

Washington State Bar Association

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Russ Aoki Receives 2016 WSBA President's Award

Former WSBA governor is being honored for his leadership and service to Washington's legal community

SEATTLE, WA [Oct. 11, 2016] — The Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) presented Seattle attorney **Russell M. Aoki** of Aoki Law PLLC with its 2016 President's Award, in appreciation of his commitment and leadership as chair of the WSBA Escalating Costs of Civil Litigation Task Force, as well as his extraordinary long-term service to the legal community. WSBA President **William D. Hyslop** presented the award at a ceremony on Sept. 28, 2016.

In presenting the President's Award to Aoki, WSBA President William Hyslop stated, "I can't think of anyone more deserving of this wonderful award. Russ Aoki has given so much to the WSBA and the legal profession in so many ways. Most recently, he chaired the ECCL Task Force which studied and made recommendations on how we can work together to reduce the rising cost of civil litigation at the same time as we preserve the fundamental fairness of our justice system for all litigants. We are so appreciative of Russ Aoki's leadership and phenomenal efforts." Aoki's practice emphasizes criminal defense and business litigation. During his 30-year career, he has served as a judge pro tem, mediator, arbitrator, special master in multiple legal cases and as special disciplinary counsel for the WSBA. Aoki also serves as a coordinating discovery attorney for the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Defender Services Office, providing litigation support assistance on complex criminal cases.

From 2006–09, Aoki served on the WSBA Board of Governors, including a year as treasurer. He also served as the Washington State Supreme Court's appointee to the Office of Public Defense Advisory Committee for 12 years. Besides chairing the Task Force on the Escalating Cost of Civil Litigation from 2011 to 2015, he is the past chair of the WSBA's Program Review Committee.

Aoki is a past board president of Northwest Defender Association, past president of the Asian Bar Association of Washington, and a past trustee of the King County Bar Association. He is currently a trustee of the Legal Foundation of Washington.

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 37,789 lawyers and over 1,000 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.

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