

2011 WLI Fellows

Catherine Anderson
Diana R. Bob
Twyla Carter
Alberto Casas
Nicole L. DeNamur
Ruth E. Esparza
Zabrina M. Jenkins
Jamila A. Johnson
Masako Kanazawa
Diane M. Meyers
Stephen Ssemaala
Lisa Tom

Fellows' Bios



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CATHERINE "CRISSY" ANDERSON

Crissy Anderson is a staff attorney at the Northwest Justice Project in Spokane. She was born and raised in Seattle, and completed her undergraduate studies at Western Washington University, graduating with a BA in Political Science and Minor in Women's Studies. Ms. Anderson has worked in various social service capacities in both domestic violence shelters and homeless shelters. She taught violence prevention curriculum to elementary school students and provided mentorship for teen peer-to-peer program advocates on issues related to dating violence, sexual assault and sexual harassment.

Ms. Anderson later obtained her JD from Gonzaga University and went on to practice law at the Northwest Justice Project, where she is currently employed. Through her position at Northwest Justice Project Ms. Anderson has a varied practice, but primarily represents victims of domestic violence in family law cases, and appellants in public benefits hearings. She has been a board member of the Spokane chapter of Washington Women Lawyers since 2008, is a former co-chair of WYLD's Public Service/Pro-Bono Committee, is the chair of the legal aid Regional Planning Committee for Region Two, and is a member of the West Central Community Center Board of Directors.



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DIANA R. BOB

Diana Bob is a staff attorney in the Lummi Nation Office of the Reservation Attorney in Bellingham. Diana graduated from Pitzer College in Claremont, California, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Environmental Studies and Anthropology. Diana obtained her JD with Certificate in Environmental Law from Lewis & Clark Law School in Portland, Oregon. As an attorney, Diana has worked at the Northwest Justice Project in Spokane and the National Congress of American Indians in Washington, DC. For the Lummi Nation, Diana works on matters relating to natural resources, water rights, land use, tax and other intergovernmental matters with local governments, the State of Washington and the United States. Diana is a member of the Lummi, Spokane, Kalipsel, and Colville tribal court bars, Washington State and District of Columbia bar associations and is admitted to practice in the Western District of Washington. Diana is an enrolled member of the Lummi Nation.



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TWYLA CARTER

Twyla Carter is a public defender at The Defender Association. As a Staff Attorney, she zealously advocates on behalf of indigent clients accused of misdemeanor and felony crimes. Prior to her current assignment in juvenile court, she represented adults with misdemeanor domestic violence charges, and she appealed misdemeanor convictions. Twyla recently won a published decision from Division One in *State v. Green*, which addressed due process requirements for trespass orders issued by public school districts.

Twyla received her undergraduate degree in Criminal Justice, *summa cum laude*, from Seattle University and her J.D. from Seattle University School of Law, where she was the President of the Black Law Students' Association, the "Western Region's Chapter of the Year." After graduation, Twyla served as a Co-Chair for the Loren Miller Bar Association's Young Lawyers Committee and was awarded "Young Lawyer of the Year" in 2008. The following year, she served on the LMBA's executive board as a Member-At-Large and last year she served as the Executive Secretary. Twyla is the Executive Treasurer at Interaction Transition, a non-profit organization dedicated to assisting ex-offenders in the re-entry process.



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ALBERTO CASAS

Alberto Casas is a staff attorney with the Northwest Justice Project Tacoma, Washington, office. Alberto is a graduate of Cornell University where he obtained his Bachelors in Industrial and Labor Relations. Alberto is also a graduate of the University of New Mexico School of Law, where he obtained his JD. After completion of his JD, Alberto moved to Washington where he began his practice as a staff attorney with the Northwest Justice Project, the statewide civil legal aid program. Since beginning there in 2007, Alberto has practiced in Pierce County Superior Court, Kitsap County Superior Court, and Thurston County Superior Court. In addition to his work with Northwest Justice Project, Alberto has also been involved with the Pierce County Minority Bar Association, having served as that organization's Secretary and having participated in the planning of the annual Pierce County Youth and Law Forum.

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NICOLE L. DENAMUR

Nicole DeNamur is an associate attorney practicing in the construction and commercial litigation groups at Ashbaugh Beal in Seattle. Nicole grew up in the Midwest and graduated from the University of Michigan where she was also a scholarship student-athlete and Big Ten Conference champion. She then obtained her J.D. from Seattle University in 2006. While at Seattle University, Nicole was an active volunteer for the Human Rights Campaign and also had the opportunity to extern for the Honorable Michael J. Fox in King County Superior Court.

Nicole began her legal career with the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office where she was assigned to Southwest District Court, Juvenile Court, and the Drug Unit before transitioning to private practice in 2008. Since joining Ashbaugh Beal, she has had the opportunity to work on a variety of cases and to take on a greater leadership role in the construction industry. Nicole is an active member of the Associated General Contractors' Future Leadership Forum and was recently selected to be a member of the Forum's Steering Committee. She is also a member of the Greater Seattle Business Association and QLaw, the GLBT Bar Association.



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RUTH E. ESPARZA

Ruth Esparza is a staff attorney with the Northwest Justice Project in the Wenatchee office. Ruth graduated from Gonzaga University where she obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science, as well as her JD. After graduating from law school, Ruth moved back to her hometown of Wenatchee and began to work at Northwest Justice Project where she practices family law, representing victims of domestic violence and procuring the safety of families.

Ruth's passion for public service drives her to serve on the Chelan/Douglas County United Way Board, the Wenatchee Community Center Board, and she also participates in various other boards and committees which work on social justice issues in her community. In 2008, Ruth received the Wenatchee Valley Civil Rights and Social Justice Award in recognition of her commitment to the community. For the past five years, Ruth has been a dedicated mentor for college-bound minority and underprivileged children, ranging from elementary school to high school.



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ZABRINA M. JENKINS

Zabrina Jenkins is an attorney for Starbucks Coffee Company. In her position as director, corporate counsel, Zabrina oversees commercial and general liability litigation for retail locations in North America, and provides legal advice and counsel to Starbucks management and partners (employees) relating to potential and actual litigation, primarily in the areas of commercial, real estate and general business law. She currently serves as an advisor to the company's Policy Governance Council, and has served on the Diversity Committee for the Law & Corporate Affairs department and as the co-coordinator of the department's summer intern program.

Prior to joining Starbucks, Zabrina was an associate at Garvey Schubert Barer. During her tenure with the firm, Zabrina focused her practice on commercial litigation matters, including labor and employment litigation. Zabrina is an active volunteer in both legal and civic organizations. She serves on the Central Washington University College of Business Advisory Board, the Future of the Law Institute (FLI) Board, and the Washington Attorneys Assisting Community Organizations (WAACO) Advisory Board. She is also a mentor to the Seattle University Community Development and Entrepreneurship Clinic (CDEC) and a member of the Loren Miller Bar Association. Zabrina has served on the Central Washington University Foundation Board, the Washington Women Lawyers Board, the Loren Miller Bar Association Board, and the Phillip L. Burton Scholarship Dinner Committee from 2003 to 2006, which she chaired in 2006. She has also been recognized as a *Rising Star* by *Washington Law & Politics*.

JAMILA A. JOHNSON

Jamila Johnson is a litigator in Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt's Seattle office. While her practice is varied, she finds herself most often litigating constitutional issues on behalf of property owners. An active member of the legal community, Jamila is a prolific writer and commentator on the practice of law. In 2010, Seattle Mayor Mike McGinn appointed Jamila to the Seattle Women's Commission, a citizen commission that advises the mayor, city council, and city departments on issues important to the women of Seattle. She currently co-chairs the commission and works on issues of violence prevention, economic opportunity, and health disparities for the community. She has testified before the Seattle City Council to restore funds to domestic violence programs and the Seattle Office of Civil Rights. Jamila received her undergraduate degree in Mass Communications from Seattle University and her J.D. from University of Washington School of Law, where she was editor-in-chief of Shidler Journal of Law Commerce and Technology.

MASAKO KANAZAWA

Masako Kanazawa works for Attorney General's Office, Labor & Industries (L&I) Division in Seattle as an Assistant Attorney General. Masako was born and grew up in Osaka, Japan. At junior high school, she was a captain of the school's dramatic society and led the team to win Osaka Governor's award, the highest honor in the inter junior high school dramatic competition. Masako left her family in Osaka to study in the United States and obtained her BA in political science and a minor in Spanish at the University of Washington and JD, *magna cum laude*, at Seattle University Law School. At law school, Masako was Executive Editor of Law Review and worked as an extern for Judge Mary Kay Becker of the Court of Appeals.

Masako joined the Attorney General's Office upon graduation and started with the Licensing & Administrative Law Division, where she became the judicial review coordinator and oversaw the work of other attorneys in unemployment benefit cases. Masako transferred to the L&I Division and currently serves the division's appellate team, engaging in appellate practice as well as employment standards litigation and client advice. Outside her work, Masako is involved in community service; she served King County Chapter of Washington Women Lawyers as Vice President in Judicial Affairs in the 2004 to 2006 term and frequently participates in judging at the moot courts for local law schools. Masako enjoys traveling to Japan to see her family there and to other places with her husband, Jay Doughten.



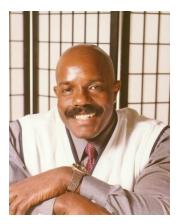
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DIANE M. MEYERS

Diane Meyers is an associate with Graham & Dunn, P.C. in Seattle. Diane is a two-time graduate of the University of Notre Dame. After graduation, Diane clerked for Judge Charles R. Wilson, who sits on the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals, in Tampa, Florida, and then moved to the Arizona desert to work for Osborn Maledon, PC, doing all matter of civil litigation. While at Osborn Maledon, Diane balanced her civil defense work with a number of death penalty cases and service on the Arizona State Bar's Indigent Defense Project. Needing a break from the sun and heat, Diane moved to Seattle in 2008, where she is currently a litigation associate at Graham & Dunn PC. Diane also serves on the board of the Integrity of Justice Project, volunteers for Q-Law, co-chairs the YLD subcommittee of Commercial and Business Litigation Committee for the ABA's Litigation Section, and rides for Team Group Health, a local women's cycling team.



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STEPHEN SSEMAALA

Stephen Ssemaala is an Assistant Attorney General representing state psychiatric hospitals and mental health programs. Stephen obtained an undergraduate degree in Global Studies and a law degree from the University of Washington. Stephen was born and raised in Uganda on the island of Bufumira in beautiful Lake Victoria. He started his schooling at Bufumira Primary School where he attended some of his early classes under a mango tree. He rose to become an AIDS activist serving as an Executive Director for an AIDS nonprofit organization.

In 1994, Stephen was elected as a delegate to the Uganda's constitutional assembly, a body that debated and wrote the current constitution of Uganda. In 1996, he fled his country due to political persecution and sought political asylum in the United States. After a brief detention by U.S. immigration authorities he was granted political asylum and settled in Washington State.

In addition to his work as an Assistant Attorney General, Stephen is the chairman and founding member of Kamukamu Learning Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting education in the villages of Uganda.

LISA TOM

Lisa Tom is an attorney at the Microsoft Corporation. She is a graduate of the University of Washington, where she obtained both her Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering as well as her JD. Prior to law school, Lisa worked at the Intel Corporation designing the Pentium 4 microprocessor. It was during this time that she was introduced to patents and found a passion for intellectual property.

Lisa started her law career at Blakely, Sokoloff, Taylor & Zafman, where her practice included patent prosecution and client counseling on licensing and other IP matters. In her current position at Microsoft, Lisa manages the patent portfolio, advises executives on IP legal issues, and oversees outside counsel work on patent, licensing, and litigation matters. Lisa is an active volunteer in various organizations and projects in the community, including the Diversity Pipeline Project, the University of Washington Women in Engineering Program, the University of Washington School of Law Mentoring Program, the annual Women and Minority Law Student IP Summit, and the Future of the Law Institute.