

**Washington State Bar Association**

1325 Fourth Avenue, Suite 600

Seattle, WA 98101-2539



**Contact:** Jennifer Olegario, WSBA Communications Manager  
206-727-8212; [jennifero@wsba.org](mailto:jennifero@wsba.org)

**Hon. Ronald Kessler (ret.) Receives Outstanding Judge Award**

*Seattle/King County judge recognized for decades of service on the bench for the people of Washington*

**SEATTLE, WA [Sept. 29, 2017]** – The Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) presented the Hon. Ronald Kessler (ret.) with the 2017 APEX Award for Outstanding Judge. This award is presented for outstanding service to the bench and for special contribution to the legal profession at any level of the court. WSBA President Brad Furlong presented the award at the WSBA Annual APEX (Acknowledging Professional Excellence) Awards Dinner on Sept. 28 at the Sheraton Seattle.

Judge Kessler served on the bench for the people of Seattle and King County for more than 30 years. In 1985, he began his service with the Seattle Municipal Court before moving to the King County Superior Court. Prior to being on the bench, he worked as a public defender for 10 years, where he handled a full spectrum of cases from misdemeanors to serious crimes, and served both as a felony and misdemeanor supervisor.

His prior experience as a public defender served him well. Over his career, he mentored many young attorneys and trained lawyers in trial skills and advocacy. His lectures on court rules and criminal law, as well as his *Criminal Caselaw Notebook*, have been invaluable resources for all new Washington judges.

“Judge Kessler is admired and respected by his colleagues and the lawyers who appear before him for his devotion to the criminal justice system and his service to the legal profession and the judiciary,” says Ann Danieli, WSBA District 7N Governor and a judge pro tem. “He is an engaging storyteller – and funny. His humor and wit do not camouflage his deep and abiding commitment to the quality of legal practice, the criminal justice system and the court system. Judges and lawyers alike express deep gratitude for his *Criminal Law Casebook*.”

**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](http://www.wsba.org).

###