



Contact: Jennifer Olegario, WSBA Communications Manager
206-727-8212; jennifero@wsba.org

Renee Morioka Receives Angelo Petrus Award for Lawyers in Government Service

Pierce County attorney recognized for commitment to ensuring needs of dependent children are being met

SEATTLE, WA [Sept. 29, 2017] – The Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) presented Renee Morioka with the 2017 Angelo Petrus Award for Lawyers in Government Service. Named in honor of 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. WSBA President Brad Furlong presented the award at the WSBA Annual APEX (Acknowledging Professional Excellence) Awards Dinner on Sept. 28 at the Sheraton Seattle.

Morioka began work at the Attorney General’s Office (AGO) a few months after graduating from Seattle University School of Law in 1995. In her role as an Assistant Attorney General for the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) in Pierce County, she skillfully represents DSHS in dependency cases. She is an active member of the Office’s statewide Juvenile Litigation Training Committee, the in-house specialist on Special Immigrant Juvenile Status proceedings and the BECCA Bill, and authored the Family Reconciliation Act and BECCA Bill chapters of the CITA Juvenile Non-Offender Benchbook.

She serves on committees and workgroups that have led the Pierce County Dependency Court to be a statewide leader and model of efficiency in meeting statutory timelines, and of new, innovative, and collaborative interagency projects including Family Recovery Court (formerly Family Drug Court), the Pierce County Paternity Protocol, the Extended Foster Care workgroup, and the BECCA Bill workgroup.

“Renee is a pleasure to work with in court,” says Ann Danieli, WSBA District 7N Governor and a judge pro tem. “After work, she is known to be the person who drives around getting clothing and making sure each dependent kid’s needs is met. She’s honest and straightforward and always working overtime.”

About the Washington State Bar Association

The WSBA is part of the judicial branch and is authorized by the Washington Supreme Court to license the state’s nearly 40,000 lawyers and other legal professionals. In furtherance of its obligation to protect and serve the public, the WSBA both regulates lawyers and other legal professionals 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, to ensure the integrity of the legal profession, and to champion justice. For more information, visit www.wsba.org.

###