

Washington State Bar Association

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Michele Storms Receives Norm Maleng Leadership Award

Former University of Washington School of Law assistant dean of students recognized for her legal leadership

SEATTLE, WA [Sept. 30, 2016] — The Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) presented Seattle attorney **Michele Storms** with its 2016 Norm Maleng Leadership Award. The award is in recognition of her volunteer service and leadership in the legal community. WSBA President **Bill Hyslop** presented the award at the WSBA Annual Awards Dinner on Sept. 29, 2016, at the Sheraton Seattle.

Storms is the new deputy director for the ACLU-WA. Formerly, she was the assistant dean of students at the University of Washington School of Law. Since 2006, she has been the executive director of the Gates Public Service Law Program, supporting the Gates Foundation-funded public service law scholarship program and the University of Washington School of Law's mission to encourage law students to make a lifetime commitment to public service. Previously, Storms was a statewide advocacy coordinator at Northwest Justice Project and Columbia Legal Services; the founding director of the University of Washington School of Law's Child Advocacy Clinic; a senior lecturer and supervising attorney at the University of Washington Clinical Law Program; and a staff attorney at Evergreen Legal Services.

Throughout her career, Storms has been a dedicated volunteer in the equal justice community at the local and national level. From 2010-2016 she served on the board of OneAmerica (formerly Hate Free Zone), an organization that advances the fundamental principles of democracy and justice at local, state and national levels by building power within immigrant communities. She has served as a board member since 2002 and board secretary since 2008 of the Management Information Exchange, an organization that provides training, consulting and leadership within the legal aid community. A member and former chair of the WA State Access to Justice Board, she has served on committees including Communications, State Planning Oversight, and Law School Relations. She also served on the self-help committee for Legal Voice for many years.

A frequent speaker, Storms has presented at national conferences on topics including racial disparity in education, developing state justice communities, child advocacy and diversity.

"Like Norm, Michele shares a philosophical view of life that boils down to being practical and just doing the right thing without much complication," said Washington Supreme Court Justice **Mary Yu**. "Dictated by common sense, compassion, intelligence, and achieving the right result, Michele is an effective leader for systemic change and is deserving of recognition. She has empowered many young people to follow that lead and we are now seeing powerful leaders for social change emerging."

"Norm Maleng led with so much compassion and common sense," said Storms of the award. "It is an incredible honor to receive a recognition in his name. It is truly my hope to carry on his legacy by continuing to work for greater equity and justice in our world."

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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