her family tree back to 11th Century Japan.

Sandra E. Madrid



I was born in Pueblo, Colorado. My father was born in Villanueva, New Mexico in 1915. He is a fourth generation New Mexican. His great great grandfather was born in Seville, Spain. My mother was born in 1917 in Wagonmount, New Mexico. Her mother is of Mexican descent and her father was killed when she was two years old. We are not sure where he was born. He was a bronco rider working for a rancher in New Mexico and was shot by the son of the ranch owner for not working on a Sunday.

Ron A. Mamiya



Both my father and mother were born in Seattle in 1923 and 1924 respectively to immigrant parents. All four of my grandparents immigrated from Japan between 1910 and 1907. My paternal grandparents were from Kurume, Fukuoka Prefecture on Japan's southern island of Kyushu and both maternal grandparents came from near Kugenuma Beach, Fujisawa, Kanagawa Prefecture, some 50 km south of Tokyo. Leaving Japan during its Meiji Period, my grandparents brought much of the old Japanese traditions to America as Japan was transitioning from its isolationism to Westernization.

Rosa M. Melendez



I was born in Salt Lake City, Utah in 1952. My father was born in Puerto Rico in 1925 and was recruited to work for the Kennecott Copper Mine. He was one of many Puerto Rican males that were brought to Bingham, Utah, to work the mines below the minimum wage. My mother was born in the United States in 1925. Her parents were both from Mexico who migrated to the United States in the early 1900s.

Denise C. Marti



I was born in Havana, Cuba. I immigrated to the United States with my parents in 1967. In 1972 I became a United States citizen. Both of my parents were born in Havana, Cuba. My father's grandfather was originally from Barcelona,

Spain. On my mother's side, her father was from Beirut, Lebanon. Her maternal great grandfather was from France and her paternal great grandparents were from the Canary Islands, Spain.

Monto S. Morton



I was born in Seoul, South Korea at a United States military base, but was raised in the United States. As a child of a military father we lived in many states throughout the United States and Italy for four years.

My mother was born and raised in South Korea. Because South Korea has a long history, many families are able to trace their family lineage. And according to my great grandfather, their family name may be traced to a royal family line originating from China and dating back to the Second Century, B. C.

My father was born in the State of Washington. His father's mother was Castilian, emigrating from Spain after marrying a man of Welsh descent from California. The surname Morton originates from Wales. My father's mother was of Swedish descent with an extended family spanning throughout Northwestern America.

James M. Murphy



I was born in the United States in 1943. My father and his parents were born here as well. My great grandfather was born in County Antrim, Ireland in 1850. He and his two brothers emigrated to Whitman County, Washington in 1887. My mother was born in Canada and her father in Berlin, Germany in 1886. He, with his

parents, emigrated to the United States when he was a small child.

Karen W. Murray



My mother gave birth to me and my twin brother at Sacred Heart Hospital in the small town of Fort Madison, Iowa in 1951. Our birth certificate read "colored." My mother was born in Missouri in 1919 and moved to

Fort Madison, Iowa with her parents and her two siblings. The home I was raised in until I was 13 years old was built by my grandfather. My father was born in 1917 in the beautiful country of Jamaica. At the annual family reunions I would hear that my great grandfather was a slave.

Sudha Shetty



I was born in Karnataka, India in our ancestral home. I belong to a Matriarchal family where property is passed from mother to daughter. I came to the United States without a choice in 1981 as a product of an arranged

marriage. I started my life in the United States in Huntsville, Alabama. My parents continue to live in India.

P. Diane Schneider



Like most Americans, I come from a diverse heritage. My maternal grandmother, the youngest sibling, was born in Oklahoma Territory near what is today Yale, Oklahoma. There were no

high schools in Oklahoma Territory so her family sent her to Kansas to go to high school. Nobody in the family signed up on the Dawes Rolls to our knowledge. In Kansas my grandmother met and married a man whose mother had "proved up" her own land in Western Kansas at age 18 (near what is today called "Protection," which some sources say, was a stop on the underground railroad for persons fleeing from Texas) after coming across the United States in a covered wagon with her parents. She was of Irish origin, (possibly her parents).

Years ago, as I understand it, the Irish and other "undesirables" were sent West as far as the train would go—which was Kansas City. Other immigrants, on getting off the train, said the land was too rocky and inhospitable to support life, and they continued West. Many of the Irish, who had come to the United States to escape starvation, with nothing but their tools got off the train and were overjoyed to find the area full of stone. They built many impressive buildings in and around Kansas City and even made a lot of limestone fence posts which, of course, last longer than wood fence posts.

N. A. "Butch" Stussy



I was born in 1947 near Los Angeles as the world was recovering from World War II. My father was born in Kansas in 1924 and enlisted in the United Army at 19 years of age and served his country for more than 23

years. His father was a third generation descendant of Swiss immigrants who arrived in New York in 1873 aboard the steamship Holsatia and hailed from the village Niederunnen. His maternal grandmother was a full-blood Cherokee whose

father and grandfather served in the Union Army during the Civil War and fought at the battle of Pea Ridge, Arizona. My mother was born in Missouri in 1923 and is of English and French descent. Her ancestors arrived in America in the early 1800s. A paternal great uncle to my mother moved from Saint Louis to Seattle in 1891 to practice law and subsequently served in the Washington Legislature in 1913 and authorized Pierce's Code, a precursor to the Revised Code of Washington.

Greg D. Sypolt



I was born in the United States in 1949. My mother and father were both born in the United States. My mother was born in 1921 and my father in 1918. My mother's parents were born in Europe in Galicia, Poland in the late 1800s. My father's mother was born in the United States, as was his father. Although the history is somewhat unclear, it is believed that my great grandparents (father's side) were born in Great Britain (perhaps Wales) in the mid-1800s.

Mary Alice Theiler



My paternal grandfather was born in Lucerne, Switzerland. On their voyage to the United States, his father was lost at sea, leaving his eight-month pregnant mother to raise six children by herself in this country. My grandfather married Alice Lysaght, whose family emigrated from County Clare, Ireland during the Great Famine of the 1840s. My maternal grandfather was raised by his Norwegian father who was the foreman of a lumber camp in the great pine forests of Northern Michigan. My maternal grandmother

grew up on a farm in Parnell, Michigan, settled by Irish immigrants homesick for the beautiful rolling hills, lakes and streams of their native Ireland.

Vicki J. Toyohara



My family emigrated from Japan three generations ago. My mother's father came to Seattle as a young teen with his parents during the 1910s. Known as an Issei, or first generation Japanese, he loved America and its offer of the "American Dream" equally to everyone. When his parents returned to Japan, he remained behind on his own, working in the Alaska canneries during fishing season. He returned to Japan in his early twenties to find a wife. His family arranged a marriage between him and my grandmother, who returned to Seattle with her new husband in the early 1920s.

My mother's parents, my grandparents the Shimomuras, operated hotels in the then Chinatown area of Seattle, now known as the International District, and raised three daughters, including my mother—all born in Seattle. The Shimomura family was removed from their Seattle home during World War II under Executive Order 9066 and were interned at the Minidoka, Idaho Relocation Camp where my mother completed her high school education. After the war the family returned to Seattle and started over, assigning their hopes and dreams of pursuing the American Dream and of being accepted by their adopted country as loyal and successful American citizens to the third generation, known as Sansei—my siblings and me.

My father's parents (the Toyoharas) emigrated from Hiroshima, Island of Honshu, Japan in the early 1900s to Oxnard, California, a farming

and orchard community, where they raised two sons and a daughter, including my father—all born in America. My Toyohara grandparents owned and operated the Toyohara Produce Farm but, because of the alien land laws, were unable to purchase the farm in their own names. Under Executive Order 9066 they were evacuated from the West Coast and interned in the Gila, Arizona Relocation Camp. My father and his brother volunteered and joined the United States Army where they served in the famous 442nd Regimental Combat Team, the much-decorated all Nissei (Japanese American) Army unit. After the war the Toyohara family returned to Oxnard where they resumed working on their produce farm.

Brenda E. Williams



I was born in the United States. My mother was born in Meoqui, Chihuahua, Mexico in 1937. She immigrated to the United States in 1960. My maternal grandmother was born in Villa Matamoros, Chihuahua, Mexico in 1903. The birthplace of my maternal grandfather is unknown.

My father was born in Chicago, Illinois in 1932. My paternal grandparents were both born in Chicago in 1896 and 1903 respectively. The origin of one pair of paternal great grandparents is unknown. My other paternal great grandfather and paternal great grandmother were both born in Chicago in 1884 and 1883 respectively. One pair of paternal great great grandparents were each

born in Germany. My other paternal great great grandfather was born in Saint Michaela, Talbot, Maryland in 1831. My other paternal great great grandmother was born in Dunham, Missisquoi, Quebec, Canada in 1852.

Mary I. Yu



I am Mary Isabel Yu, born in Chicago, Illinois in 1957. My father was born in China in 1919. He came to this country in 1944 after a long journey of working for various shipping lines since the age of seven. He was initially classified as a war refugee. My mother was born in Mexico in 1920 and first came to this country with her family as a farm worker. My parents met while working in a factory in Chicago.

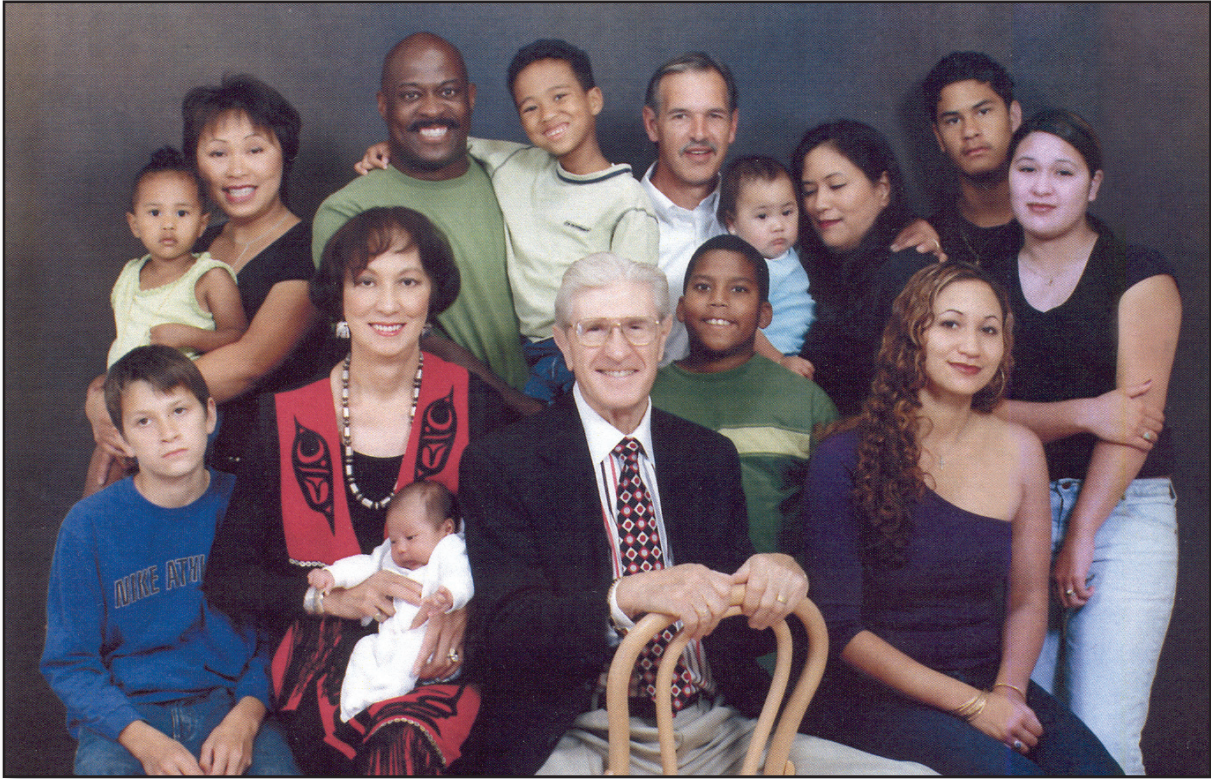
Dennis D. Yule



I was born in the United States, as were all of three generations preceding me. One of my paternal great-great-grandfathers, of Scottish and Norwegian descent, emigrated from Scotland to the United States in 1868; another came to New York from Germany at approximately the same time. On my mother's side, one great-great grandfather sailed from England to Massachusetts with his parents in 1854, and one great-great grandmother emigrated to the United States from France with her family in the 1850s.

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AN AMERICAN FAMILY



In our celebration of inclusiveness in our American society, we noted a family photograph which visibly, clearly and beautifully demonstrates the true meaning of the term “inclusive” incorporating race, ethnicity, language, culture and national origin. Seattle residents Jack Richards and his wife Camille Monzon-Richards have given us permission to publish the photograph (taken two weeks before September 11, 2001) with appropriate commentary. The commentary is based largely upon information provided by Ms. Monzon-Richards.

Ms. Camille Monzon-Richards: “I am Tlingit Indian, Russian, Filipino and Spanish.”

“Jack is Anglo-Saxon, Celt and Hun, i.e. English, Irish and German. He comes from a proud background of public service to Seattle. He was appointed Chief of the Seattle Fire Department by Mayor Wes Uhlman in 1972. He was instrumen-

tal in getting Medic One started, along with Dr. Leonard Cobb and Dr. Werner Samson. He was elected to the Seattle City Council and served one term from 1980-1984. We met in 1982.

“The father of my daughters, Alexandra Kahnda (nee Saisithi) and Angela Jaruwan (nee Saisithi), was from Thailand. I met him at a foreign student gathering while I was still a student at Franklin High School. He received his Ph. D. in biochemistry from the University of Washington in the late 1960s and recently retired as dean of the College of Arts

and Sciences at a large university in Bangkok. We all lived in Thailand and traveled extensively throughout Southeast Asia. In fact, Angela Jaruwan was born in Bangkok. While in Bangkok, I worked for Stanford Research Institute during

the escalation of the Vietnam War. I also worked for the United States Information Service.

"After my first marriage ended, I returned to the United States and began my studies at Seattle University from which I received a Bachelor of Arts in English/Journalism. I earned a Master of Public Administration at Harvard University in 1989.

"My daughter Alexandra's first marriage was to a lovely Anglo-Saxon young man (high school sweethearts at Matteo Ricci College) that produced no issue. She later met and married Captain Les Liggins (SPD), who is African American and hails from Memphis, Tennessee. He is a forensic accountant and serves on the staff of Chief Kerlikowski. They have two lovely children: Quentin and Corinna. While Alexandra was still in her first marriage, we were both in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She was earning her Master in Urban Planning from the Sloan School at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology while I was earning my Master's at the Kennedy School (Harvard).

"My daughter Angela's first marriage was to a young man who is African American and German. They have three children: Irina Nicole (sitting left to Jack); Theresa Marie (standing behind

Irina) and Ulysses T. Bloomberg, III (standing behind Theresa Marie). Their mother, Angela, is holding Theresa's daughter, Cecilia Camille Villegas. Angela's present husband, James Jensen, is standing between Angela and Quentin. He is white, Mexican/Indian, but mostly white. He was adopted as a child.

"Angela's second marriage was to a real Hun [German]—Paul Lutz. Their son, Paul, Jr., is sitting next to me. Corinna is being held by Alexandra and she is next to Les. Les' son from his first marriage, Foster, is right behind Jack. I am holding my second great-grandchild, Tatiana Josefina Villegas. Her father, José Villegas, is Chicano. He was born here."

In identifying herself, Ms. Camille Monzon-Richards stated "I am Tlingit Indian, Russian, Filipino and Spanish. My father, Felipe Trinidad Monzon, who was a mestizo, met my mother here in Seattle in the late 1920s. My mother, Matilda Tatiana Peters (her Tlingit name was Yhun-sha-wat-the), was born in Chatham, Alaska, at our family's summer camp. Our permanent home was/is in Sitka, the Russian capital of Alaska. These four bloods course through my veins, each struggling for dominance on a daily basis. The Tlingit wins practically all the time!"

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AN IMMIGRANT LAWYER SPEAKS

Sudha Shetty

I grew up in a developing country where economics tilted the balance of justice. Bribes were used to suppress evidence, buy influence with attorneys and judges, and intimidate plaintiffs with threats and force. The outcome often left the poor feeling that the justice system was unfair and biased against them.

The justice system in this country (the United States) is also tilted towards those with resources. While corruption plays a much less prominent role here, the poor in this country are extremely disadvantaged in the legal system by their lack of access to resources necessary to purchase effective legal representation.

Equal access to justice is a growing issue in this country. Quality legal representation is increasingly expensive. The legal profession is also increasingly specialized, leading to fewer general practitioners available to triage or be first responders for the legal needs of the general population. In addition, there are few lawyers from and practicing in those very communities most needing legal assistance. This problem is particularly acute among immigrant and refugee populations. Equal access to legal representation is often hampered by a lack of access to resources to pay for representation. This situation is further complicated by institutionalized racial and cultural biases. New immigrants face the additional burdens of language barriers that often lead to misunderstandings, a lack of knowledge of the American legal system and their rights in it, and experiences in their countries of origin where legal and governmental systems are corrupt and result in unfair outcomes.

We must make every effort to overcome the

language barriers faced by many immigrant and refugee populations. While the courts provide interpreters within the confines of their buildings, language barriers transcend those services currently provided. Language barriers prevent many people from being able to read a summons received in the mail or even directions within the courthouse so that they can find the correct courtroom for their hearing. Pro bono attorneys are often willing to provide representation but shy away from providing this service to refugee and immigrant clients because qualified legal interpreters may be very expensive.

Individual communities have addressed this issue by providing volunteer interpreters for their own members, but these interpreters may not be trained in the law and therefore may be unable to understand the intricacies of legal terminology. The need for qualified legal interpretation is huge. We have a responsibility to maximize our existing resources

and build partnerships to address the needs of immigrant and refugee populations.

Current immigration policies also make it increasingly difficult to enter this country legally. Legal or illegal entry into the United States is very complex and extremely expensive. Immigrants and refugees who come here, leaving behind family and support systems, do so with dreams and hopes in their hearts to create better lives for themselves and their children. They often want to put behind them the horrors of war and religious or political persecution, and they work very hard at jobs that others do not want. They pay taxes and become integral parts of our communities. When equal justice is denied to immigrants and refugees they live in fear

*Legal or illegal entry
into the United States
is very complex and
extremely expensive.*

of losing everything they have worked for or achieved in this country—their children, homes, possessions—all things we all value.

Is it now time for us to make greater efforts for immigrants and refugees seeking justice through our legal system? We cannot afford to do otherwise.

Ms. Sudha Shetty, J.D., is a lawyer with Dorsey and Whitney, LLP and a member of the Washington State Minority and Justice Commission.



COMMISSION ARTWORK



Celebrating the courts in an inclusive society

“THE MESSENGERS”

Yadesa Bojia



Copyright © Yadesa Bojia 2006

“IN MY FATHER’S HOUSE THERE ARE MANY ROOMERS”

Barbara Earl Thomas



Copyright © Barbara Earl Thomas 1986

“ASÍ LO SOÑÓ SANDINO”

Alejandro Canales



Copyright © El Centro de la Raza 2004

“EQUAL JUSTICE FOR ALL PEOPLE”

Edward Kiloh



Copyright © Edward Kiloh 2003

“WE CREATE BALANCE”

Michelle Kumata



Copyright © Michelle Kumata 2001

“JUSTICE IS ALL INCLUSIVE”

Tori



"Justice is all inclusive"

Copyright © Tori Cole 1998

“JUSTICE AND WOMEN OF COLOR”

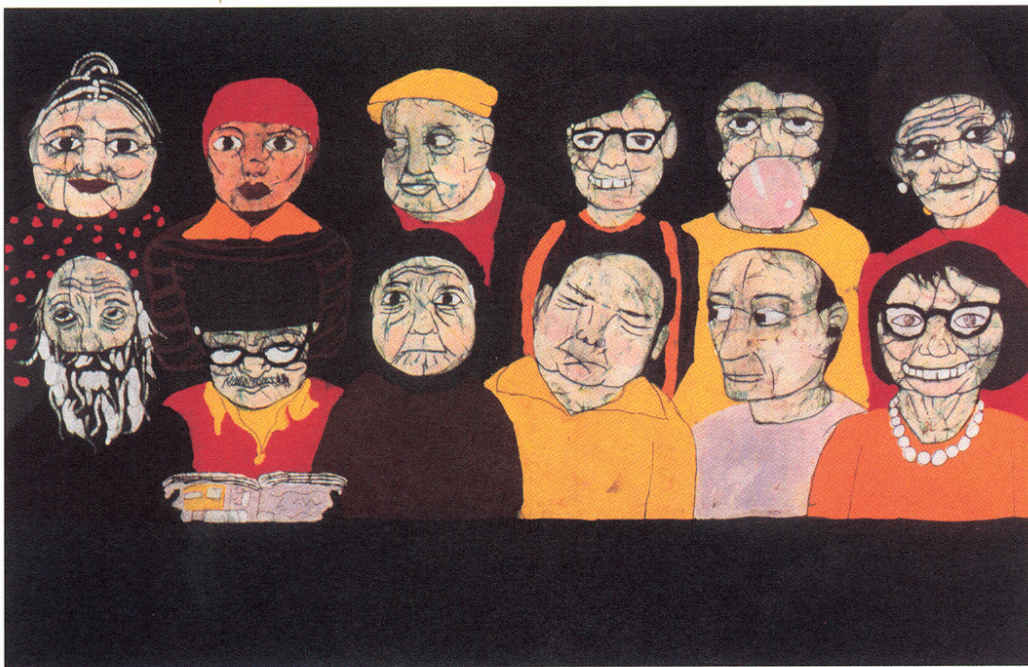
Nubia W. Owens



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“THE JURY”

Catherine Conoley



THE JURY

Catherine Conoley 1985

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“EQUAL JUSTICE”

Sekio Matsumoto



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VIDEOS:

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July 30, 2004, VHS

Recorded by TVW (WA Public Affairs Network)

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"Cultural Competency: Rising to the Challenge"

Revised April 2000, DVD (2005)

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Produced July 1999, VHS

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NOTE-CARDS (WITH ENVELOPES):

"The Messengers"

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"In My Father's House..."

_____ @ \$3 (set of 3) \$ _____

"Así lo soñó Sandino"

_____ @ \$3 (set of 3) \$ _____

"Equal Justice for All People"

_____ @ \$3 (set of 3) \$ _____

"We create balance"

_____ @ \$3 (set of 3) \$ _____

"Justice is all inclusive"

_____ @ \$3 (set of 3) \$ _____

"Justice and Women of Color"

_____ @ \$3 (set of 3) \$ _____

POSTERS:

"The Messengers"

_____ No Charge

"In My Father's House..."

_____ No Charge

"Así lo soñó Sandino"

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"Equal Justice for All People"

_____ No Charge

"We create balance"

_____ No Charge

"Justice is all inclusive"

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"Justice and Women of Color"

_____ No Charge

"The Jury"

_____ No Charge

"Equal Justice"

_____ No Charge

ANNUAL REPORTS:

2006 Annual Report

_____ No Charge

2005 Annual Report

_____ No Charge

2003-2004 Biennial Report

_____ no Charge

2002 Annual Report

_____ No Charge

2001 Annual Report

_____ No Charge

1998 Annual Report

_____ No Charge

1995-96 Report

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