

Washington State Bar Association

1325 Fourth Avenue, Suite 600

Seattle, WA 98101-2539



Chalia Stallings-Ala'ilima Receives Excellence in Diversity Award

Seattle attorney honored for her work in promoting diversity and inclusion at the Washington State Attorney General's Office

SEATTLE, WA [Sept. 30, 2016] — The Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) presented Seattle attorney **Chalia Stallings-Ala'ilima** with its 2016 Excellence in Diversity Award. The award is in recognition of her work in promoting diversity and inclusion at the Washington State Attorney General's Office. WSBA President **Bill Hyslop** presented the award at the WSBA Annual Awards Dinner on Sept. 29, 2016, at the Sheraton Seattle.

Since 2008, Stallings-Ala'ilima has been an assistant attorney general at the Washington State Attorney General's Office. She recently joined the Wing Luke Civil Rights Unit, which investigates discrimination in a range of areas, including employment, housing, education, credit and insurance transactions, and at government offices and businesses that are open to the public. In this role, she furthers the unit's mission to enforce state and federal laws prohibiting discrimination through affirmative civil litigation and in representing the Washington State Human Rights Commission in enforcement matters under the Washington Law Against Discrimination. Previously, Stallings-Ala'ilima represented DSHS in child welfare cases, with particular emphasis in Indian child welfare, treatment court for parents with substance abuse disorders, and addressing bias and racial disproportionality in the child welfare system.

Stallings-Ala'ilima is the 2016–17 president of the Loren Miller Bar Association and is the AGO's liaison to the organization. She helps lead the AGO's Diversity Advisory Committee, having served as its co-chair for over four years. Her work to enhance diversity and inclusion at the AGO has included interviewing attorney applicants, supervising law clerks, and contributing to internal AGO policy review. She served for several years on the WSBA Committee for Diversity, as its Communications/Outreach Subcommittee chair and co-chair, and was active in helping launch the 2012 WSBA Membership Study. Stallings-Ala'ilima also serves on the governing council of the Initiative for Diversity, established in 2004 to advance diversity in the legal profession with respect to hiring, retention, promotion, and elevation into leadership positions. As part of her participation in these programs, Stallings-Ala'ilima is a mentor for law students and new attorneys; provides pro bono legal services through the King County Bar Association's Loren Miller Bar Association Neighborhood Legal Clinic; and serves on the Judicial Institute selection committee.

In 2015, Stallings-Ala'ilima received the William V. Tanner Award from Attorney General **Bob Ferguson** for outstanding achievements early in her career. In 2014, she received the Attorney General's Office Excellence Award. "Chalia's enthusiasm is contagious," said Ferguson. "Her positive example of respect and inclusiveness greatly enhances the culture of the Attorney General's Office."

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