



## Access to Justice Hallmarks, Vision, and Values Statements

### Summary Statement

The Hallmarks, Vision and Values statements were created through an inclusive grassroots process and included voices of community service providers, legal service providers, and people with lived experience in rural communities across Washington State. Hallmarks, Vision and Values Statements were crafted by and for the communities we serve. These Hallmarks are intended to serve as a guide for legal aid workers, lawyers, and judges, and are created in close partnership with the communities they serve.

### Our Shared Vision

We envision a future where equitable access to legal aid is the cornerstone, systemic racism is actively identified and dismantled, diversity and inclusion flourish, culturally competent service delivery is prioritized, education fuels systemic change, and voices that have long been silenced are amplified.

### Equitable Access for All

We will work endlessly to ensure the justice system is equitable for all people, of any race, ethnicity, background, or economic circumstance. We commit to dismantling structural barriers, fostering inclusivity, that honors belongingness and ensures equity and justice for all.

### Identifying & Dismantling Systemic Racism

We commit to identifying and dismantling systemic racism and eliminating barriers within the justice system, ensuring that every person is treated equitably and without bias, for a more just and inclusive society.

### Inclusion & Diversity

We are dedicated to fostering a legal system where those working in the justice system have shared experiences with those they serve, historically oppressed voices are amplified, differing perspectives are welcomed, and inclusion and diversity thrive in a more just and equitable society.

### Continuous Education

We commit to ongoing and continuing education for judges, attorneys, and legal service advocates to regularly experience simulations and training that fosters empathy, respect, and a shared understanding for those we serve. We believe that continuous learning is essential to maintaining impartiality and achieving the highest standards of justice.



### **Cultural Humility**

We are committed to continual work that enhances understanding, ensures cultural humility, and fosters a system of belonging in the justice system. We acknowledge that respecting diverse cultural perspectives is essential to achieving equity within the justice system.

### **Advocacy for Systemic Change**

We commit to relentless advocacy for systemic change, driving us to challenge and transform the structures and practices that perpetuate injustice in our pursuit of a more equitable and accessible legal system for all.

### **Empowerment and Education of the Public**

We commit to fostering a foundational understanding of the legal system. To provide education that equips communities most excluded from belongingness, with the knowledge, and tools needed to advocate for transformational change.

### **Technology & Innovation**

We will intentionally seek out and harness technological innovations to enhance access to and delivery of legal services that make justice more accessible, efficient, and responsive to the needs of those we serve.

### **Meaningful Relationships**

We commit to building meaningful, lasting relationships among community service providers, and people in communities most harmed, further recognizing that collaboration and partnerships are essential to achieving a holistic and effective client-centered approach where voices that have long been silenced are amplified to achieve the most just legal system for all.

### **Trauma-Informed Practices & People First Language**

We understand and commit to prioritizing the use of trauma-informed practices and people-first language, for the well-being and dignity of all people, and to ensure a compassionate and inclusive approach to access to justice.

### **Building of Trust**

We commit to the intentional building of trust, recognizing and addressing fear of potential harm specific populations face, when seeking legal services. Further honoring each person's right to decline legal services as a crucial element of a just and inclusive legal system.

### **Language Justice**

We commit to providing full and equitable language access, ensuring that language and literacy barriers do not hinder anyone's ability to seek, understand, and receive high-quality legal services.



### **Intersectionality and Client-Centered Approach**

We value and understand the **intersectionality** of the **civil and criminal legal system** and the impact it holds on the lives of those we serve. We recognize the importance of using a client-centered approach and know that each person's unique experiences and identities should guide our path to justice for all.

### **Intentional Pursuit of Resources**

We commit to the intentional pursuit of resources that adequately fund legal help for our communities most harmed. We believe in fostering an environment where an abundance of resources can be accessed to meet the needs of the most underserved communities, in the most rural regions across the state to advance equity and justice for all.