



# EQUAL JUSTICE

Through awareness, education and action

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*An official publication of the Washington State Minority and Justice Commission*

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## ***RACE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE FORMED***

The collaborative initiative of the state's three law schools at Seattle University, the University of Washington, and Gonzaga University and Washington State Access to Justice Board Chair and King County Superior Court Judge Steve Gonzalez has led to the formation of the Race and the Criminal Justice System Task Force. The Task Force is composed of representatives of the community at large, the legal profession, minority bar associations and other components of the justice system to examine the issue of race and the criminal-justice system.

The Task Force's first meeting, on November 4, 2010, was co-convened by Judge Gonzalez and Professor Robert Chang, Director of the Korematsu Center for Law and Equality at Seattle University Law School, at Seattle University Law School. In opening remarks at the meeting, Judge Gonzalez explained that creation of the task force was prompted by comments made at a public meeting, by two justices of the Washington Supreme Court, regarding poverty and the justice system and the incarceration of African-Americans. The attendees discussed short, medium, and long term goals of facilitating system-wide dialogue on race and the criminal justice system; coordinating research and developing

informational resources; educating the bench, bar, law students and the public; and identifying and recommending appropriate systemic changes and interventions.

At its second meeting, on December 2, 2010, the Task Force refined its organization into five working groups: Oversight, Community Engagement, Research, Recommendations and Implementation, and Education.

Participants on the Task Force include representatives from the Center for Children and Youth Justice, Korematsu Center for Law and Equality, Seattle University School of Law, Access to Justice Board, Latina/Latino Bar Association of Washington, University of Washington School of Law, Middle Eastern Legal Association of Washington, Access to Justice Institute, Office of Civil Legal Aid, Washington State Bar Association, Filipino Lawyers of Washington, Loren Miller Bar Association, Washington State Minority and Justice Commission, Administrative Office of the Courts, QLaw, The Defender Association, Asian Bar Association of Washington, Gonzaga University School of Law, Washington State Center for Court Research, Washington State Gender and Justice Commission, and other community and advocacy organizations.

Additional Task Force meetings have been scheduled for January 20, 2011, and February 17, 2011, at the Seattle University Law School. The Washington State Supreme Court has requested

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*Washington State Minority and Justice Commission*

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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.

### *Editorial Committee*

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Judge Dennis D. Yule, Retired  
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Monto S. Morton, MPA  
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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](mailto:monto.morton@courts.wa.gov), or Administrative Office of the Courts, Post Office Box 41170 Olympia, Washington 98504-1170.

Website:

[http://www.courts.wa.gov/programs\\_orgs/index.cfm](http://www.courts.wa.gov/programs_orgs/index.cfm)

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that the Task Force make a joint presentation, with the Access to Justice Board, regarding their analysis of the existing research with recommendations for appropriate changes at all levels of the criminal justice system. The presentation has been scheduled for a meeting with the Court on March 2, 2011.

Information and meeting minutes for the Race and the Criminal Justice System Task Force are available at the Korematsu Center's website at:

[http://www.law.seattleu.edu/Centers\\_and\\_Institutes/Korematsu\\_Center/Race\\_and\\_Criminal\\_Justice.xml](http://www.law.seattleu.edu/Centers_and_Institutes/Korematsu_Center/Race_and_Criminal_Justice.xml).

## ***HUMAN RIGHTS DAY AT THE UNITED NATIONS***

The United Nations celebrated Human Rights Day on December 10, 2010, in commemoration of its adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in 1948. The Declaration, adopted as a standard by which the human rights activities of all nations may be measured, includes among the fundamental human rights enumerated the right to be free from cruel and inhuman punishment; the right to be secure in one's person, house, papers, and effects; the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; the right to a speedy jury trial; and the right to legal counsel. The theme of Human Rights Day 2010, which will be continued throughout 2011, is "human rights defenders who act to end discrimination." For more information about Human Rights Day 2010 and The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, go to: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/HRDay2010.aspx>.

## ***2011 NATIONAL CONSORTIUM ANNUAL MEETING***

New Orleans, Louisiana has been selected as the site for the 23rd Annual Meeting of the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts, which will be scheduled for late April 27-30, 2011. The conference will be hosted by the Louisiana Supreme Court. The Consortium was founded in 1989 by state task forces and commissions on racial and ethnic bias in the courts from the states of Washington, New York, New Jersey and Michigan. Thirty-seven and the District of Columbia states are now represented in the

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Consortium. Detailed information about the Consortium and its annual meeting is available on its website at: <http://www.consortiumonline.net>.

## ***BUILDING BRIDGES WEEK AT GONZAGA LAW SCHOOL***

Building Bridges Week, an annual event in Gonzaga University Law School's diversity programs, was held on October 7 through October 15, 2010. The week began with a reception for Gonzaga law students of color on Thursday, October 7, hosted by the Spokane law firm, Lukins & Annis. The reception provided an opportunity for new law students to interact with returning students and meet representatives from several Washington State minority bar associations and WSBA Diversity Program Manager Chach Duarte White.

Saturday, October 9th, Washington Women Lawyers presented a CLE entitled "Justice for All: The Promise and Potential of RPC 8.4(g) and (h)" that included a panel discussion about a broader ethical framework for confronting discrimination in courts, government, and the private workplace, and how to create an environment that welcomes diversity.

Monday, October 11th, featured "The Color of Justice" an educational program about the law and legal profession for high school students, developed by the National Association of Women Judges, in partnership with the Law School Admission Council (LSAC), the Washington State Minority and Justice Commission, the Washington State Gender and Justice Commission, the U.S. Department of Education's GEAR UP college preparatory program, and the law firm of Perkins Coie. Seventy-five Spokane area high school students, many of whom would be the first in their families to attend college, participated in the day-long program. The students were given an introduction to the law and the legal profession, and then given the opportunity to participate in three simultaneous mock trials, assisted by attorney and law student volunteers.

Tuesday, October 12th, the Washington

State Bar Association Committee for Diversity conducted its annual speed-networking and mock-interview day, an event which presented law students of color with the opportunity to meet and network with diverse attorneys from throughout the state.

Wednesday, October 13th, the Gonzaga Law GSA-Outlaws (Gay-Straight Alliance) and the law school's student ACLU organization hosted a panel of attorneys specializing in the representation of transgendered individuals and a community organizer who discussed the legal hurdles confronted by the transgendered community.

Thursday, October 14th, a diverse panel of judges and lawyers discussed the meaning and significance of diversity in the law and the practice of law.

Building Bridges Week concluded on Friday, October 15th with a CLE program entitled "The Dollars & Sense of Diversity" presented by attorneys Lourdes Fuentes and Felicia Gittleman of the Initiative for Diversity Governing Council, followed by a reception. The reception honored the annual recipients of the *Carl J. Maxey Diversity Scholarship*, which is awarded each year by the Spokane County Bar Association Diversity Section, to Gonzaga Law students committed to promoting diversity within the Spokane community. More scholarship information and application forms are available at <http://www.law.gonzaga.edu/>.

## ***MIDDLE EASTERN LEGAL ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON CELEBRATES TWO YEARS OF ACTIVITY***

The Middle Eastern Legal Association of Washington (MELAW) celebrated two years of existence at an inaugural banquet October 1, 2010. The keynote speaker was Dr. Haleh Esfandiari, Director of the Middle East Program at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, DC, and author of numerous articles and books, including *My Prison, My Home: One Woman's Story of Captivity in Iran*, based on her arrest by Iranian security authorities in 2007,

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*A traditional Afghani dancer entertained at the MELAW First Annual Banquet .*

followed by 105 days in solitary confinement.

Congressman Jim McDermott was present to honor Rita Zawaideh, owner of Caravan-Serai Tours and the recipient of the MELAW President's Award. Also honored; was Payvand Seyedali, who received the MELAW Young Activist Award. The evening's celebration also marked the official launch of the MELAW Legal Clinic. The focus of the Legal Clinic will be on the rights of low-income, Middle Eastern constituents in the state of Washington, specifically in King County. The Clinic will be staffed by volunteer attorneys and support staff who are knowledgeable in the law and how it influences the lives of Middle Easterners in civil rights, employment law, criminal law, family law, and discrimination. The Clinic may be accessed by calling (206) 464-0424.

The Middle Eastern Legal Association of Washington (MELAW) is a non-profit legal organization for attorneys and law students of Middle-Eastern descent, as well as their friends and supporters. The MELAW seeks to advance the

goals of its members, provide a legal voice for the Middle-Eastern community in Washington, address and educate the public on legal and political issues facing Middle Easterners, and offer resources as well as networking and mentorship opportunities for its members and the public.

The MELAW's website is located at <http://melegal.org/>, and its Facebook page is at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Middle-Eastern-Legal-Association-of-Washington/53784886886>.

## ***2010 WSBA EXCELLENCE IN DIVERSITY AWARD***

Seattle attorney Aneelah Afzali, a founding member and immediate past president of the Middle Eastern Legal Association of Washington (MELAW), has received the Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) 2010 Excellence in Diversity Award in recognition of her work in co-founding the MELAW.

Afzali was born in Kabul, Afghanistan and moved to the United States at age 5. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Oregon and her law degree from Harvard Law School. She has worked in private practice since 2003, and she is currently with the firm of Stokes Lawrence, where she serves on the firm's Diversity Committee.

In addition to her work with MELAW, Afzali serves as a board member for the Legal Aid for Washington Fund (LAW Fund); as a member of the WSBA Committee for Diversity (the principal programming entity for diversity for the Bar); and as a liaison to the WSBA Board of Governors Diversity Committee (which focuses on diversity policy established by the WSBA Board of Governors). She has written articles for the *Washington State Bar News* (the official publication of the WSBA) and *De Novo* (the official publication of the WSBA Young Lawyers Division).

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## ***TRI-CITIES YOUTH AND JUSTICE FORUM***

The 8th Annual Tri-Cities Youth and Justice Forum was held at Pasco High School on Friday, November 5, 2010. This year the forum brought together, for a day, more than 180 8th through 12th-grade students, from the Tri-Cities and surrounding school districts, and approximately 60 volunteer professionals from the justice system, including judges, law enforcement officers, K-9 teams, attorneys, corrections officers, court interpreters, juvenile probation counselors, court clerks, educators, court reporters, and others. The forum's objective is to acquaint students, including those from minority groups and communities historically under-represented in the justice system workforce, with educational and career opportunities in the justice system and with their rights and responsibilities as members of the community. This year's forum received major funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, as well as support from the Minority and Justice Commission, Education Service District 123; Gonzaga University School of Law; Washington Latina/o Bar Association; Pasco High School; Seattle University School of Law; University of Washington School of Law; and the Washington State Bar Association.

## ***STATE SUPREME COURT ADOPTS REVISED CODE OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT***

The first major revision since 1995 of the Washington State Code of Judicial Conduct governing the conduct of state judges was adopted by the Washington State Supreme Court on September 9, 2010. It will take effect on January 1, 2011.

The Code of Judicial Conduct (CJC) addresses the conduct of judges on and off the bench, regulating judicial campaigns, competence, and ethical responsibilities. The revised CJC is reorganized into four canons, each of which contain expanded rules of conduct and



*Tri-Cities teens and police meet at Youth and Justice Forum.*

commentary.

“The new revisions to the Code will serve as an important guide for judges to assure their conduct promotes public confidence in the judiciary,” said Washington State Supreme Court Chief Justice Barbara Madsen of the changes. “I would like to thank the 17-member Task Force that was convened to work on this issue, along with co-chairs Judges Alan Hancock and Joel Penoyar. They struggled with many difficult issues, including the rule on recusal.”

The revision process began with the Supreme Court's creation, in 2008, of the Task Force on Code of Judicial Conduct, composed of justices, judges, attorneys, and citizens, that reviewed a model code developed by the American Bar Association and concluded more than a year of work with formal recommendations submitted to the Supreme Court. The revised Code, for the first time, contains provisions, in Canon 2, relating to the recusal of judges based on monetary contributions to campaigns.

The revised Code of Conduct can be found online at: [http://www.courts.wa.gov/court\\_rules/?fa=court\\_rules.adopted](http://www.courts.wa.gov/court_rules/?fa=court_rules.adopted).

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Karen W. Murray

## **MINORITY BAR ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP UPDATES**

Latina/o Bar Association (LBAW) -  
Fé Lopez, President

Loren Miller Bar Association (LMBA) -  
Nicole Gaines, President.

Middle Eastern Legal Association of Washington  
(MELAW) - Sahar Fathi, President.

Northwest Indian Bar Association (NIBA) -  
Bree Kameenui-Ramirez, President.

Washington Women Lawyers (WWL) -  
Jessica Skelton, President.

For more information on Washington State  
Minority Bar Associations, visit: [http://  
www.wsba.org/minority+bar+associations.htm](http://www.wsba.org/minority+bar+associations.htm).

## **SPOTLIGHT ON COMMISSION MEMBERS**

*Judge Donald J. Horowitz (ret.)*

Former King County Superior Court Judge Donald J. Horowitz received the Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) 2010 Award of Merit. The award is the WSBA's highest honor, presented in recognition of long-term service to the WSBA and the public.

*Judge Richard F. McDermott, Jr.*

The 2009 Superior Court Judges' Association Executive Committee — composed of Judges Vickie Churchill, Richard F. McDermott, Jr., and Tari S. Eitzen — received the Washington State Bar Association 2010 Outstanding Judge Award, presented for outstanding service to the bench and special contribution to the legal profession.

Seattle attorney Karen W. Murray received the King County Bar Association's 2010 President's Award in recognition of her long-time service and work with the Associated Counsel for the Accused.

*Justice Charles Z. Smith (ret.)*

Justice Charles Z. Smith (retired) was honored by the Hispanic National Bar Association with its Lifetime Achievement Award presented during its 2010 Convention in Minneapolis.

## **LITERATURE OF INTEREST**

Galanda, Gabriel S. "Galanda: Completing the Circle: Advancing Native Inmate Religious Rights," *Indian Country Today*, September 7, 2010.

[http://www.indiancountrytoday.com/archive/  
Completing-the-circle-Advancing-Native-inmate-  
religious-rights-102102379.html](http://www.indiancountrytoday.com/archive/Completing-the-circle-Advancing-Native-inmate-religious-rights-102102379.html)

Critchlow, George; Mark Niles; and Kellye Y. Testy. "Ensuring the Promise of 'Equal Justice Under Law,'" *Seattle Times*, December 6, 2010.

[http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/  
opinion/2013611965\\_guest07critchlow.html](http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/opinion/2013611965_guest07critchlow.html)

Sullivan, Jennifer. "Multi-language posters aimed at combating teen prostitution," *Seattle Times*, November 16, 2010.

[http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/  
localnews/2013450263\\_teenprostitution17m.html](http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2013450263_teenprostitution17m.html)

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## **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

Amazon.com:

[http://www.amazon.com/Careers-University-Recruiting/b/ref=gw\\_m\\_b\\_careers/178-5844140-8219355?\\_encoding=UTF8&node=203348011](http://www.amazon.com/Careers-University-Recruiting/b/ref=gw_m_b_careers/178-5844140-8219355?_encoding=UTF8&node=203348011)

Legal Assistant, Traffic/Advertising  
Legal Assistant, Business Development  
Legal Assistant, Patents  
Legal Assistant, Retail/Operations  
Legal Assistant, Movies and Music  
Director, Patents  
Associate General Counsel, Kindle  
Corporate Counsel  
Sr. Corporate Counsel  
Legal Operations Assistant

United States Department of Justice:

<http://www.justice.gov/crt/employment/>  
Chief (Policy and Strategy Section)  
Trial Attorney (Criminal Section)  
Special Legal Counsel (Disability Rights Section)

Microsoft:

<https://careers.microsoft.com/>  
Senior Attorney — Regulatory Affairs  
Attorney  
Paralegal

Stoel Rives LLP:

[http://www.stoel.com/attorneys\\_openings.htm](http://www.stoel.com/attorneys_openings.htm)  
Estate Planning Senior Associate or Junior Partner  
Estate Planning Mid-level Associate  
Litigation Associate

T-Mobile:

<http://www.tmobile.jobs/>  
Senior Corporate Counsel  
Corporate Counsel

Washington State Courts:

<http://www.courts.wa.gov/employ/?fa=employ.current>  
Early Resolution Case Manager  
District Court Administrator  
Administrative Assistant (Legal)

Washington State Bar Association:

<http://www.wsba.org/jobs/wsba.htm>  
Associate Director, CLE Seminars  
Conference Room Coordinator / IT Help Desk  
Specialist  
Public Service Training Specialist  
Section Leaders Liaison

The Suquamish Tribe:

<http://www.suquamish.org/Employment.aspx>  
Real Estate Transactional Attorney

# EQUAL JUSTICE

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*Celebrating the Courts in an Inclusive Society*

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