



Washington State Bar Association

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19th Annual Youth and Law Form to Be Held April 18 in Seattle

(SEATTLE) — With the theme of “Law and Order,” the 19th annual Youth and Law Forum will be held on Saturday, April 18, 2009, at the First AME Church in Seattle. The Forum brings together leaders in the law enforcement and legal communities, providing a place to learn about careers in the law, understanding one’s rights under the law, and keeping safe. All ages are welcome, and there will be separate work shops for elementary, middle, and high school students, as well as adults.

“This event provides an excellent opportunity for our youth to view and better understand the judicial and law enforcement fields from the very people who serve in them,” said attorney **Gregory Bell**, this year’s chairperson.

The Forum is made possible through donations from the Casey Family Programs, First AME Church, Loren Miller Bar Association, and Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) Young Lawyers Division, among others, and the work of scores of volunteers.

When the Youth and Law Forum first began in 1990, the focus was on teaching young people their rights, so that if they were involved in any incident with law enforcement, they would be aware of how to handle the situation for the most peaceable resolution possible. Since that time, the program has evolved, and today the program includes sessions on educating young persons on the laws and their creation, the science of law enforcement, and legal careers. The Forum is both educational and inspirational. This year, the WSBA Young Lawyers Division (WYLD) will present a session in which young lawyers share their personal experiences about becoming lawyers despite difficult challenges, and about how they overcame odds to continue with their education through law school. The session will also include law students.

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Working Together to Champion Justice

“The Youth and Law Forum provides a wonderful opportunity for young people to connect and interact with a diverse group of young lawyers and professionals to learn more about the criminal justice system and the practice of law. Our goal is to inspire them to pursue a future career in the law and show them that they can achieve their professional dreams through many paths,” stated WYLD President **Jaime Hawk**.

The Forum will include guest speakers from the judiciary, legal practitioners, police, sheriff, and state patrol officers. There will also be numerous seminars and workshops designed to help young people better understand the law and to develop better relationships with law enforcement officials. Participants will have a chance to perform CSI-style evidence detection, witness demonstrations by canine and bomb-detection units, and compete for prizes. The event is free of charge, and lunch will be provided. All are welcome, and those who attend will be entertained and enlightened.

Registration begins at 8:00 a.m., and the Forum will take place from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The Forum has had capacity attendance in years past, and pre-registration is highly recommended. Register online at www.youthandlaw.com. The First AME Church is located at 1522 14th Avenue, in Seattle.

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 32,700 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 **Mark A. Johnson**, of Seattle. The president-elect is **Salvador A. Mungia**, of Tacoma, and the immediate past-president is **Stanley A. Bastian**, of Wenatchee. 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.

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