

Washington State Bar Association

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John F. Kuntz, Health Law Judge, Receives WSBA Administrative Law Section's 2016 Frank Homan Award

SEATTLE, WA [Sept. 19, 2016] — The Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) Administrative Law Section will present Health Law Judge **John F. Kuntz**, of the Washington State Department of Health, with the Frank Homan Award on Sept. 20, 2016. Established in 2005, the award is given to persons in recognition of noteworthy contributions to the improvement or application of administrative law — for long-term distinguished service; in recognition of a single, extraordinary contribution or project; and/or by significant commitment to administrative law, the justice system, and the public.

In his capacity as a review judge, Judge Kuntz is responsible for some of the most complex cases that come before the Department of Health. These cases often present issues of first impression. Kuntz also provides training classes to other judges, including courtroom control and judicial demeanor, as well as ongoing individual and group mentoring. He serves as a model judge by maintaining a calm professionalism and respect for all participants. Kuntz is considered a “judge’s judge” and is highly respected both in and out of the courtroom.

Judge Kuntz first served citizens in the United States Air Force from 1970–1975, during the Vietnam era. He received his law degree from University of Puget Sound School of Law (now Seattle University) in 1980. While in law school, he received the Order of the Barrister for trial advocacy. He first practiced as a legal intern with the Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys from 1978–81, then as a research analyst for the Washington State Gambling Commission from 1981–82. After a short stint in private practice, Kuntz worked as a session attorney with the Office of the Code Reviser for two legislative sessions (1984–85 and 1988–89). From 1985–86, he served as an administrative law judge on projects at the Office of Administrative Hearings, and then worked as a claims manager at Labor & Industries from 1986–93. Kuntz worked as a claims officer at the Department of Social and Health Services from 1993–95.

In 1995, Kuntz joined the Department of Health as a staff attorney, and in 1999 he became a health law judge and has served in that capacity ever since. Judge Kuntz’s broad experience in administrative law, commitment to excellence, professional demeanor, and active mentorship personifies the essence of the Homan Award for his lifetime achievement and contributions to the profession.

The 2016 Homan Award will be presented to Judge Kuntz at the WSBA Administrative Law Section’s Annual Meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 20, in Olympia, 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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