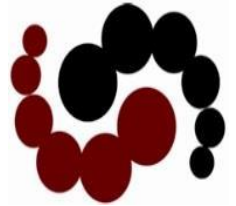




WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

Civil Rights Law Section



July 28, 2016

To: Civil Rights Law Section Members

From: Alec Stephens, Section Chair

Announcing Distinguished Service Award Recipients for 2015 & 2016, and Civic Leader Award Recipients for 2015

Each year, the Civil Rights Law Section recognizes individuals or organizations who have made a notable contribution to the cause of civil rights. Recipients are persons or entities who have championed the cause of equality for impoverished, underserved, minority or disabled populations in Washington State. Examples of exemplary work in this area would include, but are not limited to, those who regularly fight on local or state government levels for expansion or defense of civil rights protections, or who represent or advocate on behalf of people or issues concerning civil rights or basic human rights.

Distinguished Service Award

Recipients are primarily attorneys who have demonstrated in their career regular work for the expansion or defense of civil rights protections at the local, state or national level. The following persons are being recognized for their distinguished service, with a brief statement from their nominators:

2015

Professor Michele Storms

Her contributions have been significant as a practicing attorney, and also as a leader in the legal community and as an educator recruiting diverse candidates for the Gates Public Service Law Scholarship program and training future generations of civil rights attorneys... Ms. Storms' contributions as a leader of the legal community in Washington are legendary. Attorneys who have ever attended an access to justice event have seen her bring together experts, judges, attorneys, and others to educate the legal community about civil rights issues and energize the legal community to work on promoting the rights of those who have been previously disenfranchised or marginalized.

2016

Adam Moore

Mr. Moore recently retired after 45 years of fighting his guts out for people from all walks of life. Many of his clients were at risk of having their liberty permanently taken away by government prosecutors. It is difficult to imagine a more difficult venue than the Yakima Valley when it comes to defending the right of those accused of crimes. Adam has been a voice for the voiceless in the Valley for as long as I can remember. I cannot think of anyone who has contributed more to protecting the rights of accused people than Mr. Moore.

Civic Leader Award: Recipients are attorneys, individuals or organizations that represent or advocate on behalf of people or legal issues regarding civil rights, civil liberties, or basic human rights such as freedom from discrimination, protection from abuse, or obtaining essential human services such as food, healthcare and shelter. The following persons are being recognized for their distinguished service, with a brief statement from their nominator:

2015

Joint Award

Larry Gossett & Bob Santos

Mr. Gossett and Mr. Santos are surviving members of what has come to be known as “The Gang of Four”, four Seattle leaders from diverse racial communities who came together through struggle to fight for civil rights and social change, and through it, developed life-long friendships and bonds. They worked in their respective communities and separately lead community based organizations in support of the needs of people from their respective groups, as follows:

- Bernie Whitebear—serving and advocating on behalf of Native Americans and Alaskan Natives in urban Seattle; founding the United Indians of All Tribes;
- Roberto Maestas—serving and advocating on behalf of Chicano/Latinos; founding El Centro de la Raza;
- Larry Gossett—serving and advocating on behalf of African Americans in the Central Area; from April 1979 until December 1993, he was the executive director of Seattle's [Central Area Motivation Program \(CAMP\)](#).
- Bob Santos—serving and advocating on behalf of Asian/Pacific Islanders in the Chinatown/International District; from 1972 to 1989, he was executive director of the International District Improvement Association (Inter*Im)

Since 1993, **Larry Gossett** has served on the King County Council. Councilmember Gossett is a highly respected community leader who has long advocated for the underrepresented and underprivileged in King County for his entire career. He has long been an advocate to for programs that help inner-city youth and to reduce racial and class disparities in the local criminal justice system. He was the featured speaker at the Civil Rights Law Section’s 2014 Annual Meeting.

From 1989 to 1993, **Bob Santos** oversaw the Seattle Chinatown/International District Preservation Authority, and served as Regional Director of the Dept. of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) from 1994 to 2001. His 2002 autobiography, *Hum Bows, Not Hot Dogs!*, captures the multiracial coalitions that comprised Seattle’s civil rights movements in the late 1960s & 70s. Shortly after the book’s publication, he returned as Executive Director of Inter*Im until retiring in 2005.

Presentation of Awards

The announced recipients along with the 2016 Civic Leader Award recipient will be presented their awards at the Civil Rights Law Section Annual Meeting on September 23. Shortly an announcement for nominations for the 2016 Civic Leader Award will also be posted. Please look for further announcements regarding the nominations and the Annual Meeting.

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