20th Access to Justice Conference: Amplifying the Power of Community

Original Program Date: June 14 – 16, 2019
Available Media Types: Video and Audio MP3

REPORTING YOUR CREDIT
This on-demand seminar was originally presented as a live seminar and webcast on June 14-16, 2019, in Spokane, WA. If you attended the live seminar or webcast and reported CLE credits, you cannot also report credits from watching or listening to this recording.

DESCRIPTION
In the summer of 2019, we celebrated our 20th Access to Justice Conference, Amplifying the Power of Community. Through interactive workshops, inspiring remarks, and listening sessions, the Conference aimed to generate innovative strategies and partnerships that can advance our collective work toward creating a more fair, just, and inclusive community. Specific sessions from the Conference are available to you on-demand, including those sessions that addressed the following topics: immigration, housing discrimination and structural racism, trauma-informed advocacy, transgender competency in legal services, criminal justice, race-equity and community.

AGENDA
1 Building the Defense Line for Immigrant & Refugee Communities in Washington
Washington is home to over 943,000 immigrants, and is the 8th largest refugee-receiving state in the nation. As the deportation force continues to separate our families through detention and deportations, community organizers and legal advocates are building the defense line to protect our communities. In this session, learn about grassroots deportation defense strategies and how to best equip impacted communities for rapid response when immigration comes knocking at the door.

Malou Chavez – Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, Seattle, WA
Chach Duarte White – Legal Counsel for Youth and Children, Seattle, WA
Alycia Moss – Moss Immigration Law, Coeur d’Alene, ID
Brenda Rodriguez Lopez – Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network, Burien, WA
Monserrat Padilla – Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network, Burien, WA
Martin Negrete – Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network, Burien, WA
2 Formerly Incarcerated Community Panel Discussion
In this session, a panel of formerly incarcerated individuals and their allies for a multimedia presentation and participatory discussion of court-imposed legal financial obligations that continue to present barriers to reentry into our communities, even following last year’s legal reform.

Deborah Espinosa – Living with Conviction, Seattle, WA
Dr. Anna B. Bosch – University of Washington School of Law, Seattle, WA
Carmen Pacheco-Jones – Racial Equity Committee, Spokane, WA
Michelle Domreis – I Did The Time, Revive Center for Returning Citizens Spokane, WA
Kurtis Robinson – NAACP, Spokane, WA

3 Past Lessons for Future Planning: Housing Discrimination in Spokane and Structural Racism
This session explores the history of structural racism in the United States and Washington State and how using historical and social context can help advance race equity within justice system work. Using past and present institutional and systemic housing discrimination in Spokane, we highlight strategies to plan for the future. Focus on understanding the root causes and ongoing housing segregation in the Spokane area to develop informed strategies, policies, and decision-making towards better housing policy and development planning in Spokane.

Marley J. Hochendoner – Northwest Fair Housing Alliance, Spokane, WA
Omid Bagheri – JustLead Washington, Seattle, WA

4 Mass Incarceration and Public Health
During this session we examine data surrounding incarceration as a public health concern and the health determinants of those who have experienced incarceration in their lifetime. We also discuss alternatives to incarceration and breaking the cycle of over incarceration.

Carmen Pacheco-Jones – Racial Equity Committee, Spokane, WA

5 From Bar to the Bench: Trauma Informed Approaches
This session is comprised of two sections. The first section, presented by Claire Carden, Northwest Justice Project Spokane, and a representative from the YWCA, Spokane, speak to limitations in the legal system and how to set appropriate expectations for those seeking justice. The second section, presented by Judge Aimee Maurer, Mental Health Therapeutic Court, and Judge Mary Logan, Community Court, identify practices resulting in a more holistic experience of the legal system.

Claire Carden – Northwest Justice Project, Spokane, WA
Kelsey Kittleson – YWCA, Spokane, WA
Judge Aimee Maurer – Spokane County District Court, Spokane, WA
Judge Mary Logan – Spokane Municipal Court, Spokane, WA

6 Transgender Competency in Legal Services
This session reviews best practices for legal practitioners serving transgender communities both ethically and in practice. We review common legal issues transgender communities face, and discrepancies in the law that impact transgender communities.

Morgan Mentzer – Lavender Rights Project, Seattle, WA
Dusty LaMay Weber – Lavender Rights Project, Seattle, WA
Keynote: The Power of Community & Plenary Panel Discussion
Sandra Williams – The Black Lens/Carl Maxey Center, Spokane, WA
Nikki Lockwood – Every Student Counts Alliance/ACLU, Spokane, WA
Kurtis Robinson – NAACP, Spokane, WA
Cam Zorrozua – Center for Justice, Spokane, WA
Duaa-Rahemaah Williams – Black Prisoners Caucus, Spokane, WA
Pastor Walter Kendricks – Spokane Ministers Fellowship, Spokane, WA
Angelique Sam – The Bail Project, Spokane, WA

The Dangers of Practicing Law
Practicing law is hazardous to your health. Lawyers have the highest rates of alcohol and substance abuse of any profession. We also suffer from higher rates of mental illness and suicide than doctors, dentists and the general public. Yet when we entered law school, our rates of substance abuse and mental illness were lower than the general population. What if our jobs are making us sick? These hazards can be heightened when you work in legal aid or representing survivors of crime. After examining the hazards of legal practice and secondary trauma, we shift into an open discussion about what the dangers of practicing law are and how to identify them in your practice. We then explore strategies to minimize these harms and counterbalance them.
Claire Carden – Northwest Justice Project, Spokane, WA
Philip Buri – Buri Funston Mumford & Furlong, PLLC, Bellingham, WA
Erin Williams Heuter – Lutheran Community Services Northwest, Spokane, WA

Reimagining Self-Help for Unrepresented Litigants: Learning from National Models
In every county at all levels of court, people have no choice but to proceed without legal representation in cases affecting their personal safety, family connections, property rights, economic security, and homes. Forcing litigants to fend for themselves in a system that is premised on the availability of legal representation regularly results in unjust and harmful outcomes, erodes public trust and confidence in the court system, and creates costly inefficiencies for court staff. In recent years, Washington State has taken some important steps towards serving unrepresented litigants by authorizing and expanding the roles of courthouse facilitators, converting mandatory family law forms into plain language, and launching the family law forms automation initiative: Washington Forms Online. Despite the flood of unrepresented litigants, most Washington courthouses lack adequate systems and services to help people meaningfully participate in their cases. How have other states addressed this challenge? In this session we explore court-based self-help center models from Minnesota, California, and elsewhere that combine in-person, remote, and electronic services. Learn about their challenges and successes in bridging the urban/rural divide and providing language access to diverse populations. Explore what lessons we can learn or ideas we can bring home to expand court-based services here in Washington.
Claudia Johnson – LawHelp Interactive, ProBono Net, Seattle, WA
Laurie Garber – Northwest Justice Project, Seattle, WA
Melissa C. Kantola – Self-Represented Litigant Program Court Services Division, State Court Administrator’s Office, Minnesota Judicial Branch, St. Paul, MN
Moderator: Crissy Anderson – Superior Court Judges Association Coordinator with the Administrative Office of the Courts, Olympia, WA
10  **A Holistic Journey Through the Legal System**  
As attorneys, we are equipped to respond to a specific area of our clients’ lives. We quickly learn, though, that an eviction dismissal does not address long term housing needs and a protection order does not always guarantee safety. This presentation highlights existing and emerging models of collaboration that address the client’s needs holistically and circumvent the pitfalls of “assembly line” referrals. Follow a client through the legal system as she encounters help as well as barriers around legal and other needs. Explore what works, what doesn’t work and what might be possible for those who experience a number of legal needs.

*Kathy McFaul – Women’s Hearth, Transitions, Spokane, WA*  
*Genevieve Mann – University Legal Assistance, Spokane, WA*  
*Kristina Ralls – Spokane County Bar Association, Spokane, WA*  
*Rosemary Wear – Disability Assistance Project, Wear Law Office, Spokane, WA*  
*Riddhi Mukhopadhyay – Sexual Violence Law Center, Seattle, WA*

11  **Building a Justice BHAG - The Political, Policy, and Moral Path to Progress**  
This address discusses how developing Big, Hairy, and Audacious Goals is a proven strategy in tackling civil and criminal justice reform. Nick discusses both national and local successes and the need for bold new ideas.

*Nicholas Brown – Pacifica Law Group, Seattle, WA*