

THE LEGAL BRIEF

A Publication of the Thurston County Bar Association

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President's Message

By: Toni Hood

It's that time of year again, time for the Annual Dinner and Bigelow Award. I am very excited that we received **10** nominations this year: Ken Valz, Christine Schaller, James Powers, Allen Miller, Rick Peters, Chuck Szurszewski, Harold Carr, Skip Houser, Jon Tunheim and David Cullen. Reading the nominations for these 10 individuals made be proud to be part of this community. The amount of time and energy these individuals put into being outstanding lawyers and volunteers in Thurston County is over-whelming. Everything they do to make our profession and community great was an inspiration.

The board had a lengthy debate over who should receive the award, given we had so many worthy candidates. Personally, when I was deciding who to vote for, I thought about the past winners. I thought about whether these nominees met the high standard set by prior winners. Of course when thinking of past winners, I thought about my old boss and mentor, Ed Schaller. I thought, what would Ed think of these individuals and their commitment to our profession and this community. I believe Ed would be pleased with all of the nominees and he would be very proud that we have so many deserving and exceptional lawyers who really care about this community.

When I think about Ed, I often think of my own dad, who also passed away after fighting a battle with cancer. Both my dad and Ed inspired me to want be a good lawyer and an active member of my community. Ed inspired me to volunteer, as he flipped burgers at the St. Martin's burger stand and my dad inspired me to volunteer, as he flipped pancakes at my home parish in Spokane.

Reading the 10 nominations for this year's Bigelow Award made be proud to be part of TCBA! The nominations, along with my memories of Ed and my dad, inspire me to continue to give back to this community. I hope one day that I will live up to the high standard set by all of our Bigelow Winners and my dad.

Thank you all for a wonderful year! I really appreciate all the member participation we had this past year and especially appreciate everyone who took the time to nominate a peer for this year's Bigelow Award.

*TCBA ANNUAL DINNER
FRIDAY, MAY 18, 2012*

2012 Law Day Speech Contest

By John Skinder

Congratulations and thank you to everyone who made the annual Law Day Speech Contest a success.

Law Day is a speech contest for Thurston County high school students where we present the students with a current-day fact pattern and ask them to construct and present a speech that addresses the legal, moral and social issues associated with that fact pattern. A total of ten students gathered information and prepared their 5-7 minutes speeches on the topic of cyber-bullying. This year the preliminary round was judged by John Skinder, Terry Church, Janet McClanahan Moody, Superior Court Judges Anne Hirsch, Lisa Sutton and Jim Dixon.

There were nine students representing four different local high schools and one student who is home-schooled. Three of these students were chosen to move forward to the final round where they presented their speeches to the West Olympia Rotary at their luncheon meeting.

The members of the West Olympia Rotary enjoyed the final round of speeches; it was clear that the students had put a lot of effort into making their speeches entertaining and thought-provoking. Picking the top speech is always difficult because all of the students do an excellent job.

In the end, the three finalists were awarded a plaque and prize money:

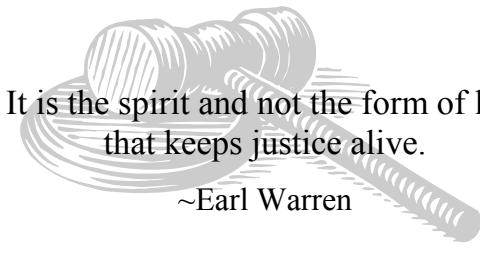


First place & \$800: Rian Chandra (11th grade – Capital High School)
 Second place & \$600: Nick Harrison (10th grade – Capital High School)
 Third place & \$400: Sidney Burton (10th grade – Olympia High School)

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 It is the spirit and not the form of law that keeps justice alive.

~Earl Warren

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Spotlight on Monarch Children's Justice & Advocacy Center

By John Skinder

As seen on the news these days, the problem of child abuse is a societal one. I am the team leader of the Special Victims Team of the Thurston County Prosecutor's Office and I wanted to take this opportunity to explain the amazing resource we have in Thurston County to help children and their families when they have been the victim of physical abuse, sexual abuse and/or neglect.

In 2001, Monarch Children's Justice & Advocacy Center was created. Children's Advocacy Centers provide a coordinated, multi-disciplinary response to child victims of abuse and their families. Children's Advocacy Centers work to reduce the incidence and impact of child abuse. Monarch Children's Justice & Advocacy Center is one of over 600 Centers across the country that have replicated this nationally recognized model and is fully accredited by the National Children's Alliance.

The idea behind forming the center in Thurston County was to provide better services to the child victim and their families. Before we created Monarch, families, in many cases, would have to take a child to the police department to report their allegation, the emergency room at St. Peter's Hospital, and then to offices of therapists who specialize in counseling abused children. Currently, St. Peter's Sexual Assault Clinic, Monarch therapy services, and the Thurston County Prosecutor's Office Special Victims Team are physically co-located in the Community Action Council building in Lacey, Washington. Here, a child and their family can visit one location that is family-friendly and receive services to help that child and their family heal.

At Monarch, there are also forensic interviewers that interview children. These interviewers are specially trained in how to interview children to obtain the most accurate information from the child. By having specially trained forensic interviewers, Monarch is able to help reduce the number of interviews that occur which helps minimize trauma to the child. The family is also provided advocacy services at Monarch. There is specialized counseling available not only for the victim child but also other members of the family who are coping with the impacts of the abuse.

When I say a multi-disciplinary approach, I think it is important to recognize all of the partner agencies that make Monarch such a success: Community Action Council of LMT, Department of Social and Health Services, Lacey Police Department, Olympia Police Department, Office of the Attorney General, Providence St. Peter Hospital, Rainier Police Department, Safeplace, Tenino Police Department, Thurston County Prosecutor's Office, Thurston County Public Health & Social Services, Tumwater Police Department, Thurston County Coroner's Office, Medic One, and the Nisqually Tribe.

By bringing together expertise from all of these different agencies, we are able to work more efficiently than we ever could as individuals. I personally have seen so many success stories where we have been able to really help a child deal with some of the impacts of being sexually or physically abused (usually by someone whom the child trusted). In these difficult economic times, Monarch Children's Justice & Advocacy Center is an amazing community resource that is well-respected nationally.

If anyone would like more information about Monarch, please feel free to talk with me or call the center at 360-923-1184 or visit the website at www.monarchcjac.org.

RETIREMENT PARTY NOTICE

John Sinclair is retiring on June 30

You are invited to his retirement party on
Friday, June 15, 2012 from 4-7pm

at the Olympia Ballroom
located in the heart of downtown Olympia,
across the street from Sylvester Park.

The Olympia Ballroom is located on the
second floor of the old
Olympia Hotel Main Lobby.

116 Legion Way SW, Olympia 98501



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Do you know the difference between a good lawyer and a great lawyer?

A good lawyer knows the law and a great lawyer knows.....

The judge !!!

(hahahahahaha)



Upcoming Local CLE Opportunities

(unless noted, CLE's are sponsored by the TCBA—some topics are still tentative)

1. Thursday, May 17, 2012—Govt Lawyers Bar Association will have a 1/2 day seminar.
2. Tuesday, May 22, 2012—Family & Juvenile Court building “D.V. vs PTSD and Brain Trauma”
3. Friday, June 15, 2012—GLBA presents a CLE on Treatment Courts
4. Friday, June 22, 2012—St. Martin’s 3 hour, 2 track seminar.
Track 1: Real Estate
Track 2: Personal Injury
5. Tuesday, June 26, 2012—Family & Juvenile Court building “2012 Legislative Update”
6. Tuesday, July 24, 2012—Family & Juvenile Court building “Teenage Drug Abuse”
7. Tuesday, August 28, 2012—Family & Juvenile Court building “Childhood Brain Development”
8. Friday, Sept. 21, 2012—Ramblin Jacks will return
9. Friday, Sept. 7, 2012—TCBA St. Martin’s 3 hour seminar
10. Tuesday, Sept. 25, 2012—Family & Juvenile Court building “Case Law Update 2012”



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TCBA Updates

Monthly Luncheon at Ramblin Jacks

The next Ramblin Jacks lunchtime CLE will be held Friday, September 21, 2012.

Bench/Bar Brown Bag Lunch Meeting

There is a bench/bar meeting scheduled for noon on Thursday, May 10, 2012.

An agenda will be available soon.

September Issue of the Legal Brief

There will be a deadline of Thursday, August 30, 2012 for submission of articles and advertisements to Angela Skinder at tcba.info@gmail.com.

TCBA Annual Dinner event

This year the Annual Dinner will be held at Indian Summer Golf & Country Club.

We hope you can attend this years event. Please email Angela Skinder at tcba.info@gmail.com to reserve your seat.

Cost this year is \$32 for the buffet style dinner.

Also note that the Bigelow Award will be presented at this event.

1/2 Day—Low Cost CLE

Friday, June 22, 2012 the TCBA will be presenting a 2-Track CLE seminar at St. Martin's University. One track will be dedicated to Real Estate and one track will be dedicated to Personal Injury. Look for a flyer soon.

Please refer to the "Calendar" section of our website for a full list of upcoming events:
www.thurstoncountybar.com

Section/Committee Announcements...

CLE Committee

The TCBA CLE Committee brings lower cost, local CLE opportunities to our bar. We always welcome ideas and suggestions for additional CLE's from our membership and welcome new members to the committee.

Please contact Brent Normoyle at 705-0202 or Terry Church at 867-9233 with your ideas or if you are interested in joining the committee.

Young Lawyer Section

The Young Lawyer Section holds regular Monthly Meetings the second Wednesday of every month, noon at Italia.

Please contact Megan Card at 352-8311 –
 or-
meganc@buddbaylaw.com

Please visit the new webpage at
<http://thurstoncountybar.com/sections/young-lawyer-section/>

Family Law Section

The Family Law Section meets at 12:10 on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Family and Juvenile Justice Center.

If you have not received an agenda and would like to be added to the mailing list, please call William B. Pope & Associates at (360) 866-4000

Please visit the new webpage at
<http://thurstoncountybar.com/sections/family-law-section/>

Land Use Section

The Land Use Committee is co-chaired by Carmen Rowe and Jessica Jensen.

THURSTON COUNTY VOLUNTEER LEGAL SERVICES

WHAT'S HAPPENING...

BY REA HAGAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does.

-William James

Thurston County Volunteer Legal Services (TCVLS) provides free legal advice, information, and direct representation to low-income people in Thurston and Mason Counties in civil matters only. Clients for the clinics are screened for financial eligibility and type of legal issue.

Since January, TCVLS has served 283 clients, 227 from Thurston County, 25 from Mason County, 22 from Grays Harbor County and 9 from Pacific counties. Our current volunteer roster is currently made up of 57 attorneys, and 10 administrators that have given 298 clinic hours to our clients.

In addition, 9 volunteer attorneys and one volunteer interpreter have provided 390 hours of Direct Representation to 10 clients valued at \$86,350.

To date, clinic and direct representation services total \$152,000 in pro bono value for our clients. On Thursday, April 26 TCVLS Board President, Michael Young welcomed a packed ballroom at Indian Summer Country Club to our Annual Fundraising Breakfast. The record audience was a testament to the commitment we all share for providing our community with access to justice.

Our Keynote Speaker was Justice Gerry Alexander and he highlighted the history of volunteer legal services in Thurston County and the current state of funding. Funding cuts severely compromise our ability to serve our community. This year our primary funding source, the Legal Foundation of Washington reduced our funding by 5%, the future of the IOLTA and other traditional legal aid funds are determined by influences beyond our control.

The ability to protect our current level of service and ensure a presence to our rural and isolated population is threatened.

Currently there are 339 members of the Thurston County Bar Association. There are currently only 15 active volunteers from that membership. These 15 individuals represent only 4.4% of the TCBA.

At the breakfast a challenge was issued to increase the number of volunteer attorneys at our clinics. I challenge our TCBA attorneys to increase their presence with 10 new pro bono attorneys volunteering for our clinics by the end of 2012.

READY TO HELP?

We would love to have you as a volunteer. If you are interested in volunteering your skills please contact Christine Lund, Program Coordinator at 360-705-8194 Christine@tcvls.comcastbiz.net

We also honored our 2011 Volunteer of the Year Attorneys, Angela Carlson-Whitley and Judy Luther-Shiflett for their service in our Olympia and Shelton clinics and frequent client direct representation.

Also honored was Misty Brown, our 2011 Volunteer Administrator of the Year for her weekly client intake and research work at the Housing Justice Project.



Left to right Misty Brown, Angela Carlson-Whitley, Judy Luther-Shiflett and TCVLS Board President Michael Young.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

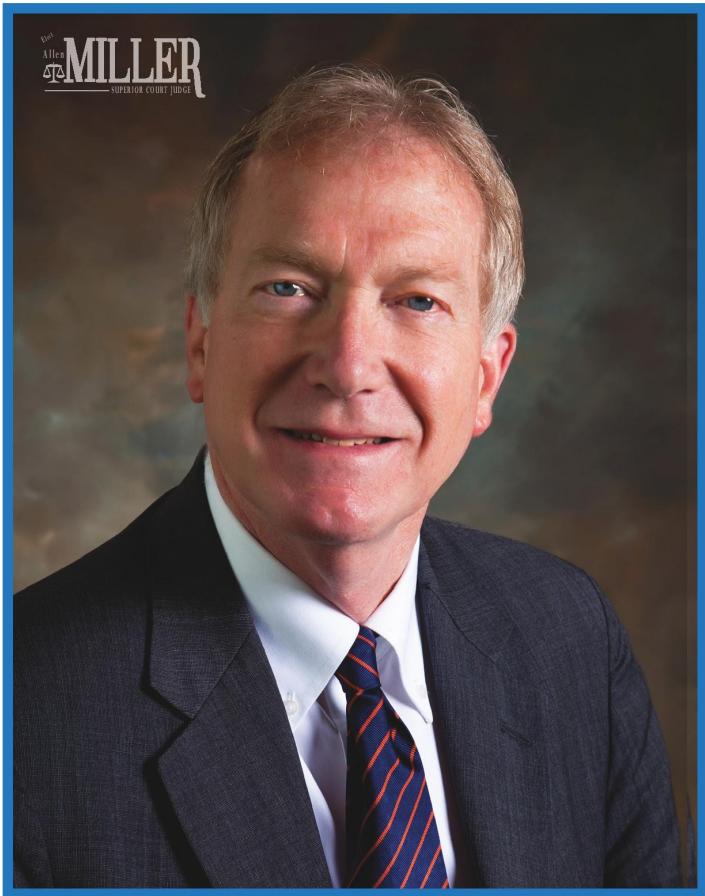
Free CLE at Noon on the First Thursday every month in the 2nd Floor Conference Room of our Offices at 711 Capitol Way South, Olympia.

May 3—Estate Planning presented by Judy Luther-Shiflett

June 7—Working with a Guardian Ad Litem
Katrina Bakke-Sandstrom

For more information, or to register, please contact Christine at 360-705-8194 Christine@tcvls.comcastbiz.net

Allen Miller is the right person at the right time!



He brings 30 years of legal experience and community involvement to the Thurston County Superior Court. In this seat, we need someone with experience and independence, as this is not a place for advocacy. Miller has practiced law for thirty years, currently as a land use and real estate attorney here in Olympia. Prior to this, he served as Assistant Attorney General, and as Deputy Prosecutor for Thurston County. Miller has vast experience as a trial attorney, a quality the superior court bench needs.



Aside from law, Miller is heavily involved in the community. Currently, he serves as a member of the Olympia School Board. Miller has served as President of the Thurston County Bar Association and the Olympia Rotary Club, and is a former Chair of the County Chamber.

Miller is supported by Secretary of State Sam Reed, former Prosecutor Ed Holm, Former Judge Cork Hicks, former Sheriff Gary Edwards and former Justice Bob Utter.

For a complete list of endorsements please visit the campaign website.

**Rated "Exceptionally Well-Qualified" from the
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the Latina/o Bar Association of Washington.**

Please join me in supporting Allen Miller as our next Superior Court Judge.

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