A Message from the 2015 Access to Justice Board Chair

On behalf of the Access to Justice (ATJ) Board, it gives me great pleasure to share with you our 2014–2015 Annual Report. This year’s report comes to you in a dynamic new format that I think expresses the energy and enthusiastic commitment of ATJ Board members as well as our many stakeholders in the Alliance for Equal Justice who share our values, vision, and mission. Additional information about the work of the ATJ Board can be found on our website at www.wsba.org/atj.

The ATJ Board, its committees, and its amazing volunteers have been incredibly industrious these past 12 months. Not only have we responded positively to the recommendations in our 20th Anniversary evaluation (Tull Report), but we have begun to build an equitable justice movement through our Leadership Academy. We look to the future with serious planning considerations and service implementations for Washington residents who are low-income, marginalized, and disenfranchised.

Highlights of this past year include resurrecting our biennial conference — to be held in Wenatchee, June 12–14 — and developing a communications plan to better communicate the work of this community. The Tull Report showed us how vital our conference was, not only for practitioners eager to connect around substantive civil legal aid issues, but also as a way for the Board to highlight its work and recruit volunteers to our committees. The Tull Report also underscored what many of us knew to be true — that the Board was sadly lacking when it came to effective communication. We are working hard to rectify this deficit and are excited about some new communications techniques, marketing, and branding — starting with this new and improved annual report — that will allow for more and better visibility in the future.

Our partnership with Seattle University School of Law and the Office of Civil Legal Aid through the Leadership Academy provides an amazing opportunity to connect emerging leaders both within and outside the legal profession. This wealth of future leaders comes together through intensive online and classroom interactions to address the real issues affecting our clients, including racial disparity in the justice system and systemic causes of poverty, and to identify ways to address problems in generative and adaptive ways — not just business as usual.

Other committees grapple with the needs of status-ineligible people, ways to use technology to overcome access barriers, and the development of plain language forms for self-represented litigants. We also celebrate the first complete year of the Pro Bono Council, a project that has exceeded its initial goal of providing a space and voice for pro bono legal services organizations throughout the state, who do so much with so little. We also thank the Equal Justice Coalition for its advocacy, educating elected officials at the federal and state levels about the need to fund civil legal aid adequately.

Maybe one day we will have the resources we need to serve every client. Until then, let me close by thanking everyone involved with access to justice for your unfailing commitment to the cause and your confirmation of our relevance. Be assured that the work continues with energy and purpose.

Best,

Ishbel Dickens
Chair, Access to Justice Board
Each year, the ATJ Board evaluates its current and intended priorities. While setting the priorities, the Board reviews the status of its current initiatives, relies on feedback from Alliance leaders and other committee members, and evaluates top needs in the community to support access to justice. Here is a snapshot of the Board’s key accomplishments over the past few years. To read the Board’s current priorities and a progress report, visit [http://goo.gl/Rny9sa](http://goo.gl/Rny9sa).

### ATJ Priorities and Accomplishments 2013–2015

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<tr>
<th>Promote leadership development through the Leadership Academy and develop best practices for the Board and its committees</th>
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<tr>
<td>• The Leadership Academy graduated 54 fellows in 2014 and welcomed 30 incoming fellows in 2015. Graduates will be delivering portions of the curriculum starting in 2015.</td>
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<td>• The Board will review best practices for developing leadership and building organizational capacity in May 2015.</td>
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<th>Oversee the evaluation, implementation, and modification of the Washington State Plan for the Delivery of Legal Services to Low-Income People (State Plan)</th>
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<td>• The Delivery System Committee is a forum to discuss immigration reform.</td>
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<td>• The Pro Bono Council was launched in 2014.</td>
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<th>Communications strategies: improve internal and external communication about ATJ issues and the work of the Board and the Alliance to address issues that face those who have been excluded from the circle of human concern</th>
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<tr>
<td>• A communications workgroup put forth a three-part strategy in April 2015.</td>
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<td>• The Board has begun regular check-ins with the WSBA and the Court, and facilitates dialogue between the Court and the Alliance.</td>
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<td>• The Access to Justice Conference is back in 2015.</td>
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<td>• Shortened and modified ATJ Board monthly meetings for better participation.</td>
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<th>Implementation of the Washington State Plan for Integrated Pro Se Assistance Service</th>
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<td>• Development of plain language forms for family law will be completed by September 2015.</td>
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<td>• Training has been provided for the Attorney General’s Office and administrative law judges re: interpreter services.</td>
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<th>Implementation and assessment strategies: develop protocols for addressing how initiatives are implemented and assessed</th>
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<td>• The Board is preparing to adopt a set of program development tools inspired by the Leadership Academy.</td>
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<td>• The Board created the ATJ Rules Committee in 2015.</td>
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<th>Support adoption and implementation of key justice system initiatives promulgated by the Board and other stakeholders</th>
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<td>• The Board supported changes to MCLE rules.</td>
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<td>• Proposed amendments to CJC 2.2 and 2.6 re: judicial guidance for pro se parties.</td>
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<td>• Proposed revisions to CR 26 re: discovery.</td>
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<th>Support efforts to eliminate bias and racial disparity in the justice system</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Developing a relationship with the Minority and Justice Commission through ATJ Board member involvement.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Incorporated understanding of bias, structural racialization, and intersectionality into leadership training.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Justice Without Barriers Committee added racial inequity into mission statement as a key feature.</td>
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ATJ Response to the 20th Anniversary Tull Report

Last June, the ATJ Board completed a comprehensive evaluation of its work since its inception in 1994. The evaluation (Tull Report) was a year-long process in planning and execution conducted by John Tull, of John A. Tull & Associates. The report was produced with support from the Washington State Bar Association and, as with all things ATJ, was a collaboration among our Alliance for Equal Justice partners, who provided direction and input. The evaluation focused on three broad issues:

- Whether the ATJ Board’s activities had succeeded in accomplishing the objectives assigned to it by the Supreme Court;
- How the ATJ Board might approach its future activities to accomplish its objectives; and
- If there are other factors that might affect how the Board undertakes new endeavors.

In addition to the 10 objectives enumerated in the Supreme Court’s order, the evaluation examined two broad questions related to the ATJ Board’s activities over the past 20 years:

- Whether it had succeeded in developing and sustaining a broadly based commitment to access to justice in Washington state and creating a viable access to justice community.
- The degree to which it had been successful in broadening public support for access to justice.

The report concluded that much of the ATJ Board’s work had been very successful — access to justice improved during the first 20 years of the ATJ Board’s work and support for access to justice has broadened beyond those in the justice system. The report also identified a number of areas that present challenges to the work of the ATJ Board. Those areas include the absence of a comprehensive communication strategy to publicize the work of the Board and members of the Alliance for Equal Justice and a lack of protocols for the implementation and evaluation of its initiatives. The report also included feedback on specific initiatives such as consideration for a more accessible and engaging ATJ Board meeting format, a recommendation to evaluate why the collaborations on the Plain Language Forms and the Technology Principles were so successful, and a recommendation to find funding to re-establish the ATJ Conference.

The report will guide the work of the Board in the years to come. The ATJ Board began with the communications strategy and presented a comprehensive communications strategy this past spring. The ATJ Board has also begun establishing a singular protocol for the planning, resourcing, outcome identification, and assessment of its work and projects and initiatives. The Tull Report is rich ground to till to improve the Supreme Court’s mandate to the ATJ Board to ensure access to justice in Washington state.

Timeline: 20th anniversary milestones

On May 14, 2014, the Access to Justice Board, along with the Washington Supreme Court, celebrated its 20th anniversary. Over 184 partners, supporters, and members came together to celebrate two decades of working to make the justice system accessible to the most vulnerable in Washington state.

1994: Supreme Court signs Access to Justice Board Order
1995: ATJ Board adopts the first Hallmarks; establishes the Equal Justice Coalition

Pictured: Past and present ATJ Board members and staff gathered together to celebrate the Board’s 20th anniversary.
The ATJ Delivery System Committee (DSCo) is focused on working together to ensure that all people in Washington state are able to access a full range of civil legal services from one of our state’s many legal aid providers. As a part of this role, DSCo assists the ATJ Board in tracking the effectiveness and development of Washington’s network of civil legal services and promotes adherence to our shared Hallmarks of an Effective Legal Aid System and our Plan for the Delivery of Civil Legal Aid to Low-Income People in Washington State (State Plan).

DSCo is comprised of legal aid service providers and funders from across the state. The committee uses three strategies to advance its work:

1. **Convening as a group to share, discuss, and analyze** the changing economic and political landscape that impacts the scope and breadth of client needs.
2. **Engaging in strategic planning**, using the Hallmarks and State Plan as a lens, to assess the legal aid delivery system and its responsiveness to changes in client need.
3. **Making recommendations to the ATJ Board** and other participants in the delivery system about adaptations and new approaches to the existing legal aid delivery system that will address unmet needs and underserved client groups.

In light of these strategies, DSCo convened in 2014 and discussed the decline in available civil legal services to those who are unable to receive legal services funded by federal or state grants due to their immigration status. Due to fluctuations in the availability of unrestricted funding, civil legal aid providers who prioritize services for status-ineligible people, such as the Northwest Immigrants’ Rights Project (NWIRP) and Columbia Legal Services (CLS), have lost staff and consequently have lost some capacity to provide services to this client population. The result is a large gap in services to status-ineligible people in Washington, who are not getting their civil legal needs met by the current delivery system.

To address this issue, DSCo formed a workgroup, led by NWIRP and CLS, to further evaluate the issue and develop recommendations. The workgroup was a collaborative effort between civil legal service providers statewide and included representatives from NWIRP, CLS, King County Bar Association, Clark County Volunteer Lawyer Program, Snohomish County Legal Services, Pro Bono Council, Seattle Community Law Center, TeamChild, Washington State Bar Association, Northwest Justice Project, and the ATJ Board. The goal of the workgroup was to create a solution that would address the gap in service, complement the current delivery system, and be supported by all members of the delivery system.

Through meeting and conversation, the workgroup was able to make progress towards this goal. At the end of 2014, the workgroup members presented DSCo with a proposal that was crafted and supported by providers statewide. This proposal, which was adopted by DSCo and recommended to the ATJ Board, asked for the prioritization of any additional unrestricted Alliance for Equal Justice resources to address the highest priority needs of the status-ineligible population. The adopted proposal resulted in restoring and stabilizing staff attorney capacity at NWIRP and providing support to volunteer attorneys statewide. This effort demonstrates how DSCo can facilitate civil legal service providers working together to achieve client needs statewide.
The Plain Language Forms Project is a collaborative effort of the ATJ Board, the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), and the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) to translate our state’s mandatory family court forms into plain language. Representatives from these entities and other stakeholders met to consider the most effective approach to improving access for self-represented litigants, consistent with the findings in the ATJ Board’s 2006 State Plan. The consensus was to focus on simplifying the mandatory court forms by converting them into plain language.

With funding from the ATJ Board and WSBA, the team contracted with Transcend, a California company that specializes in the plain language translation of court forms and has ample experience converting court forms into plain English. The overall project was led by a group of dedicated, hard-working volunteers who developed and approved the plain language forms. From early 2011 through the spring of 2015, the Plain Language Forms Team completed the conversion of 211 family law court forms.

What is Plain Language?
Plain language is text that relies on words and images that are easily understood, and that is organized and formatted in ways that are inviting and intuitive for the reader. Plain language brings the information within reach, making the reader more independent and better informed. For instance, when court forms use legal terms that are too complex for the average reader to understand, they are unable to complete the forms. By making simple language changes, e.g., using “immediate” instead of “ex parte,” “person asking for order” instead of “petitioner,” or “divorce” instead of “dissolution,” persons who read and comprehend at a fifth- to seventh-grade level are more likely to be able to complete the forms.

Why Use Plain Language on Washington Court Forms?
There is a Plain Language Movement in this country. The increasing complexity of court forms and procedures, a growing poverty population that is culturally and linguistically diverse, increasing numbers of self-represented litigants in the courts, and a reduction in funding to support civil legal aid programs and programs that support volunteer attorneys are factors driving this movement. While the Plain Language Movement does not completely solve the challenge of meaningful access to the courts, it is pushing many in the legal profession and the judiciary to take a critical look at one of the most significant barriers to access — the forms written by lawyers and judges in a language that only they understand.

When Will the Plain Language Forms Become Mandatory and Replace the Current Forms?
In early 2015, the Plain Language Executive Committee reviewed comments submitted to the AOC website and from other stakeholders. All the forms will be posted for official comment from May 1 to July 1, 2015. Revisions and final edits will be completed in July and August. Final versions will be posted on Sept. 1, 2015, three months before implementation. The Court will adopt forms for mandatory use on Dec. 1, 2015.
My first day on the job as the program director of the Volunteer Legal Services Program for the Tacoma-Pierce County Bar Association in the summer of 2001 was lonely — the prior director had resigned and her assistant had quickly found another job. The phone was not quiet, however, and once I located my volunteer resources — a box of notecards containing the names, contact information, and practice areas of 50 or so attorneys — I began to get an idea of what I was up against. I suddenly felt very lonely.

I remember that day often, especially now that we’ve come such a long way in addressing the need to support pro bono programs in our state. These programs, which despite low salaries, lack of benefits, high turnover, difficulty in recruiting and retaining volunteers and enormous need for our services, play a vital role in the Alliance, serving thousands of low-income people every year.

After several earlier attempts by our community to give a voice to all Washington pro bono programs, we finally fulfilled the mandate of our State Plan to institutionalize pro bono support. In 2014, Beth Leonard, a highly qualified and gifted young attorney, became the manager of our first Pro Bono Council. The PBC was formed, guidelines for its composition and operation were adopted, mission, vision, goals and priorities were developed, and we were on our way!

The PBC’s first year was exciting, eventful, and fulfilling for all our programs. We adopted professional standards as guidelines for all Washington programs, developed a quarterly newsletter to feature our work, expanded pro bono participation in key Alliance committees and projects, and finally satisfied the need for a true voice to speak for the diversity and strength of all our programs.

For me, the support received from the PBC this past year has been so gratifying — in particular, the undertaking of a tedious but incredibly important project in which Beth worked with the referral hotline CLEAR (Coordinated Legal Education Advice & Referral) to clean up referral criteria for each of our programs; the ability we now have to work together to evaluate, discuss, and hopefully implement a meaningful program such as the Washington Web Lawyer proposal approved by the ATJ Board earlier this year; and the wonderful, successful collaboration with Northwest Justice Project on the Pro Bono Innovation (PIG) Grant, which would not have been possible without Beth and the new Pro Bono Council.

Congratulations to all on a wonderful year — every step we have taken means more, and better, services for our clients and our communities throughout Washington.

Laurie Davenport, Program Director
Tacoma-Pierce County Bar Association Volunteer Legal Services Program
The Equal Justice Coalition (EJC) is a committee of the ATJ Board that works to ensure that the rule of law is preserved and that all people receive equal justice. We educate policymakers, the public, and the media about the importance of civil legal aid in our communities and, through grassroots advocacy, seek public funding for civil legal aid on behalf of low-income communities in Washington state. In 2014, the EJC’s advocacy efforts helped to successfully secure funding at the federal, state, and local levels.

**Federal Funding**
In April 2014, the EJC led a delegation to Washington, D.C. as part of the American Bar Association advocacy day (ABA Day). In two days, we met with each Washington state Congress member and senator to urge support for the Legal Services Corporation (LSC), which provides federal funding to civil legal aid programs in all 50 states, and the Northwest Justice Project (NJP), which is the sole recipient of Washington state’s LSC funds. Thanks in part to these efforts, LSC received an increase in funding for FY 2015, which resulted in funding of $6.4 million for NJP. While this was not a substantial increase from the previous year’s funding ($6.276 million), this funding did allow NJP to preserve the valuable services that low-income people depend on to secure justice and address fundamental human needs.

Pictured: The EJC delegation met with Senator Maria Cantwell during ABA Day to advocate for the importance of increased federal legal aid funding. Pictured from left to right: EJC Chair Michael Pelliciotti, LFW Executive Director Caitlin Davis Carlson, WSBA Past-President Patrick Palace, former Washington State Attorney General Rob McKenna, Senator Maria Cantwell, Supreme Court Justice Debra Stephens, and former EJC Director Eric Gonzalez.
**State Funding**
The EJC successfully communicated the need for funding the state Office of Civil Legal Aid (OCLA) to our Washington state legislators. OCLA provides state funding to NJP and 17 local volunteer programs. In 2013, the EJC helped to maintain that critical funding at $23.2 million. Its efforts in 2014 resulted in a one-time appropriation of $280,000 to replace and upgrade the antiquated technology of NJP’s statewide legal aid hotline — CLEAR. CLEAR serves as the gateway for thousands of low-income people to secure legal representation, advice, and referrals.

**Local Funding**
In addition to its critical state and federal advocacy, the EJC coordinated an effort with Eastside Legal Assistance Program, Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, Seattle Community Law Center, Solid Ground Family Assistance Program, TeamChild, and Unemployment Law Project to help secure full funding in the King County budget for civil legal aid. In the county’s first biennial budget (FY 2015–16), legal aid funding was increased to $1.05 million among the six organizations.

In 2015–16, the EJC will continue to focus on increasing public funding for legal aid at all levels of government, with special attention to this year’s state legislative session, where budget cuts are likely in all areas of state funding in the state’s FY15–17 budget. EJC is educating lawmakers on the importance of fully funding OCLA’s budget. With an increase of $3.6 million in funding for OCLA, thousands more low-income families and individuals who have nowhere else to turn will receive essential legal aid services. This funding level will not meet the full demand for legal assistance, but it will help to stabilize a legal aid system that operates far below the demonstrated need. Additionally, the EJC will be working with the ATJ Board and other committees to better communicate to the public about the importance of access to justice.

**Alliance for Equal Justice**
The Alliance for Equal Justice (Alliance) is a statewide network of organizations providing a continuum of legal aid to poor and disadvantaged individuals and families. Providing information, advice, and representation, the Alliance serves those who have nowhere else to turn. The ATJ Board has a long history of supporting and working with the Alliance as a convener and collaborator to improve access to justice. The ATJ Board is proud to work alongside the many Alliance members who champion for justice equality. To learn more about the Alliance, visit [www.allianceforequaljustice.org](http://www.allianceforequaljustice.org).

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**2007: Request for Accommodation by Persons with Disabilities**

**2009: Launch of the Washington State Plan for Integrated Pro Se Assistance Services**
In 2004, the Washington Supreme Court issued an order adopting the Washington State Access to Justice Technology Principles. The principles, which were developed by the Access to Justice Board’s Technology Committee, guide the work of the Supreme Court and the courts and agencies under the authority of the Court. The Technology Committee continues to support the application of the principles by making recommendations based on public needs; whether the matters are technologically sound, workable and will improve access to justice; and whether they will eliminate or reduce barriers and obstacles. The principles can be found online at www.atjweb.org/read-the-principles.

Four examples of how the ATJ Technology Principles have made a difference:

- **Public contract oversight:** When the court is looking to purchase new software for its records, the technology principles must be applied to all new projects or products.
- **Judicial case management systems support:** The technology principles don’t cease to be relevant after the software has been chosen, but continue to be important as systems are being developed and implemented. The Washington State Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) is developing two new statewide case management systems (CMS) that would enable the AOC to support the business functions of the state superior courts and county clerks, and the state courts of limited jurisdiction, including the municipal and district courts, by acquiring and deploying a case management system. Two members of the Technology Committee represent the ATJ Board on the Court Users Work Group (CUWG), which is tasked with assisting in the development of the two systems. These representatives participate in the discussions from the perspective of potential public and self-represented litigant users.

In 2015–16, representatives will continue to stay involved as the Superior Court CMS CUWG tests the application of the proposed product and the Courts of Limited Jurisdictions CMS CUWG documents processes to be included in the new CMS.

- **Court rule review/advisory:** Court rules that involve technology can have a significant impact on access to justice. The technology principles can help rule makers understand those impacts. This year, the committee worked on three important rules:
  - Drafting and adopting Civil Rule 34, which impacts the identification and discovery of electronically stored information
  - Recommending changes to Civil Rule 33, which deals with interrogatories to parties
  - Currently working on Civil Rule 26, to assure that necessary changes will increase efficient, meaningful, and fair discovery for all, including self-represented litigants

In 2014, the Technology Committee also developed a set of Best Practices for Providing Access to Court Information in Electronic Form Report (Best Practices). This project was supported by the American Bar Association with funding from the Public Welfare Foundation.

The initial task was to evaluate existing electronic filing arrangements and records systems, and to develop key considerations for an accessible and quality system. Key features of the Best Practices are to provide equal, affordable, and usable access to court information in electronic format along with an electronic document delivery system. Central to the Best Practices is the need to provide guidelines for the creation of court information systems across the country that are accessible to the public and users of the court system.

The Technology Committee is developing a plan to disseminate the Best Practices report to the public and court systems nationwide through articles, fostering social media and blog commentary, and workshops designed to engage the legal community in discussion and planning in implementing the Best Practices.
The Leadership Development Committee is responsible for creating and implementing a statewide leadership development plan for lawyers, law students, and other members of the Washington Alliance for Equal Justice (Alliance) to more effectively lead the Alliance, its members, and stakeholder organizations in providing civil legal aid. The Leadership Development Committee recommends and recruits members for the ATJ Board and nominates members for the civil legal aid oversight committee. This last year, the committee merged with the Law School Relations Committee and took on many of its responsibilities. One of the committee’s most exciting projects is the Equal Justice Community Leadership Academy (Academy).

The Washington State Equal Justice Community Leadership Academy

Five years in the making, the Academy is a transformative year-long endeavor through which experienced and emerging Alliance leaders develop a comprehensive set of leadership skills. It is a collaborative initiative supported by the Washington Supreme Court, the Washington State Bar Association, Seattle University School of Law, the Legal Foundation of Washington, and the Washington Office of Civil Legal Aid. The Academy provides Washington’s equal justice community with an opportunity to create a more deliberate and systematic approach to leadership and succession planning that builds upon the community’s past achievements while ensuring continuity and expansion of the equal justice movement in Washington. The Academy trains new leaders at all levels who reflect the diversity of the advocacy and client communities. The curriculum is designed to create a broader, more diverse, skilled, and effective community of equal justice leaders.

Curriculum

The Academy implements the Seven Leadership Competencies model curriculum designed and facilitated by the Sargent Shriver National Poverty Law Center. Fellows learn to apply these competencies at four levels: self, organizational, the Alliance, and the social justice movement. The curriculum engages fellows in learning the seven core competencies:

- Communicating strategic intent
- Self-awareness
- Achieving workable unity
- Systems and strategic thinking
- Delivering on strategic intent
- Developing new leaders
- Fostering the process of renewal

Each Academy cohort gathers for four retreats hosted by Seattle University School of Law, and participates in multiple web-based distance learning activities between retreats.

The growing justice gap is one of the most serious challenges facing the legal profession and our communities today. If justice is not available to all, we’re simply not meeting our obligation to the public.

– Paula Littlewood, Executive Director, Washington State Bar Association
Cohorts I and II
In 2013, the first year of the Academy, the Shriver Center faculty taught Cohort I. The fellows were primarily senior level leaders and executive directors of Alliance partner agencies, facilitating organizational acceptance for future Academy participants.

Last year, Cohort II included a mix of senior and mid-level leaders. There were 21 attorneys and 7 other professions. Cohort I graduates helped to recruit Cohort II and participated as mentors and leadership storytellers for Cohort II. The Academy met its compositional goals for Cohort II:

- One-fourth of the participants were positional leaders in Alliance organizations and pro bono programs
- One-fourth were experienced attorneys and advocates employed by Alliance organizations
- One-fourth were from the Alliance and Access to Justice communities who do not represent the first two categories
- One-fourth were leaders in community-based organizations that partner with Alliance providers

“While I knew many participants, the exercise of developing and telling our leadership stories created bonds that will continue to strengthen Washington’s Alliance for Equal Justice in a real way,” said Catherine Brown, assistant director, Center for Law in Public Service Gonzaga University School of Law, Cohort II graduate.

Cohort III
Cohort III began in April 2015. The Academy met its compositional goals for Cohort III:

- One-third of the participants come from positions outside the Alliance
- One-third are people of color
- Half are from outside King County

In February 2015, 20 graduates from Cohorts I and II completed “boot camp” training in preparation to teach Cohort III. Responsibility and oversight for the Academy will continue to transition over the next few years with graduates stepping into the role of Academy faculty. Graduates will also serve on the Academy’s Steering Committee and will be encouraged to participate with the Access to Justice Board and its committees.

“I have watched dozens of cohort graduates drastically improve their leadership abilities and I look forward to sharing that experience with advocates from all over the state,” said Breean Beggs, ATJ Board member, chair of the Leadership Development Committee, and fellow in Cohort III.
The Access to Justice Board’s mission

The Washington State Access to Justice Board was established by a Washington Supreme Court Order in 1994. Recognizing that access to the civil justice system is a fundamental right, the Access to Justice Board works to achieve equal access for those facing economic and other significant barriers.

Board members, committee chairs, and staff

**Board Members (2014–2015)**
Hon. Lisa L. Atkinson, Law Office of Lisa L. Atkinson
Kirsten Barron, Barron Smith Daugert, PLLC
Breean L. Beggs, Paukert & Trompman, PLLC
Hon. Anita Crawford-Willis, Office of Administrative Hearings
Ishbel Dickens, Chair, National Manufactured Home Owners Association
Nicholas P. Gellert, Perkins Coie, LLP
Lynn Greiner, Greiner Law Office
Geoffrey G. Revelle, Chair-elect, Stoel Rives
Andrew N. Sachs, Wrenn Law Group
Dr. Marion Smith Jr., Seattle Public Schools

**Committee Chairs (2014–2015)**
Delivery System Committee Co-chairs: Nicholas Gellert and Geoff Revelle
Equal Justice Coalition Chair: Mike Pellicciotti
Justice Without Barriers Co-chairs: Hon. Greg Sypolt and Josefina Ramirez
Leadership Development Committee Co-chairs: Hon. Lisa Atkinson and Breean Beggs
Pro Bono Council Co-chairs: Susan Arney and Laurie Davenport
Technology Committee Co-chairs: Christina Kale and Rita Dermody

**Staff**
Terra Nevitt, Access to Justice Board Manager
Bonnie M. Sterken, Justice Programs Coordinator