



## Verónica Quiñónez Receives Outstanding Young Lawyer Award

*Tukwila attorney recognized for her efforts in creating and implementing Latino pro bono legal clinics in Washington*

SEATTLE, WA [Sept. 30, 2016] — The Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) presented Tukwila attorney **Verónica Quiñónez** with its 2016 Outstanding Young Lawyer Award. The award is in recognition of her efforts in creating and managing Latino pro bono legal clinics throughout Washington. WSBA President **Bill Hyslop** presented the award at the WSBA Annual Awards Dinner on Sept. 29, 2016, at the Sheraton Seattle.

Quiñónez is the director of clinics for the Latina/o Bar Association of Washington (LBAW). In 2016, she coordinated the first-ever legal clinic in Pasco, in partnership with Benton-Franklin Legal Aid Society and Anderson Law, which served 77 clients. Also in 2015, she added the Dispute Resolution Center of King County to the Schroeter Goldmark and Bender and Latina/o Bar Association's legal clinic held at El Centro de la Raza, which served over 500 clients last year; it is now the only clinic in Washington that offers conflict coaching and mediation services. In 2016, Quiñónez coordinated the first-ever legal aid clinic in Skagit County, in partnership with Community Action of Skagit County and the Latinx Law Student Associations of Seattle University and University of Washington. She also looks forward to beginning strategic planning for a South King County/Pierce County legal clinic.

A frequent speaker, Quiñónez has presented continuing legal education seminars on intercultural communication in mediations, and has coordinated intercultural workshops and panel discussions.

Quiñónez maintains a solo practice that offers affordable legal services in family law and protection order matters, as well as bilingual mediation services. She also represents legally free youth in dependency actions once their parents' rights are terminated. She is known for going above and beyond to help her foster care clients, including traveling out of state to visit clients, buying them warm coats in the middle of a harsh winter, or answering calls from her foster care clients in the middle of the night. Quiñónez also serves as the King County lead small claims court mediator with Dispute Resolution Center of King County, where she conducts mediations in both English and Spanish.

"Verónica Quiñónez has led the effort to implement pro bono legal clinics throughout Washington," said **Sandra Widlan**. "These clinics serve the needs of Washington's Latino community, which might otherwise have no access to the legal system.... I cannot think of another attorney more deserving of a WSBA award."

Upon receiving the award, Quiñónez said, "I am extremely honored to receive the WSBA Outstanding Young Lawyer Award. I went to law school to give back to communities and groups that are predominately underserved, and I will continue to do so with heart and compassion."

### 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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