



## **Rebecca Roe Receives WSBA Award of Merit**

*Joint award honors recipients' work contributing to the United States Supreme Court upholding the Affordable Care Act in June 2012*

SEATTLE, WA [Sept. 27, 2013] — The Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) honored Seattle attorney **Rebecca Roe** with the 2013 Award of Merit, along with **Adam Berger**, **Kristin Houser**, and **Bill Rutzick**. The award is in recognition of their joint efforts contributing to the United States Supreme Court upholding the Affordable Care Act (ACA) in June 2012. WSBA President **Michele Radosevich** presented the award at the WSBA Annual Awards Dinner on Sept. 26, 2013, at the Grand Hyatt Seattle.

Former Washington attorney general **Rob McKenna** joined 12 other attorneys general in filing a lawsuit against the ACA. Then-Governor **Christine Gregoire**, along with 25 other governors, opposed the position of the attorneys general and supported implementation of the ACA. Roe, Berger, Houser, and Rutzick spent two years and hundreds of pro bono hours representing the governors pro bono in the litigation. They submitted eight briefs in six courts, including an *amicus curiae* brief to the United States Supreme Court, addressing the constitutionality of the individual mandate; the history of insurance reform in Washington; the human and economic costs of caring for the uninsured under the present system; the constitutionality of the ACA's Medicaid expansion provisions; and whether the Florida district court's decision ruling the ACA unconstitutional should result in a nationwide injunction of implementation of the ACA. In her concurrence upholding the ACA, United States Supreme Court Justice **Ruth Bader Ginsburg** quoted the attorneys' argument.

Roe is a trial attorney with Schroeter Goldmark Bender, where she has practiced since 1994, focusing on personal injury cases for victims of violent crime and sexual assault, employment law, sexual harassment, discrimination, and general personal injury. She served as a deputy in the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office in Seattle for 18 years, serving as the supervising attorney of the Special Assault Unit for most of that time. During her tenure, Roe was a nationally recognized leader in the prosecution of crimes affecting women and children, including co-authoring the first nationwide manual of prosecution of child abuse. She graduated from Seattle University School of Law in 1977.

An active member of the legal community, Roe continues to do pro bono work for King County Sexual Assault Resource Center, NARAL, and Legal Voice (formerly Northwest Women's Law Center). She is a board member and past-president of the Washington State Association of Justice, which named her its 2008 Trial Lawyer of the Year. Roe is also a past-president and active member of the National Crime Victim Bar Association.

### **About the Award of Merit**

This award is the WSBA's highest honor and is given for a recent, singular achievement. It is awarded to individuals only — both lawyers and nonlawyers.

### **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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