

**NOMINATION FORM
2013 ANNUAL NCWBA PUBLIC SERVICE AND
OUTSTANDING MEMBER PROGRAM AWARDS**

Name of your organization's project: Legacy Project

**Please indicate whether your submission is for the Public Service Award or Outstanding Member Program Award:
Outstanding Member Program Award**

Name of sponsoring women's bar association: Washington Women Lawyers

Name of Sponsoring Organization's contact person: Jeanne Marie Clavier

E - mail address: jeannec@wsba.org

Telephone No: 206-727-8298

Number of members: 614

**Name of contact person for purposes of award notification:
Karrin Klotz**

E - mail address: karrink@u.washington.edu

Telephone No. 425-702-8638

**PLEASE MAKE SURE TO NOTIFY THE NCWBA OF ANY
CHANGE IN YOUR CONTACT
INFORMATION AFTER SUBMISSION OF YOUR AWARD
APPLICATION TO ENSURE
YOU RECEIVE TIMELY NOTIFICATION REGARDING WHETHER
YOU HAVE BEEN
SELECTED TO RECEIVE AN AWARD.**

**The nomination materials may be e - mailed to be received no
later than**

Thursday, January 31, 2013: Awards Chair Wendy Weigler,

E - mail:

awards@ncwba.org

Washington Women Lawyers

Washington Women Lawyers (“WWL”) was formed as an association of women lawyers in the 1970s, and formally incorporated as a non-profit corporation in 1989. Its principal purposes are to further the full integration of women in the legal profession, and to promote equal rights and opportunities for women and to prevent discrimination against them. Early members of WWL included Hon. Betty Binns Fletcher (1923-2012) and Justice Mary E. Fairhurst.

WWL’s unique structure consists of a state-level organization and twelve school and county-based chapters, each of which is membership-supported and supervised by its own board of directors. All of our board members are active participants in WWL’s mission-aligned activities. With over 600 current members, WWL represents a diverse section of the statewide legal community. Although not all counties are currently represented by a separate WWL chapter, our members are always welcome and encouraged to initiate chapters if there is sufficient demand.

Both at the state level and the chapter levels, WWL provides its members with opportunities for networking, education, and social activities. In 2012, WWL co-sponsored several CLEs and educational lectures, as well as partnering with other minority bar associations to host fundraisers, networking receptions, and awards banquets. In 2013, WWL is launching its “Plugging the Leaky Pipeline” series of roundtable discussions aimed at finding solutions to the problem of disproportionate attrition by women in the legal profession. WWL also has a robust judicial evaluations committee, which conducts confidential and impartial evaluations of candidates for judicial office within the state, and provides a qualification rating for each candidate based on consistently applied principles. Other ongoing activities include the Legacy Project, as described more fully in this application, and the WWL Foundation, which is a separate charitable organization designed and maintained to support WWL’s mission.

Each year, WWL hosts an annual event featuring an awards banquet with a keynote speaker, typically accompanied by a CLE on a relevant topic. In recent years, our annual event keynote speakers have included Justice Debra Stevens of the Washington State Supreme Court, Sarah Weddington, who successfully argued *Roe v. Wade* before the United States Supreme Court in 1973, and Connie Collingsworth, General Counsel at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. By continuing to bring relevant information and events to our membership throughout the state, WWL hopes to maintain its role as an important resource for women in the law. Its current membership is 614 members.

Legacy Project

The Legacy Project is a program established by Washington Women Lawyers (WWL) and designed to honor the heritage of women lawyers in our state by acknowledging and paying tribute to the contributions of founding members of WWL, as well as other pioneering women judges and attorneys in Washington. Interviews with these women have been recorded and preserved as a way of maintaining, honoring, and learning from that history, and as a means of sharing it with our wider legal community. The Legacy Project has conducted over 25 of these historic and important interviews to date, in three counties, and additional interviews are planned to take place in other counties in Washington state.

Excerpts of interviews given to the Legacy Project by women leaders in the Washington legal community, including Chief Justice Barbara Madsen, Justice Sandra Owens, Justice Mary E. Fairhurst, and Hon. Patricia C. Williams, among others, are included in the film, "Her Day in Court," a work that updates and builds upon the earlier film "Her Day in Court: Women and Justice in Washington State," originally produced by the Northwest Women's Law Center's Women Judges History Project to mark the state's centennial in 1989. The Legacy Project continues to work on this important piece of living history by seeking out and conducting ongoing interviews with leading women lawyers and judges in Washington. The Legacy Project has also facilitated, and will continue to provide, public screenings of the updated film, followed by live presentations by Legacy Project contributors on the continuing issues identified in the interviews, to various community groups and business organizations. The film and related presentations are presented as an ongoing educational project, with the goal of addressing continuing discrimination and inequality issues in the legal profession, as well as strategies to overcome those challenges. In 2012, WWL's screenings of the film were very well received by several diverse audiences, and WWL believes that the Legacy Project will continue to be a rich source of historical information in the years to come.

By gathering, acknowledging, and making available the first-hand knowledge and experiences of groundbreaking women in the Washington legal community, the Legacy Project serves as a reminder of what has already been achieved, as well as the challenges that still remain to be addressed. Our goal is to continue to provide a living link between our predecessors and new generations of women lawyers by carrying this important project forward.

A copy of the film and materials consisting of the following have been sent to the sources listed below: an article from *The Economist* entitled "Closing the Gap"; an article from Washington State Bar News entitled "Washington Women Lawyers: Diversity and Opportunity in the Law"; an article from *Newsweek* entitled "Even Female Law Partners Suffer Wage Disparities"; an article from the Minority Corporate Counsel Association entitled "New Millennium: Same Glass Ceiling?"; and a news release from the Bureau of

Labor Statistics dated December 28, 2011 entitled “Women’s Earnings In Washington-2010”.

Sources to date are:

1. Kathryn A. Lee, Ph.D., J.D.
Professor of Political Science
Dept. of Political Science
Whitworth University
2. Rebecca Glasgow
Attorney General’s Office
Revenue Division-State of Washington
3. Hon. Karen Seinfeld, Pierce County
Former Presiding Chief Judge, Washington State Court of Appeals
4. Seattle University Law School Women’s Caucus
5. Prof. Cherry McGee Banks, UW Bothell, Education Department
6. Myra Downing, Administrator, Gender and Justice Commission
7. K & L Gates LLP law firm – Seattle, Washington
8. Winston and Cashatt law firm – Spokane, Washington

Karrin Klotz has also shown the film and led a discussion on it at a meeting of the Puget Sound Association of Phi Beta Kappa; a meeting of professors and students involved in Human Rights majors at UW Bothell; a meeting of the American Association of University Women; and at a conference she co-organized entitled “Women in the Professions: The Next Steps” at UW Bothell.

Washington Women Lawyers plans to send the film and supporting materials to their chapter representatives in the next few months.