

## WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

September 1, 2010

### Judge Tari S. Eitzen Receives 2010 Outstanding Judge of the Year Award

(SEATTLE) — The Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) announces that Judge **Tari S. Eitzen**, of the Superior Court Judges' Association Executive Committee, will be presented with the 2010 Outstanding Judge of the Year Award, along with Judge **Vickie I. Churchill** and Judge **Richard F. McDermott**. This award is presented for outstanding service to the bench and for special contribution to the legal profession at any level of the court. WSBA President **Salvador A. Mungia** will present the award at the WSBA Annual Awards Dinner, to be held on September 23, 2010, at the Hyatt at Olive 8 in Seattle.

As an Executive Committee team, Judges Churchill, Eitzen, and McDermott led the Superior Court Judges' Association (SCJA) through the 2009 legislative session, helping them retain \$75 million/biennium of the \$78 million/biennium in new state funding from the Justice in Jeopardy Initiative, despite the severe budget cuts statewide. Judge McDermott was active in meeting with legislators and testifying before legislative committees, and Judges Churchill and Eitzen reviewed bills and led the SCJA's decision-making. In addition to their three-year commitment to the Executive Committee, the judges were also members of the Board for Judicial Administration, the policy-making body of the judicial branch.

Judge Eitzen received her undergraduate and master's degrees from the University of Illinois, and her law degree from Gonzaga University School of Law. Since 1994, Judge Eitzen has served as a Spokane County Superior Court judge.

Over her 16-year judicial career, she has served as the presiding judge and criminal presiding judge, and she also served for six years as the Drug Court judge. She has chaired several committees, including the Bench/Bar/Community Committee on Parent Education and the Court Commissioner Evaluation Committee, and has served on many more, including the Budget, Criminal, Civil, Family, Juvenile, Personnel, Facilities, Civil Case Tracking, and Guardian Ad Litem committees. She led the court in the creation of a video, available on the court's website at [www.spokanecounty.org/video/dom](http://www.spokanecounty.org/video/dom), to explain court processes in family law cases to pro se parties.

Judge Eitzen served as the SCJA president from 2009–10, and as president-elect from 2008–09. She is a member of the Legislative Committee and has served as chair of the SCJA Judicial Ethics Committee. An adjunct faculty member at Gonzaga University since 2003, she teaches undergraduates on the American criminal justice system; she also developed and taught a course in comparative criminal procedure between Europe and the United States. She is also a frequent speaker at continuing legal education seminars.

Throughout her career, Judge Eitzen has been dedicated to serving her community. She has been a member of Kids' Court since 1994, a member of the Ren Rice Trust Scholarship Award Committee since 1994, and served for years as a member of the Board of Advisors of Gonzaga University School of Law.

Judge Eitzen was previously honored with the 2001 Myra Bradwell Award, which is presented to a distinguished Gonzaga Law School alumna, and the 2000 Girl Scout Woman of Distinction Award.

### Judge Richard F. McDermott Receives 2010 Outstanding Judge of the Year Award

(SEATTLE) — The Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) announces that Judge **Richard F. McDermott**, of the Superior Court Judges' Association Executive Committee, will be presented with the 2010 Outstanding Judge of the Year Award, along with Judge **Vickie I. Churchill** and Judge **Tari S. Eitzen**. This award is presented for outstanding service to the bench and for special contribution to the legal profession at any level of the court. WSBA President **Salvador A. Mungia** will present the award at the WSBA Annual Awards Dinner, to be held on September 23, 2010, at the Hyatt at Olive 8 in Seattle.

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\$78 million/biennium in new state funding from the Justice in Jeopardy Initiative, despite the severe budget cuts statewide. Judge McDermott was active in meeting with legislators and testifying before legislative committees, and Judges Churchill and Eitzen reviewed bills and led the SCJA's decision-making. In addition to their three-year commitment to the Executive Committee, the judges were also members of the Board for Judicial Administration, the policy-making body of the judicial branch.

Judge McDermott received his undergraduate degree from Seattle University and his law degree from the University of Washington School of Law. He was a deputy prosecuting attorney with the King County Prosecutor's Office, and worked in private practice until 2000, when he became a member of King County Superior Court. While in practice, he served on the WSBA Judicial Selection Committee for six years. He has served in the Civil, Unified Family Court, and Criminal departments, and has served as the Drug Court judge at the Maleng Regional Justice Center. He was also a special district counsel for the WSBA for several years.

Judge McDermott has served on the Board for Court Education, which coordinates and supervises training to all court employees, from 2003 to the present, and as its chair from 2006–2008. He was the president of the SJCA from 2008–2009; has been a member of the SCJA's executive and legislative committees since 2007; and has been a member of the SCJA Education Committee since 2001, chairing the committee from 2006–08. Judge McDermott has been a member of the SCJA Spring Judicial Conference Planning Committee since 2002 and chaired that committee in 2002 and 2005; he also served on the Fall Judicial Conference Planning Committee from 2001–2005. He served as vice president of judicial relations for the Washington State Trial Lawyers Association (now the Washington State Association for Justice), and is a member of the Washington State Minorities and Justice Commission.

Judge McDermott taught judicial ethics for several years at the Washington Judicial College; has team-taught an ethics course for new court employees through the Administrative Office of the Courts since 2006; and has served as an instructor at the National Judicial College. Since 1999, he has been an adjunct professor of law at Seattle University School of Law, teaching professional responsibility; he also serves as a law student mentor through externship programs at Seattle University and the University of Washington Schools of Law. He also currently serves with the We the People civics education program as a judge at the state level.

"I am truly humbled by this award," said Judge McDermott. "Our efforts on behalf of the justice system in this state are really the efforts of many judges and support staff throughout the state. I accept this award on their behalf as well."

## Judge Vickie I. Churchill Receives 2010 Outstanding Judge of the Year Award

(SEATTLE) — The Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) announces that Judge **Vickie I. Churchill**, of the Superior Court Judges' Association Executive Committee, will be presented with the 2010 Outstanding Judge of the Year Award, along with Judge **Tari S. Eitzen** and Judge **Richard F. McDermott**. This award is presented for outstanding service to the bench and for special contribution to the legal profession at any level of the court. WSBA President **Salvador A. Mungia** will present the award at the WSBA Annual Awards Dinner, to be held on September 23, 2010, at the Hyatt at Olive 8 in Seattle.

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Judge Churchill received her undergraduate degree from the University of Missouri – Columbia and her law degree from Seattle University School of Law. First elected in 1996, Judge Churchill has served as a superior court judge in Island and San Juan counties. Since 2008, when San Juan formed its own judicial district, she has served solely in Island County Superior Court.

Judge Churchill has been instrumental in the implementation of local drug courts for juveniles, adults, and families; in the court facilitator program for indigent civil litigants; and with mandatory parenting classes and mediation in family law cases. She served as president of the SCJA in 2007–08; as SCJA treasurer from 2004–05; and has served on SCJA committees for technology, education, rural courts, and legislation. She was co-chair, with then-Chief Justice **Gerry Alexander**, of the Board for Judicial Administration from 2007–09. She has been a member of the Washington State Gender & Justice Commission since 2009.

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### **About the Justice in Jeopardy Initiative**

The Justice in Jeopardy Initiative is the most direct and cohesive effort ever undertaken to substantially alter and improve court funding in Washington state. An outgrowth of the Board for Judicial Administration's Court Funding Task Force, the Initiative focuses on increasing state and local funding for trial court operations, civil legal aid, indigent criminal defense, and parents' representation in dependency cases.

Between 2005 and 2008, the Washington Legislature provided \$78 million per biennium in new funding for the trial courts, the counties, indigent criminal defense, parent dependency representation, and civil legal aid; in 2009, it provided \$75 million per biennium. Former Chief Justice **Gerry Alexander** has called the Justice in Jeopardy Initiative "the most significant reform effort of the judicial branch of government since statehood."

### **About the Washington State Bar Association**

The WSBA is part of the judicial branch, exercising a governmental function authorized by the Washington State Supreme Court to license the state's 33,900 lawyers. The WSBA both regulates lawyers under the authority of the Court and serves its members as a professional association – all without public funding. As a regulatory agency, the WSBA administers the bar admission process, including the bar exam; provides record-keeping and licensing functions; and administers the lawyer-discipline system. As a professional association, the WSBA provides continuing legal education for attorneys, in addition to numerous other educational and member-service activities.

The governance of the WSBA is vested in its Board of Governors. There are three governors from the seventh congressional district; one from each of the other eight districts; and three at-large, one of whom represents the Young Lawyers Division. The president is **Salvador A. Mungia**, of Tacoma. The 2009-2010 president-elect is **Steven G. Toole**, of Bellevue; the 2010-2011 president-elect is **Stephen R. Crossland**, of Cashmere; and the immediate past-president is **Mark A. Johnson**, of Seattle. The Board meets regularly (every six weeks) at various locations around the state, and its meetings are open to the public. Much of the work of the Bar is carried out through its numerous standing committees, 27 sections, and a Young Lawyers Division with its many committees.