

**WASHINGTON STATE
BAR ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF THE WORK OF THE CIVIL LEGAL NEEDS STUDY UPDATE COMMITTEE IN
PUBLISHING THE 2015 CIVIL LEGAL NEEDS STUDY UPDATE**

WHEREAS, the 2003 Civil Legal Needs Study galvanized a decade-long effort to increase capacity to address the civil legal problems of low-income Washingtonians; and

WHEREAS, the Washington Supreme Court recognized that that there had been significant changes over time in the groups of people experiencing poverty, the types of legal needs experienced and the resources available to those groups, and determined that the 2003 study should be updated to identify and capture those changes to assist policy makers and legal aid providers in making strategic decisions about how to address these needs; and

WHEREAS, the Washington Supreme Court appointed a Civil Legal Needs Study Update Committee to conduct a fresh assessment of the number and type of civil legal problems experienced by low-income families, and that Committee conducted extensive research and review resulting in the publication of the 2015 Civil Legal Needs Study Update, which establishes that the effect of the legal problems experienced by low-income Washingtonians is even more acute than it was a decade ago, with a tripling in the average number of civil legal problems per low-income household during that time; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Bar Association is the regulatory body for the legal profession under the authority of the Washington Supreme Court and its mission charges it to serve the public and to champion justice, which includes service to and supporting access to the justice system for all members of the public, including but not limited to those who qualify as low income, and it welcomes the opportunity to express recognition of and appreciation for those groups who do work so tirelessly to provide access to legal services for low income Washingtonians; and

WHEREAS, the work of the Civil Legal Needs Update Committee, and the 2015 Civil Legal Needs Study Update are excellent examples of the dedication of those working for increased civil legal services for low income Washingtonians and the work that is done by those groups;

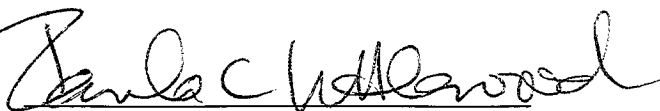
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED:

That the Washington State Bar Association is committed to increasing access to the justice system for all persons in Washington State, and that it supports and appreciates the work of the Civil Legal Needs Update Committee in its efforts to identify and focus on the unmet civil legal needs of low income Washingtonians; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the Washington State Bar Association recognizes the time, dedication and hard work that went into preparing the Updated Civil Legal Needs Study and expresses its support and appreciation for these efforts and the excellent quality of the updated report.

Adopted by the Washington State Bar Association Board of Governors on November 13, 2015.



Paula C. Littlewood, Executive Director

