



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jan. 26, 2017

Contact: Jennifer Olegario, WSBA Communications Manager, 206-727-821, jennifero@wsba.org

Judge Gregory D. Sypolt Receives WSBA Local Hero Award

Retired Spokane Superior Court judge honored for commitment to removing barriers to justice

SEATTLE — The Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) has chosen The **Honorable Gregory D. Sypolt** (Ret.) for its Local Hero Award in recognition of his longstanding, demonstrated commitment to diversity. The award is given to those who have made noteworthy contributions to their communities. WSBA President Robin Haynes presented the award at a luncheon in Spokane on Jan. 26. Sypolt was nominated by the Spokane County Bar Association.

Judge Sypolt, a graduate of Gonzaga University Law School, had already served many years in the Spokane County Public Defender's office when he was appointed to Spokane County Superior Court and began his first term in 1997. He was reelected in 2000, 2004, and 2008.

"Judge Sypolt's service as both a public defender and Spokane County Superior Court judge demonstrate his lifetime commitment to public service," said Spokane attorney William C. Maxey.

Judge Sypolt is co-founder of the Diversity Section of the Spokane County Bar Association (SCBA). Until his retirement, he was a member of the Washington Supreme Court Minority and Justice Commission and served as co-chair of the Justice without Barriers Committee. Judge Sypolt participated in the Rotary Club, Volunteers of America, and Career Path Services, a nonprofit business dedicated to connecting qualified workers with employers.

He also served as trustee of the state Superior Court Judges Association 2007-2010. As a juvenile court judge in 2001, the judge instituted the Racial Disproportionality Committee for the Juvenile Court and Family Treatment Court. In 2012, he was awarded the Distinguished Judicial Service award from Gonzaga University School of Law.

"I have been so very proud and amazed at (Sypolt's) undaunted commitment to attending and supporting local important events and activities, such as Unity in the Community and SCBA diversity luncheons and programs," said Spokane County Superior Court Judge Linda G. Tompkins. "Despite his own mobility limitations, Judge Sypolt has always been — and shown us how to be — a dedicated and unwavering profile in courage."

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 38,000 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.

###