

Washington State Bar Association

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Bill Rutzick 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 **Bill Rutzick** with the 2013 Award of Merit, along with **Adam Berger**, **Kristin Houser**, and **Rebecca Roe**. 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.

Rutzick is of counsel at Schroeter Goldmark & Bender, where he concentrates on asbestos, product liability, and employee rights lawsuits. He has over 30 years of experience representing clients exposed to asbestos fibers in the workplace. His expertise in this area of law is recognized by local and national legal and medical experts, and he has successfully appealed over 40 cases to the state Supreme Court and other courts, resulting in several landmark rulings. He currently serves on the Washington Pattern Jury Instruction Committee. Rutzick received his undergraduate degree from University of California at Berkeley and his law degree from Yale Law School.

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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