

Washington State Bar Association

1325 Fourth Avenue, Suite 600

Seattle, WA 98101-2539

206-443-9722 • 800-945-9722



Maureen Hart Receives Angelo Petrus Award for Lawyers in Government Service

Retired solicitor general is being recognized for her 35-year career in public service

SEATTLE, WA [Sept. 27, 2013] — The Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) presented retired Solicitor General **Maureen Hart** with the 2013 Angelo Petrus Award for Lawyers in Public Service. The award is in recognition of Hart's 35-year career in public service, serving the Washington community and helping other government attorneys reach their highest potential. WSBA President **Michele Radosevich** presented the award at the WSBA Annual Awards Dinner on Sept. 26, 2013, at the Grand Hyatt Seattle.

Hart served as the Washington state solicitor general from 2005–13, advising the governor, the Washington State Supreme Court, and the Legislature on complex and high-profile legal issues. She led and served on litigation teams that defended initiatives and referenda adopted by Washington voters, and supervised a team of deputy attorneys general. Hart joined the Attorney General's Office in 1978, and previously served as chief counsel to the State Auditor and Office of Financial Management. She also served as chief of two divisions and as the solicitor general in 1997.

"Marnie was a model of outstanding government service," said Washington State Attorney General **Bob Ferguson**. "She was revered for her intense work ethic, her commitment to excellence, her unwavering civility and professional ethics, and her dedication to mentoring younger lawyers.... Marnie had an enormous positive impact on the [Attorney General's] Office, on the practice of public law in Washington, and on the law itself."

Hart argued *Seling v. Young* before the U.S. Supreme Court, successfully defending Washington's sexually violent predator statute, and *Devenpeck v. Alford*, successfully defending government's authority to arrest. In addition, Hart has argued several significant cases in the state appellate courts, including *State ex. rel. Gallwey v. Grimm*, addressing the religion provisions of the Washington Constitution, and *Washington State Legislature v. Lowry*, a case considering the veto power of the governor.

Hart has chaired the WSBA Rules of Professional Conduct Committee and the WSBA's Litigation Section Executive Committee. She received the WSBA's Award of Merit in 2003 for her role in successfully defending Washington's IOLTA (Interest on Lawyer Trust Accounts) program before the United States Supreme Court, and was named the Government Lawyer Bar Association's 2003 Lawyer of the Year. Hart earned her B.A. in Political Science from Washington State University, with distinction; and her J.D. from the University of Puget Sound, *cum laude*.

"It was a great privilege to represent the State of Washington, and I am deeply honored by this award," said Hart.

About the Angelo Petrus Award

Named in honor of the late Angelo R. Petrus, a senior assistant attorney general who passed away during his term of service on the WSBA Board of Governors, this award is given to a lawyer in government service who has made a significant contribution to the legal profession, the justice system, and the public.

About the Washington State Bar Association

The WSBA is part of the judicial branch and is authorized by the Washington State Supreme Court to license the state's 35,400 lawyers. The WSBA both regulates lawyers under the authority of the Court and serves its members as a professional association — all without public funding. The WSBA'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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Contact: Debra Carnes, WSBA Chief Communications Officer
206-733-5930, 206-669-6559(c); debrac@wsba.org