

## Washington State Bar Association

1325 Fourth Avenue, Suite 600

Seattle, WA 98101-2539



### Adam Cornell Receives 2016 WSBA Public Service Award

*Snohomish County deputy prosecuting attorney recognized for his dedication to improving the foster care system*

SEATTLE, WA [DATE] — The Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) presented Edmonds attorney **Adam Cornell** with its 2016 Public Service Award. The award is in recognition of his efforts to improve the foster care system at the federal and state levels. WSBA President **Bill Hyslop** presented the award at the WSBA Annual Awards Dinner on Sept. 29, 2016, at the Sheraton Seattle.

Since 2002, Cornell has been a deputy prosecuting attorney in Snohomish County. He is currently district court supervisor at the Prosecutor's Office, supervising 14 deputy prosecuting attorneys. His dedication to his career as a prosecutor exemplifies his commitment to serving others. Cornell was one of the first deputies assigned to Everett's Dawson Place Child Advocacy Center, where child interview specialists conduct forensic interviews of children aged 3 to 17 at the request of any law enforcement agency. Cornell is recognized by colleagues as a constant force fighting on behalf of children who are victims of physical or sexual abuse.

A former foster child, Cornell has been a continual advocate for improvements to the foster care system at both state and federal levels. He planned and drafted Oregon House Bill 2431, the Foster Child Scholarship Bill, which became law on July 2, 2001. It established a fund endowed by the Legislature to help foster children attend college.

In 2004, Cornell received a governor's appointment to the Washington Commission for National and Community Service (now ServeWashington). From 2006–09, he served as the board chair and led the Commission that applied for and received approximately \$40 million in federal grants to fund a wide array of volunteer programs such as AmeriCorps. Cornell promoted the work of the Commission by regularly speaking to business and political leaders about the value of the commission and the necessity of funding it, devoting hundreds of hours of his own time while maintaining a full-time caseload.

Cornell has served on the Board of Directors for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Snohomish County, the Children's Campaign Fund, and the Child Welfare League of America. He has been on the Advisory Committee for the Center for Children and Youth Justice (CCYJ) for a decade, working to put children on a path to success by reforming the foster care and juvenile justice systems. A frequent speaker at nonprofit events, Cornell openly shares the challenges of his upbringing in the foster care system, inspiring audiences with his personal tale of how the presence of a few caring adults fueled his triumph over adversity.

Cornell also serves on the board of directors for Seattle Repertory Theatre, where is the vice chair; the Edmonds Community College Foundation board; and the board of Victim Support Services. In 2014, he received the prestigious Norm Maleng Service to Youth Award from the Center for Children and Youth Justice.

#### **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.

###

**Contact:** Debra Carnes, WSBA Chief Communications Officer  
206-733-5930, 206-669-6559(c); [debrac@wsba.org](mailto:debrac@wsba.org)