



Washington State Supreme Court
Minority & Justice Commission

2014 ANNUAL REPORT



ABOUT THE ARTWORK

Each year, the Minority and Justice Commission selects a piece of artwork that helps to further its mission, by promoting diversity in the courts and in the community as a whole. Within the 2014 Annual Report you will see some of the artwork that has been selected throughout the years.

You may have seen some of the Commission's posters in courtrooms throughout the state. The posters are available to any person or entity. Please contact us if you are interested in obtaining a copy of a particular poster.

If you are interested in submitting a piece of artwork for consideration as the Commission's next poster, please contact Cynthia Delostrinos at Cynthia.Delostrinos@courts.wa.gov.

More information about the artists and their work can be found on the Minority and Justice Commission's website.

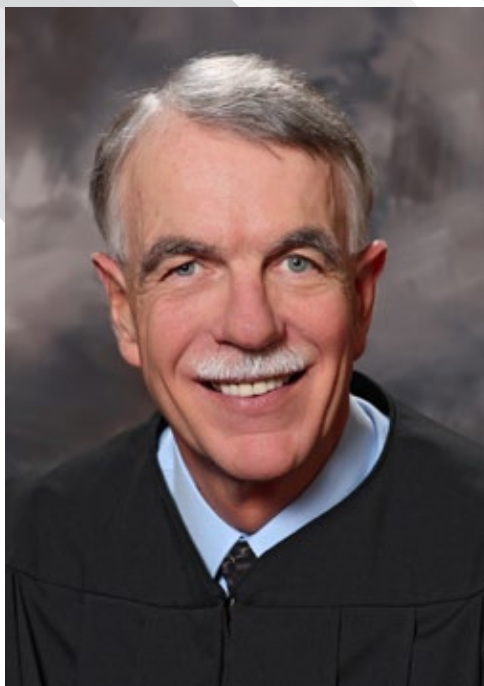
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter from the Co-Chairs	3
History & Mission of the Commission	5
Symposium	7
Legal Financial Obligations	11
Perceptions of Justice	13
Courts Igniting Change	15
Youth and Justice Forums	17
Judicial Education	19
Resources	21
Members	24

Washington State Minority and Justice Commission



**Justice Mary Yu
(Co-chair).**



**Justice Charles Johnson
(Co-chair),**



**Edward Kiloh
Equal Justice For All People**

LETTER FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

On behalf of the Washington State Minority and Justice Commission, we are pleased to present the 2014 Annual Report. The past two years have been marked with major changes to the Commission's structure and staffing. We have embraced these changes and have emerged with a renewed sense of energy to further our mission.

In 2012, our Commission's structure took on a new shape as we formally appointed all technical support members to the Commission. This allowed us to grow in number, strength, and influence, as we were able to collaborate with other entities and bring a wider variety of voices to our table.

In the summer of 2013, the Commission lost its Executive Director, Myra Downing, who retired after a long career of service with the Administrative Office of the Courts. The Commission hired Cynthia Delostrinos, a 2013 graduate from Seattle University School of Law, to serve as main staff person to the Commission. Also joining us was Danielle Pugh-Markie, who was hired to oversee all of the Supreme Court Commissions, who came to us from the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.

With a revamped Commission membership and new team of passionate staff, we were able to hit the ground running in 2014. In May, we hosted a Symposium to the Washington State Supreme Court, looking at the advancements in adolescent brain development and our juvenile justice system. In June, we released a report that looked at the perceptions that Washington residents had of our justice system, and explored the role

that race played in those perceptions.

Our Juvenile Justice Subcommittee, co-chaired by Annie Lee and Judge LeRoy McCullough, sought to address what many have been calling the school-to-prison pipeline. The conference entitled "Courts Igniting Change," brought together juvenile court judges, court staff, school administrators, teachers, youth, and the community to collaborate on solutions to keep kids in school and out of court.

The Commission continues to develop and present educational programs for judicial officers and court personnel, support research on areas affecting persons of color in our justice system, and sponsor initiatives that aim to increase diversity in the court workforce and legal profession.

The time for change has come. There is a renewed sense of energy all around us to tackle issues related to racism and bias in the justice system. We will continue to think strategically about these issues and will carefully use our resources to support efforts that we believe will make a difference in changing systems and policies that result in a more inclusive and fair society.

Finally, we thank our members, partners, and friends who have worked with us throughout this past year. We would not have been able to accomplish all that we have without your support.

We welcome your support of the Commission's efforts. Please contact Cynthia Delostrinos if you have any questions or would like to learn more about getting involved.



Chholing Taha
"I Am the Trail of My Ancestors"

HISTORY AND MISSION

The Washington State Minority & Justice Commission was created by the Washington State Supreme Court in 1990, for the purpose of examining all levels of Washington's judicial system to ensure that the judicial needs of people of color are considered and to make recommendations for judicial improvement and equal treatment in state courts.

By order of the Supreme Court on September 10, 2010, the Commission was renewed for an additional period of five years. In creating the Commission and subsequent

Orders of Renewal, the Supreme Court acknowledges there is a continuing need to identify and to eradicate the effects of racial, ethnic, and cultural bias in our state court system.

Our mission is to determine whether racial and ethnic bias exists in the courts of the State of Washington and to the extent that bias exists, take creative steps to overcome it. To the extent that such bias does not exist, the Commission shall take creative steps to prevent it.



Michelle Kumata – We Create Balance



Barbara Earl Thomas
"In My Father's House There were Many Roomers"

JUVENILE JUSTICE SYMPOSIUM AT WASHINGTON SUPREME COURT

Looking to the Future: Adolescent Brain Development and the Juvenile Justice System



On May 20, 2014, the Washington State Minority and Justice Commission, in partnership with the Center for Children & Youth Justice and the MacArthur Foundation, hosted a symposium at the Washington Supreme Court entitled, "Looking to the Future: Adolescent Brain Development and the Juvenile Justice System." It was the third in a series of symposia growing out of the 2010 Task Force on Race and the Criminal Justice System that provided an update to the court on the racial and ethnic disparities that exist in Washington State's justice system. This year's symposium called for an examination of how juveniles are treated throughout our court system. The presentations examined the recent advancements in the science of adolescent brain development,

the U.S. Supreme Court decisions that addressed the science, current racial and ethnic disproportionality data in Washington State, and ended with the voice of youth who have gone through the juvenile justice system.

The first presentation was by Dr. B.J. Casey, Director of the Sackler Institute for Developmental Psychobiology at Cornell University, who discussed adolescent brain development and how it effects the behavior of youth. The Court also heard from Marsha Levick, co-founder, Deputy Director and Chief Counsel of the Juvenile Law Center in Pennsylvania. Ms. Levick had one big message: kids are different. "We have moved from treating kids the same as adults to a configuration that recognizes that kids are different. They are not just small adults," Levick told the Justices. "That simple phrase, 'kids are different,' drives their status under the law and under the U.S. Constitution." Ms. Levick outlined four U.S. Supreme Court cases in the past several years that have signaled a significant shift in how the highest court views the culpability and rights of young offenders, particularly in light of the recent developments in adolescent neuroscience.



Washington State Minority and Justice Commission

Following the presentations by Dr. Casey and Ms. Levick, Mr. Russ Hauge, former Kitsap County Prosecutor; King County Prosecutor Mr. Dan Satterberg; Clark County Juvenile Court Administrator Ms. Pat Escamilla; and Zion Prep Academy Director Mr. Doug Wheeler gave presentations on new laws, programs and practices around our state that recognize the notion that kids are different. The programs that were presented incorporate more diversion programs and restorative justice approaches to detention and incarceration of juveniles. Mr. Ryan Pinto and Mr. Rand Young of the Washington State Partnership Council and Mr. Michael Pullman of the University of Washing-

ton presented the current Washington State data addressing race and ethnic disparity in the juvenile justice system. Their findings showed a need for better, more consistent data on juvenile arrests and movements through the juvenile justice system, more funding for programs and plans, and more community collaboration on improving the juvenile justice system. The symposium concluded with candid and poignant accounts from several youth who spoke of their struggles with difficult personal and family circumstances that led to their involvement in the juvenile justice system.



Washington State Minority and Justice Commission



A video recording of the 2014 Symposium can be viewed at www.tvw.org by searching for “Washington Supreme Court” and “juvenile justice.” Materials used at the forum are available on the Minority and Justice Commission’s website.

The Commission will continue to bring key issues to the Supreme Court’s attention through the holding of annual symposia. A symposium on the topic of reentry after incarceration, for both adults and juveniles, is being planned for presentation in 2015.



Tori Cole
Justice is All Inclusive

LEGAL FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

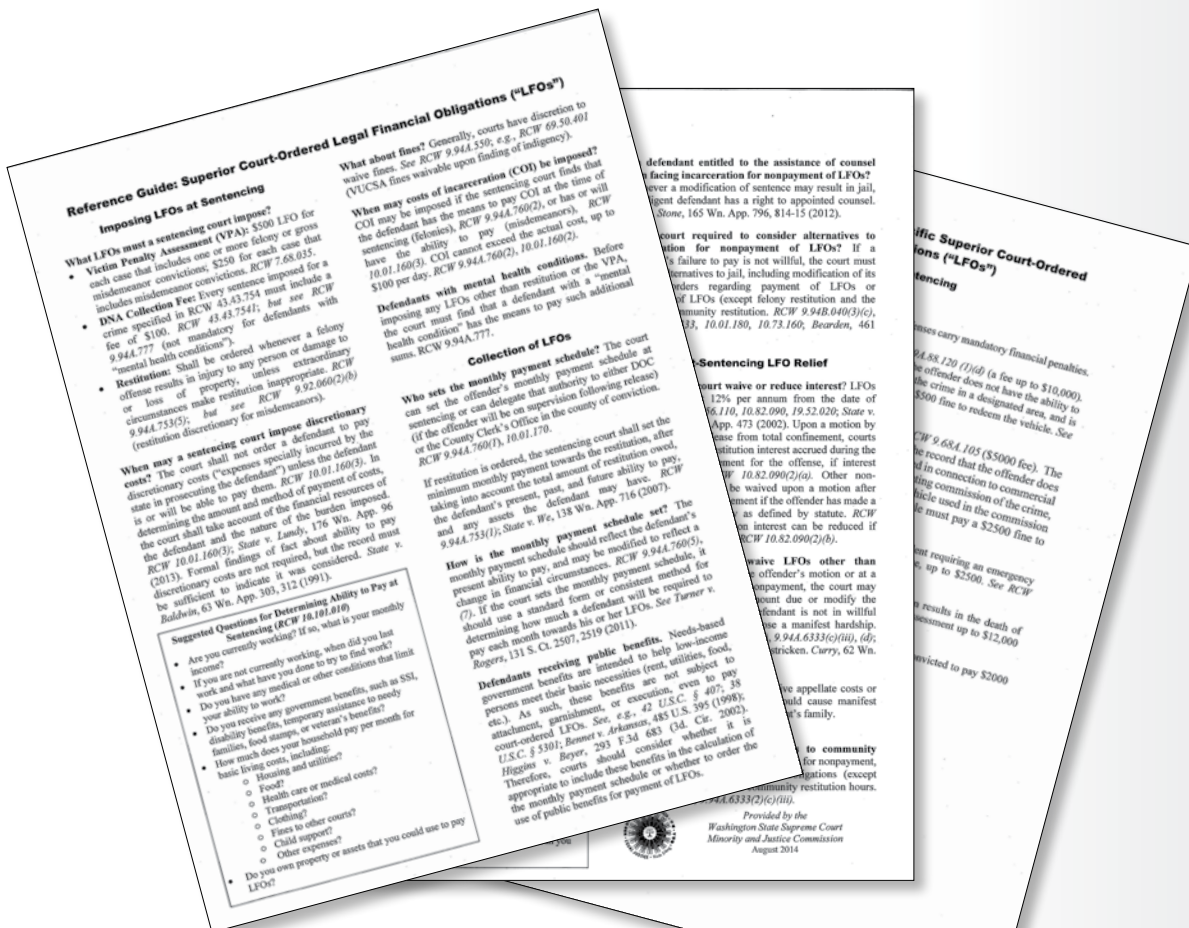
Study and Resource Guide

In 2008, the Minority and Justice Commission published a study exploring the assessment and consequences of Legal Financial Obligations (LFOs) in Washington State. LFOs include the fees, fines, and restitution orders assessed by judges at the time of a criminal conviction. The study found, among other things, that LFOs are a significant barrier to reentry for people convicted of a crime.

The Commission's work around LFOs continues. This year, the Commission created

an LFO Resource Guide, which was distributed at the 2014 Annual Judicial Conference, and is available for download on the Commission's website. The Resource Guide was created with support from the American Civil Liberties Union of Washington and Columbia Legal Services and serves as a tool for judges to easily locate the statutes and caselaw surrounding LFOs.

The Commission will sponsor an education session on LFOs at the District and Municipal Court Judges' Spring Conference in 2015.





Catherine Conoley
The Jury

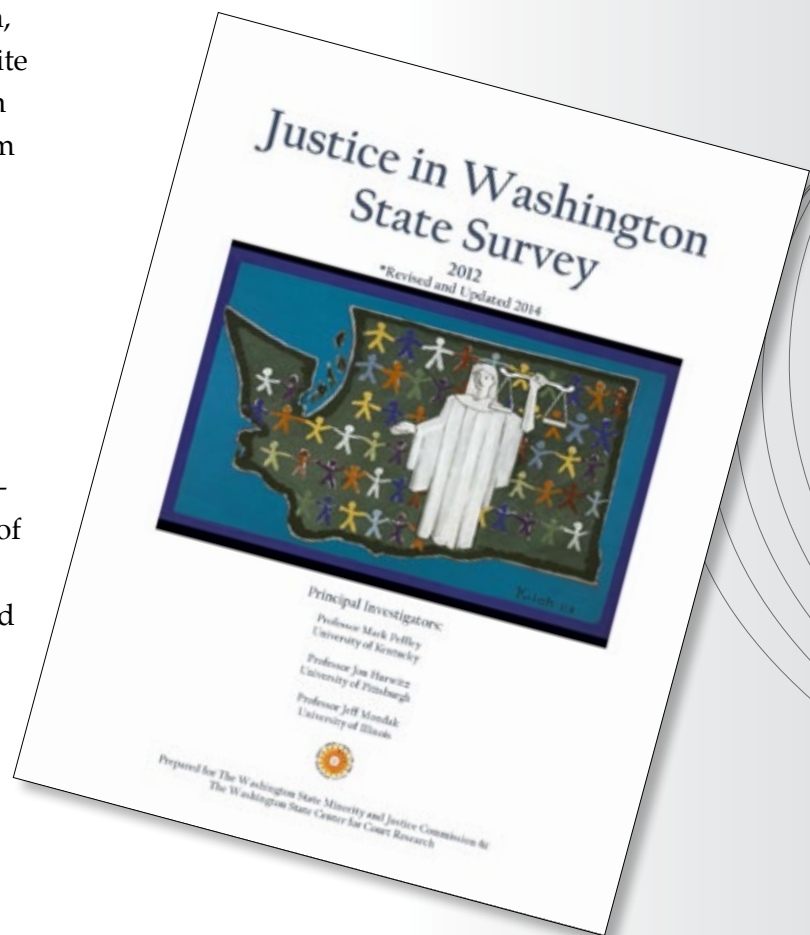
PERCEPTIONS OF JUSTICE IN WASHINGTON

Research and Report

In 2012, the Minority and Justice Commission contracted with three academics to research and report on perceptions of Washington residents about the fairness of the criminal justice system, taking into account whether race has any effect on those perceptions. The research report, "Justice in Washington," concludes that race does affect perceptions of the justice system in Washington. There were significant differences between white residents' perceptions and black residents' perceptions of the system's fairness. Black residents reported higher levels of perceived unfairness in the system, more negative experiences with the system, and greater distrust of the system than white residents. The Commission will work with Washington judges and other justice system officials to improve public perceptions of justice in the courts.

On June 9, 2014, the Commission hosted a public release event in Olympia, for the research report, "Justice in Washington State." University of Kentucky Professor Mark Peffley and University of Illinois Professor Jeff Mondak presented the findings of their report and addressed questions from an audience of more than 150, that included Washington State Supreme Court Justices,

police officers, lawyers, judges, press, and community members. Representatives from the Seattle Community Police Commission also reported on its work to increase community engagement and accountability for the Seattle Police Department and its officers. The event can be viewed online at www.tvw.org, using the search term "Perceptions of Justice." The entire research report, "Justice in Washington State," and key findings can be downloaded on the Minority and Justice Commission's website under resources/publications/research reports.





**Yadese “Yaddi” Bojia
The Messengers**

COURTS IGNITING CHANGE CONFERENCE



On October 10, 2015, the Minority and Justice Commission, in partnership with the Seattle Journal for Social Justice, TeamChild, and the Center for Children & Youth Justice, held a Conference entitled “Courts Igniting Change: Reconnecting Youth from the Courtroom to the Classroom.” The purpose of the Conference was to bring together courts, schools, and law enforcement to address the disparities that youth of color, youth in poverty, and youth with disabilities experience with school discipline practices, with a particular focus on the role that courts can play in redirecting and reconnecting court involved youth to educational and social supports in their communities.

There were over 200 attendees at the Conference. The keynote speaker was Judge Steven Teske from Clayton County, Georgia, who spoke about judges as catalysts for change in their communities by bringing together schools and law enforcement to address the issue of school based arrests and court referrals. Under Judge Teske’s leadership, Clayton County was able to end school

based court referrals, decrease crime rates, and increase graduation rates. The Clayton County model has received national recognition as one strategy that works to stop the school-to-prison pipeline, and many communities across the United States are implementing the model.

The Conference featured panels representing the perspectives of schools, law enforcement, and courts on the issues. A panel of youth from the YouthVoice and R.O.Y.A.L. programs shared their personal experience with the school-to-prison pipeline and received a standing ovation from the audience.

The Conference concluded with small group discussions led by youth organizers from Youth Undoing Institutionalized Racism, about action steps that could be undertaken to address the issues discussed at the Conference.

The Juvenile Justice Subcommittee of the Commission will continue to work on the conference issues, establishing partnerships with schools, courts, and law enforcement.



Alejandro Canales
Asi lo sono Sandino

YOUTH AND JUSTICE FORUMS

Every year, the Minority and Justice Commission partners with communities around Washington to put on Youth and Justice Forums inviting middle and high school youth from diverse backgrounds, to a day-long forum to learn about the many career opportunities in the justice system. The students participate in meetings and converse with attorneys, law enforcement officers, judges, and other justice system professionals. They also participate in skits and mock trials, arguing fictitious fact scenarios and hearing lively, personal descriptions from justice system professionals of the work they do and

the journeys they took to their careers. At the end of the day, the students leave with a greater understanding of their rights and responsibilities as members of their communities, and with their horizons expanded by a new knowledge of the many different career opportunities in the justice system and how to seize those opportunities.

These forums would not be possible without the partners, sponsors, and volunteer professionals who dedicate their time and resources year after year to make each of these events a success.

1st Annual Spokane Youth and Justice Forum – March 14, 2014 at Gonzaga University School of Law

Sponsors: Minority and Justice Commission, City of Spokane, Spokane Police Department, Spokane County Sheriff, Spokane Schools District 81, Gonzaga University School of Law, Spokane County Bar Association's Diversity Section, Commission on Hispanic Affairs, Healing Lodge of the 7 Nations; Kalispel Tribe, Discover Law, Youth, Family and Adult Connections, Charles A. Cleveland, P.S., Wild Rose Graphics.

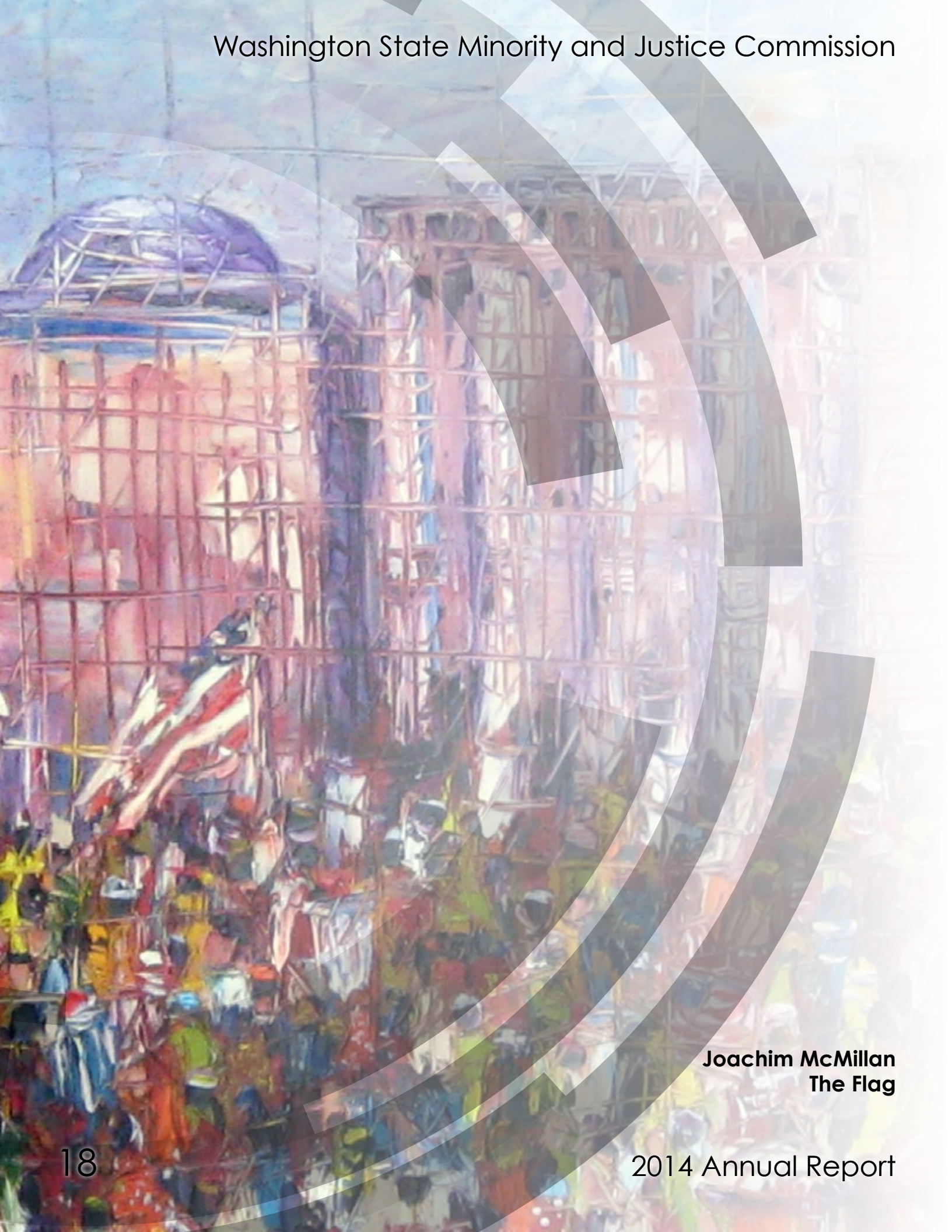
24th Annual Seattle Youth and Law Forum – April 26, 2014 at MLK FAME Center

Sponsors: Minority and Justice Commission, First AME Church, MLK FAME Center, Seattle Police Department, Loren Miller Bar Association.

12th Annual Tri-Cities Youth and Justice Forum – November 7, 2014 at Columbia Basin College

Sponsors: Minority and Justice Commission, Educational Service District 123, Columbia Basin College, University of Washington School of Law, Seattle University School of Law, Gonzaga University School of Law, Latino/a Bar Association of Washington, Microsoft, Dimke Angus, United Cargo, Inc., Bruchi's Cheesesteaks and Subs, Best Buy Kennewick.





Joachim McMillan
The Flag

JUDICIAL EDUCATION

The Minority and Justice Commission seeks to improve the administration of justice by eliminating racism and its effects by offering and supporting of a variety of innovative, high quality, education programs designed to improve the cultural and professional competency of judges and other court employees and representatives of the Washington State justice system.

The following is a list of education programs that the Commission sponsored in 2013-2014:

“Toward a More Culturally Competent Courtroom”

Judicial College – January 29, 2014, SeaTac, Washington.

New judges and commissioners who attended the session learned more about cultural competence within the administration of justice, explored the perceptions and unconscious bias that inhibit cultural competency, used tools and practiced the role of judicial

officers as leaders and coaches for cultural competence in the courtroom, and sustained what was learned by transferring knowledge and skills back to the courtroom. Faculty included Ms. Benita Horn, Ms. Peggy Nagae, Judge Gregory Sypolt, and Judge LeRoy McCullough.

“Neuroscience of Judicial Decision Making: Defining the Challenges and Implementing Solutions”

District and Municipal Court Judges Spring Program – June 10, 2014, Blaine, Washington.

The judges explored emerging research in neuroscience around the implicit biases and associations we make and how they relate to the decisions that judges make in court every day. The course encouraged judges to be more aware of the unconscious biases that can affect decisions and presented new ways to increase fairness in judicial decision making. Faculty for this program was Ms. Kimberly Papillon.

“Bridges for Cultural Competence”

Institute for New Court Employees – October 6, 2014, Yakima, Washington.

This session helped new court employees understand diversity and cultural competency and their importance to the administration of justice and their impacts on perceptions, behaviors, and effectiveness at work. Court employees learned and practiced key cultural competency and diversity communication skills and developed specific strategies to foster a more inclusive environment. Faculty included Ms. Peggy Nagae, Ms. Benita Horn and Ms. Theresa Ewing.

“Race, The Power of an Illusion”

Judicial Conference – September 23, 2014, Spokane, Washington.

This session guided participants through a discussion on the court’s role in determining race and ethnicity, using the video “Race:

The Power of an Illusion ‘the House We Live In.’” The judges also looked at how social institutions “make” race by disproportionately channeling resources, power, status, and wealth. Faculty for this session was Mr. Khatib Waheed.

“LFOs: Due Process and Ethical Considerations”

Judicial Conference – September 23, 2014, Spokane

This session addressed the ethical concerns that courts face when imposing Legal Financial Obligations (LFOs). The session also addressed strategies for judicial decision-making and due process in the collection and imposition of LFOs. An LFO Resource Guide was distributed to the attendants. Faculty for this session included Judge Veronica Alicea-Galvan and Judge Theresa Doyle.

RESOURCES

Immigration Resource Guide

The Immigration Resource Guide and Benchcard provide judges with an overview of the different areas of overlap between immigration law and state civil and criminal law matters. It was created in partnership with the Washington State Supreme Court Gender and Justice Commission and distributed to judges statewide. The Resource Guide and one-page Benchcard can be downloaded online through the Washington Courts website.

Legal Financial Obligations (LFOs) Resource Guides

The LFOs Resource Guides contain the laws around LFOs in our state. The guides are meant as a tool for judges to have easy access to the laws and main provisions of those laws. The guides were put together with the help of Ms. Vanessa Hernandez of the Washington American Civil Liberties Union and Mr. Nick Allen of Columbia Legal Services.

Myths and Misperceptions Video

In this short video, Washington State court officials address commonly misunderstood

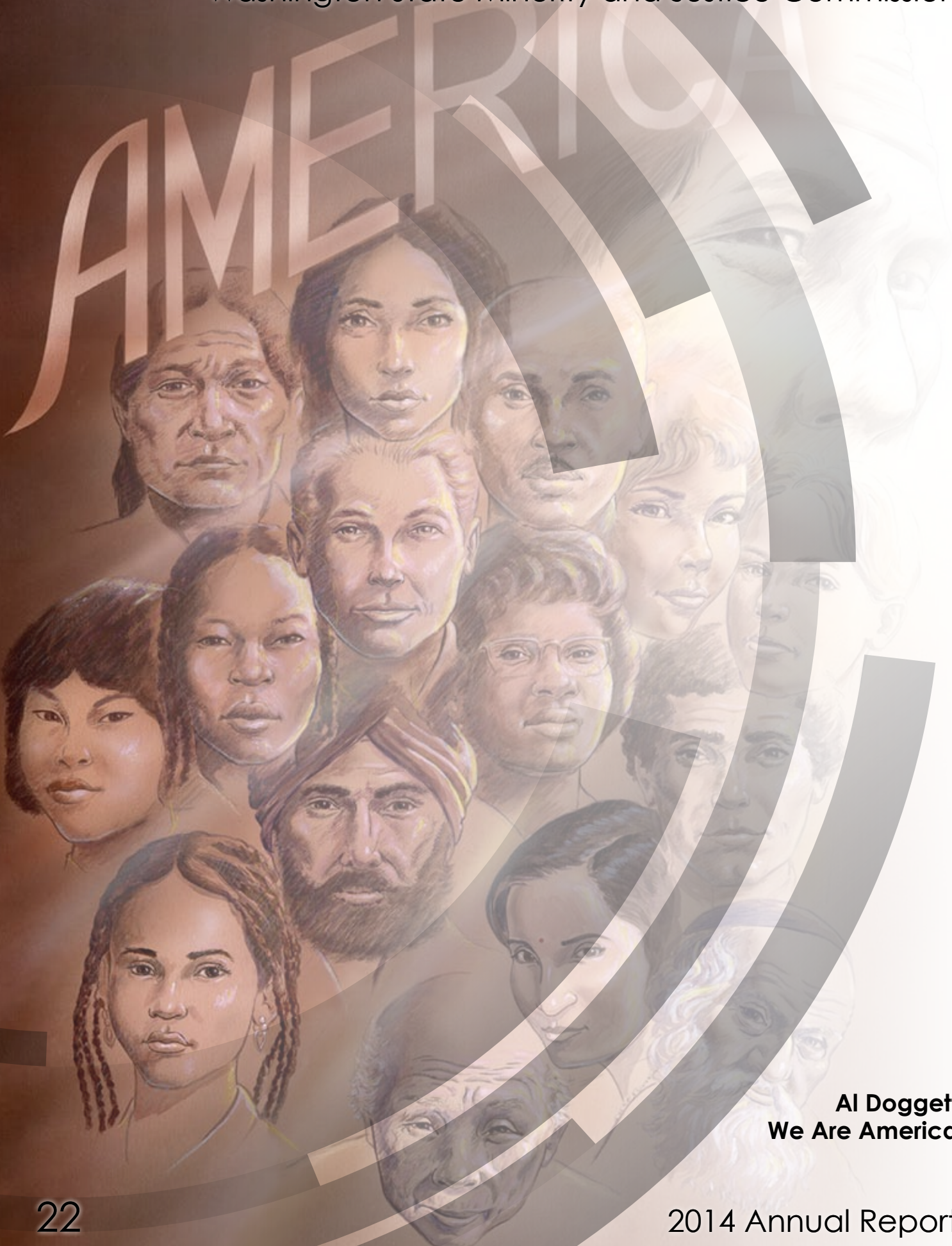
topics about the court system. The video was produced by the Board for Judicial Administration (BJA) Public Trust and Confidence Committee and TVW, with financial support provided by the Gender and Justice Commission and the Minority and Justice Commission. For more information, visit the Washington Courts website at www.courts.wa.gov.

Update to Civil Legal Needs Study

In 2003, the Washington State Supreme Court conducted a study of the civil legal needs of Washington's low-income and vulnerable populations. The Minority and Justice Commission is helping to sponsor an updated research study which is scheduled to be completed in 2015.

Website & Facebook

To get copies of the resources listed above, learn more about the Commission's current work, or attend any upcoming Commission events or meetings, visit the Minority and Justice Commission's website. Also LIKE us on Facebook.



Al Doggett
We Are America

WASHINGTON STATE MINORITY AND JUSTICE COMMISSION

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Co-Chairperson
Washington State Supreme Court

Justice Debra L. Stephens
Washington State Supreme Court

Judge Veronica Alicea Galvan
Des Moines Municipal Court

Judge Lisa L. Atkinson
Shoalwater Bay Tribal Court

Professor Lorraine Bannai
Seattle University School of Law

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Judge Theresa Doyle
King County Superior Court

Ms. Marie Eggart
Asotin County Clerk

Judge Deborah D. Fleck, Retired
King County Superior Court Emeritus

Professor Jason Gillmer
Gonzaga University School of Law

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King County Superior Court

Ms. Karen Murray
Associated Counsel for the Accused

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National Latino Peace Officers Association

Judge Lori-Kay Smith
King County Superior Court

Mr. Travis Stearns
Washington Appellate Project

Judge Gregory D. Sybolt
Spokane County Superior Court

Judge Vicki J. Toyohara
Judge Pro Tem, Emeritus

Judge Dennis D. Yule, Retired
Benton & Franklin Counties Superior Court



Catherine Conoley
The Jury





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Celebrating the Courts
in an Inclusive Society

