

Through awareness, education and action

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WASHINGTON STATE SUPREME COURT HOSTS SYMPOSIUM ON JUVENILE JUSTICE AND RACIAL DISPROPORTIONALITY

The over-representation of children of color in Washington's juvenile justice system was the focus of a report presented to the Washington Supreme Court and a full gallery in the Court's Temple of Justice courtroom by the Task Force on Race and the Criminal Justice System at an afternoon Symposium on Racial Disproportionality in Washington State's Juvenile Justice System on March 28, 2012. The presentation represents the Task Force's second report to the state's highest court. Convened in November 2010, the Task Force presented its first report to the Supreme Court, on the presence of biases and policies with racially disparate effects that contribute to the disproportionate representation of racial and ethnic minority groups in Washington's courts, jails and prisons in March 2011.

According to the Co-Chairs of the Task Force's Juvenile Justice Subcommittee, King County Superior Court Judge Mary Yu and University of Washington Law School Dean Kelley Testy, the objective of the symposium and report is to begin "a newly productive dialogue on racial disproportionality in Washington's juvenile justice system...[that will] provide a framework for understanding the various and interlocking systems that often serve as "feeders" into our juvenile justice system and that combine to create a complex web that entangles too many youth (especially youth of color) for too long" a problem that has been well documented. For example, black youths are two times more likely to be arrested than white youths, and black



Task Force on Race and the Criminal Justice System Presentation to the Washington State Supreme Court on Juvenile Justice and Racial Disproportionality.

youths are two times more likely to be referred to juvenile court for charging than white youths. The symposium and its companion report are sequels to the Preliminary Report on Race and Washington's Criminal Justice System.

Several representatives from Washington's legal and academic communities addressed the Supreme Court Justices and others attending the symposium. In addition to opening remarks by Judge Yu and Dean Testy, Pierce County Superior Court Judge Frank Cuthbertson, who also serves as the Vice-Chair of the Partnership Council for Juvenile Justice, briefly summarized the span of history from the US Supreme Court's decision in 1896 upholding racial segregation in *Plessy n. Ferguson* to the Washington Supreme Court's hosting of the day's symposium. Washington Supreme

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EQUAL JUSTICE

Equal Justice is the official publication of the Washington State Minority and Justice Commission. It serves as a communications and networking tool providing information about programs, projects and issues concerning the Washington State legal community.

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As we seek to make Equal Justice more relevant and helpful to our readers, your responses and suggestions, as well as information concerning programs and activities occurring in Washington State's legal community, are critically important. We encourage your comments. They should be sent to Mr. Monto S. Morton, Executive Director of the Washington State Minority and Justice Commission, at: monto.morton@courts.wa.gov, or Administrative Office of the Courts, Post Office Box 41170 Olympia, Washington 98504-1170.

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Court Justice (ret.) Bobbe Bridge, co-founder and CEO of the Center for Children and Youth Justice, framed the discussion by summarizing the evolution of juvenile justice and the progression of juvenile justice system reforms. Dr. Carl McCurley, director of the Washington State Center for Court Research, summarized and explained data derived from Washington courts relating to the disproportionate entry and penetration into the juvenile justice system by racial and ethnic minority juveniles. Ryan Pinto, Director of the Office of Juvenile Justice of the Washington Department of Social and Health Services, and staff for the Washington Partnership Council for Juvenile Justice explained the role of the Council in collaborative efforts to identify and address disproportionality in the juvenile justice system. Professor Michael Pullman, from the Division of Public Behavioral Health and Justice Policy of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Washington, presented an overview of research related to disproportionality in juvenile justice and, more specifically, the assessment of disproportionate minority contact in juvenile justice in Washington being conducted by the UW's Division of Public Behavioral Health and Justice Policy. Professor Kim Ambrose of the University of Washington School of Law, moderated a discussion by a panel of four young persons of color from King County about their experiences within the juvenile justice system: Anjenee Miller, Highline Community College student; Reese Ali, Seattle Central Community College student; Karen Garcia, Scriber Lake High School student; and Drew Gibson, Seattle Central Community College student.

Pierce County Superior Court Judge Kitty-Ann van Doornick introduced efforts in the juvenile division of the Pierce County Superior Court to reduce racial and ethnic disproportionality and expand alternatives to detention, which were summarized by TJ Bohl, Pierce County Juvenile Probation Manager and Kevin Williams, Pierce County Juvenile Court Probation Counselor.

The symposium concluded with remarks and a call to action by James Bell, Director of the Haywood Burns Institute, a leading organization in the field of juvenile justice and ethnic and racial disparities reduction.

In its accompanying report the Task Force made detailed recommendations for actions to the Washington Supreme Court, the Washington State Bar Association, local governments and courts, the Washington State Legislature, law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, attorneys representing juveniles, and schools and law schools.

For the Task Force's complete report, Juvenile Justice and Racial Disproportionality, visit <u>www.law.washington.edu/About/</u>racetaskforce/

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CHAIRPERSON APPOINTED TO THE JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMITTEE



Carla C. Lee

Carla C. Lee was appointed chair of the Washington State Minority and Justice Commission Juvenile Justice Committee on April 9, 2012, by the Co-Chairs of the Commission. Ms. Lee is the project coordinator at the Center for Children and Youth Justice for the Washington component of Models for Change, the national juvenile justice reform initiative sponsored by the

MacArther Foundation. The Juvenile Justice Committee was created to promote the adoption of laws, policies and evidence-based practices shown to reduce and, ultimately, eliminate disproportionate minority contact in the juvenile justice system.

THE ASIAN BAR ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON PROVIDES MANY SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

The Asian Bar Association promotes justice, equity, and opportunity for Asian Pacific Americans through various activities. The association participates in the Joint Asian Judicial Evaluations Committee and in the International District pro bono legal clinic. Also, in February it provided support, as a Platinum Sponsor, for Seattle University Law School's 25th Anniversary celebration of the Ninth Circuit's decision in *United States* v. *Hirabayashi* overturning Mr. Hirabayashi's curfew violation and relocation refusal convictions during World War II.

The ABAW provides its members with mentorship, networking and employment opportunities. The ABAW Board meets monthly and holds quarterly general membership meetings. The first membership event of 2012 was held on March 27, 2012, and included an open board meeting and reception. To learn more about ABAW, please visit its website at <u>w w w. a b a w. org</u> or Facebook page at <u>www.facebook.com/AsianBarAssociationWA</u>.

UW LAW PARTNERS WITH AFGHAN UNIVERSITIES IN LEGAL EDUCATORS TRAINING PROGRAM

The University of Washington Law School's Legal Education Support Program-Afghanistan (LESPA) is a collaborative effort of the University of Washington, the United States Department of State, the Afghan Ministry of Higher Education, and the Shari'a and Law and Political Science faculties of major Afghan universities. It is implemented by the Asian Law Center at the University of Washington School of Law and is currently funded into 2017.

LESPA's aim is to strengthen Afghanistan's legal institutions by offering educational opportunities to Afghan law professors, professionals, and students, who intend to become legal educators. Part of the LESPA's mission includes access to English proficiency training. UW Law Professor Jon Eddy, project director of LESPA, noted that "part of Afghanistan's extreme isolation over the last few decades is linguistic."

On February 22, 2012, members celebrated the end of an eight-week Academic English training session in Herat, Afghanistan. Thirty-one faculty members and thirty-three students, from the seven Afghan universities, participated. For many participants, the eight-week training session amounted to their first exposure to U.S. legal principles and Western teaching methods. Participants studied substantive legal topics, competed in a moot court, enjoyed field trips to some of Herat's cultural highlights, and, perhaps most importantly, improved their English skills.

UW LAW'S INNOCENCE PROJECT NORTHWEST AND EXONEREE ALAN NORTHROP SPOTLIGHTED ON CNN

The University of Washington's Innocence Project Northwest (IPNW) is a clinical law program that "represents indigent people in Washington who are serving long prison terms, who claim their innocence, and who no longer have a right to court-appointed counsel." Its work was featured on a March 25, 2012, CNN special entitled The *Price of Life* that focused on the issue of wrongful conviction compensation. The special, included a segment on one of IPNW's recent clients, Alan Northrup, who was exonerated in July, 2010, by DNA testing, and released after serving 17 years in prison. Under current law, Washington does not compensate these exonerated prisoners for their years of wrongful imprisonment. Lara Zarowsky,

IPNW policy staff attorney, is working on legislation to that would compensate these wrongfully accused persons for their years of imprisonment that were wrongfully taken from them by the state.

To view the CNN segment, visit <u>http://</u> <u>cnnpresents.blogs.cnn.com/</u>. More information about the Innocence Project Northwest is available at <u>http://</u> <u>www.law.washington.edu/Clinics/IPNW/</u>.

WASHINGTON APPROVES SAME-SEX MARRIAGE LEGISLATION

Marriages between two persons of the same gender will be authorized in Washington under legislation signed into law by Governor Chris Gregoire on February 13, 2012. The law will go into effect on June 7, 2012, unless a voter referendum on the legislation is certified for the November 2012 general election. Washington joins Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Maryland, Vermont and the District of Columbia in approving same-sex marriages.

MAY IS ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Since 2002, Washington State has formally recognized May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, during which public institutions are encouraged to celebrate the many ways in which Asian Pacific Americans have contributed to our state and nation. These celebratory activities are chiefly coordinated by the Washington Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs. Among the activities is the Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month Celebration 2012 Art Contest hosted by the Asian Pacific Directors Coalition and open to students K-12. Schools and other institutions interested in celebrating Asian Pacific American Month, can find resources and activities listed at http:// www.capaa.wa.gov/events/heritageMonth.shtm.

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION ADVANCES MAJOR INITIATIVES

The Asian American & Pacific Islander Voices in Education Initiative was launched by the Washington Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs in June 2011 to prepare Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) families, community leaders, and organizations to become full partners in education policymaking in Washington State. The Initiative's objective is meaningful participation by Washington's AAPI

communities in improving education. AAPI students represent eight percent of the population in Washington's K-12 public schools. The initiative is designed to improve understanding of problems faced by AAPI students and expand their educational opportunities.

Initiative partners include the Washington Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs, the Asian Pacific Islander American Think Tank, the Asian Pacific Islander Coalition, the Washington State Association for Multicultural Education and the Win/Win Network.

For more information, contract Frieda Takamura at <u>ftakamura08@gmail.com</u>.

The Asian America Pacific Islander Health Disparity Initiative was launched by the Washington State Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs in December 2011, to achieve health equity for Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders in Washington State by improving data collection, treatment, prevention, and education under the Affordable Care Act.

Initiative partners include the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs, the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities, Office of the Insurance Commissioner, Health Care Authority, and the Department of Social and Health Services.

For more information, contact Sofia Aragon at tsofia.aragon@gmail.com.

JUSTICE AT STAKE PILOT PROJECT OFFERS DIVERSITY ON THE BENCH: JUDICLAL CAMPAIGN SKILLS TRAININGS THROUGHOUT WASHINGTON

As part of the Justice at Stake Campaign Washington State Judicial Diversity Pilot Project, a training session was held at Gonzaga University Law School Moot Court Room on Saturday, April 21, 2012 and at Snohomish County PUD on Saturday, April 7, 2012. The trainings were for those lawyers thinking of becoming a judge. Attendees learned from experts and judges who gave them hands-on, practical advice about what they need to know to run in 2012, or to prepare for a future campaign or apply for a judicial appointment. Another session will be held at the Red Lion Hotel Yakima Center on Saturday, May 5, 2012. The topics covered include: what you need to know

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before you run; the ways to become a judge (appointment, open seat election, challenging an incumbent); the Rules, the deadlines, the campaign phases; putting together a campaign team; and how to raise the money. The trainers for the sessions are Cathy Allen, The Connections Group, and Linda Mitchell, Justice at Stake.

For more information about the trainings, contact Linda Mitchell at linda@lindamitchell.org.

NORTHWEST INDIAN BAR ASSOCIATION TO HOLD ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

The Northwest Indian Bar Association (NIBA) will hold its 2012 Annual Awards Banquet on June 7, 2012 at the Seattle University Campion Ball Room located at 914 E. Jefferson Street in Seattle commencing with a reception at 5:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 6:30 pm. The banquet will feature keynote speakers Michael Taylor, Reservation Attorney Lead for the Tulalip Tribes, and Doug Nash (Nez Perce), Director of the Center for Indian Law and Policy and Adjunct Professor at Seattle University School of Law. Both will also be honored with the NIBA Lifetime Achievement award. The Tara Blair Champion of Indian Law Award will be presented to Billy Frank, Jr. (Nisqually), and Michael E. Douglas (Haida) will be honored with the first NIBA Unsung Hero Award. The dinner will also feature an American Indian Art Live Auction and a Wine Grab and lively entertainment from the Tsimshian Haayuuk Dancers. Additional information is available on the NIBA website at http://www.nwiba.org/ or by contacting Elizabeth Fry, NIBA Dinner Chair, at (509) 826-6821 or by e-mail at efry@sisna.com.

HISPANIC NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION CONVENTION COMES TO SEATTLE IN AUGUST

This Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA) will conduct its annual convention in Seattle August 22-25, 2012. During this four-day program, hundreds of attorneys, judges, and students will gather for an educational experiences and networking opportunities. The program shall feature Continuing Legal Education panels with notable legal experts, national policymakers, and other leaders. In addition, the program will offer workshops and networking events, including the nation's largest Hispanic Career Fair.

For more information about this event, please access the website: <u>http://www.hnba.com/news-events/annual-convention/</u>.

ANNUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE/BAR LEADERS CONFERENCE COMES TO YAKIMA IN JUNE

Since 1996, the Washington State Access to Justice Board and the Washington State Bar Association have convened joint conferences - the Access to Justice Conference and the Washington State Bar Association's Bar Leaders Conference. These conferences serve to provide skills and tackle the difficult issues faced by all who are engaged in and support civil equal justice and justice for our state's poorest and most disadvantaged communities; and, for those who seek to improve the practice of law and the administration of justice. Together, conference participants come together with a commitment to equal justice for all in Washington State. In accordance with, and building on, this sixteen year history, the 2012 conference theme is: "Our New Economic Reality: The Legal Profession's Role." The conference is scheduled for June 8-10, 2012, and located at the Yakima Convention Center, in Yakima, Washington. For more information visit their Web site: http://www.wsba.org/justiceconference.

VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT FOR YAKIMA'S PRE-LAW STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE IN MAY

The 19th annual Pre-Law Student Leadership Conference will be held May 19, 2012, at Davis High School in Yakima. Volunteers are still needed to assist with planning, recruiting Yakima area high school students to attend and coaching students during conference activities. For more information about the conference and how to become a volunteer contact Brian Salts-Halcomb at <u>brianh@wsba.org</u> or Alma Zuniga <u>almaz@nwjustice.org</u>.

SPOKANE CLE EXPLORES "RACE: THE POWER OF AN ILLUSION"

Gonzaga University School of Law and the Spokane County Bar Association are co-sponsoring a illuminating and thought-provoking CLE titled, "Race: The Power of an Illusion." This program involves a facilitated viewing and discussion of the PBS documentary "Race – The Power of an Illusion," which seeks to shift the conversation from discussing diversity and respecting cultural difference to building a more

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just and equitable society. The presenters are: Darby DuComb, Chief of Staff, Seattle City Attorney's Office; Darlene Flynn, RSJI Policy and Development Lead, Seattle Office of Civil Rights; and Jacque Larrainzar, Policy and Outreach Manager, Seattle Office of Civil Rights. The cost to attend is \$120 for SCBA members, \$130 for non-SCBA members, \$85 for government, legal aid and SCBA YLD attorneys. Gonzaga University Law Students attend at no cost. The session is located at Gonzaga University School of Law, Barbieri Courtroom, Spokane, Washington and is scheduled for Friday, April 27, 2012 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., for more information visit: http://www.law.gonzaga.edu/Career-Services/cle_calendar.asp.

ANNUAL SPOKANE DIVERSITY BAR LUNCHEON FEATURES JUSTICE GONZÁLEZ



The Spokane County Bar Association Diversity Section held its Eighth Annual Diversity Bar Luncheon on Friday, February 10, 2012, at the Davenport Hotel, in Spokane, Washington. Justice Steven C. González was the guest speaker. Justice González was appointed to the Washington State Supreme Court effective January 1, 2012.

Washington Supreme Court Justice Steven González

LOREN MILLER BAR ASSOCIATION TO HOLD ITS PHILIP L. BURTON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP DINNER

The Loren Miller Bar Association will hold its Philip L. Burton Memorial Scholarship Dinner on Friday, May 25, 2012, at the Grand Hyatt, in Seattle. The reception starts at 5:30 p.m. and dinner is at 6:00 p.m. The keynote speaker will be Theodore Shaw, Professor of Law at Columbia University, and was lead counsel on *Gratz v. Bollinger*. The Philip L. Burton Memorial Scholarship is primarily given to deserving economically disadvantaged third-year law students of color, who possess a demonstrated commitment to helping others. The scholarship funds are provided expressly to offset the recipient's Washington State Bar Exam preparation course expenses.

LITERATURE OF INTEREST

Harden, Blaine. *Escape from Camp 14: One Man's Remarkable Odyssey from North Korea to Freedom in the West.* Penguin Group USA (2012). This is the story of a young man, Shin Dong-hyuk, who was born in one of North Korea's worst prison camps, referred to by some observers as North Korea's Gulag, from which he managed to escape after enduring 23 years of brutality and suffering, ultimately making his way to the United States. He is the only prisoner born and raised in a North Korean prison camp known to have escaped.

Lynch, Michael J.; Patterson E. Britt; and Childs, Kristina K. Racial Divide: Racial and Ethnic Biases in the Criminal Justice System. Criminal Justice Press, (2008). Is the American criminal justice system guilty of bias in its treatment of racial and ethnic minorities? In this anthology, noted criminologists provide a balanced assessment of the research evidence on whether the American criminal justice system dispenses unfair treatment to members of racial and ethnic minorities. The editors' introduction views criminal justice system practices within the context of racial and ethnic disparities in American society as a whole. Michael J. Leiber surveys the wide array of theories used in researching biases in the criminal justice process. Lorie A. Fridell evaluates evidence of racial prejudice in policing, with particular emphasis on unconscious patterns of bias. Perceptions of biasbased policing held by African-American citizens and police officers are described by Brian N. Williams and Billy R. Close. The vast scholarly literature on racial and ethnic bias in sentencing is analyzed by Amy Farrell and Donna M. Bishop. E. Britt Patterson presents original research findings on racial and ethnic differences in the sentencing of juveniles for drug offenses. Michael J. Lynch explores whether minority overrepresentation in the prison population can be attributed to justice system processing biases. Judith Kavanaugh-Earl and colleagues provide a wide-ranging overview of the effects of offender and victim race in application of the death penalty. Findings from a study of the racial profiling of white customers in retail stores are reported by Shaun L. Gabbidon and George E. Higgins. Tom Mieczkowski reviews how race and racial identification have been misused in the forensic Paul Stretesky explores racial disparity in sciences. residents' proximity to environmental hazards and in the enforcement of environmental regulations.

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