



Washington State Bar Association

1325 Fourth Avenue, Suite 600

Seattle, WA 98101-2539

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Contact

Stephanie Perry

Communications Specialist/Publications Editor

206-733-5932; stephaniep@wsba.org

David Keenan Receives 2011 Outstanding Young Lawyer Award

(SEATTLE) — The Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) Young Lawyers Division (WYLD) announces that Seattle attorney **David Keenan**, of Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP, has been presented with the 2011 Outstanding Young Lawyer Award. This award honors a young lawyer who has made a valuable contribution to Washington's legal community and is presented each year by the WYLD. Recipients of this award have shown an outstanding commitment to the provision of pro bono services to those in need and have made significant contributions to the professional community, especially young lawyers. Keenan was honored for his outstanding work ethic and the degree to which he gives back both to the legal profession and to the larger community through his involvement and dedication in a broad range of activities. WSBA President **Steven G. Toole** presented the award at the WSBA Annual Awards Dinner on September 22, 2011, at the Hyatt at Olive 8 in Seattle.

Prior to his legal career, Keenan spent nearly 15 years as a senior federal law enforcement agent working in human trafficking and financial investigations. In 2005, he began attending law school at night while working full-time as a federal agent during the day. In 2008, Keenan received the Dean's Medal as the top all-around student in his graduating class at Seattle University School of Law.

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Over the last 18 months, David has provided approximately 400 hours of pro bono legal services. His recent pro bono work includes helping to represent the City of Seattle before the King County Superior Court, the Washington Court of Appeals, and the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington in the City's efforts to keep playgrounds and parks safe from gun violence, as well as helping represent Capital Area Immigrants' Rights Coalition as *amicus* to the U.S. Supreme Court in its efforts to obtain post-conviction relief for non-citizen criminal defendants based on ineffective assistance of counsel.

Since 2009, Keenan has served on the Board of Directors of Friends of the Children – King County (Friends), an organization in Seattle's Central District dedicated to mentoring at-risk youth. He is also the organization's pro bono counsel. Because of his own background as a child who grew up in poverty, dropped out of high school, and experienced the juvenile justice system, Keenan's commitment to Friends is very personal. He has arranged for his firm to host youth from the organization for a visit with a Seattle Municipal Court judge from a similar background in order to inspire them to someday enter the legal profession. Keenan has worked with Seattle University School of Law's Access to Justice Institute to sponsor Friends in holding poetry slams on the university campus to help participating youth deal with trauma in their lives.

Keenan is an active member of the legal community. He served as WYLD liaison to the WSBA Civil Rights Law Section 2009–2010. Currently, he is vice-chair of the King County Bar Association Young Lawyers Division Board of Trustees, where he has worked with WYLD leadership to coordinate events and services. Keenan also chairs the Board's Lawyer Services Committee and has helped organize several free CLEs specifically geared toward young lawyers. He serves as a member of the Seattle University School of Law Alumni Board and of the Seattle University School of Law Recent Alumni Committee. In addition, Keenan is the co-chair of the Membership Committee for the Federal Bar Association of the Western District of Washington.

Upon learning of the award, Keenan said, "I feel so fortunate to work alongside such a tremendous community of dedicated attorneys of all ages, and receiving this recognition only makes me want to work harder for the issues that are important to young lawyers and the communities we serve."

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“I am in awe at the compassion, energy, and initiative that David shows daily,” said **Daniel J. Dunne**, a partner at Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP, in nominating Keenan for the award. “David’s dedication to the young lawyer community, his pro bono and community service, and his professionalism as an attorney merit the award...David is and will be a wonderful and committed leader of the bar for many years to come.”

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 34,470 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 **Steven G. Toole**, of Bellevue. The 2010–2011 president-elect is **Stephen R. Crossland**, of Cashmere; the 2011–2012 president-elect is **Michele G. Radosevich**, of Seattle; and the immediate past-president is **Salvador A. Mungia**, of Tacoma. 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.

The Washington State Bar Association’s mission is to serve the public and the members of the Bar, ensure the integrity of the legal profession, and to champion justice.

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