

# BREAKING BARRIERS



WASHINGTON  
**WWL**  
WOMEN LAWYERS

Washington Women Lawyers  
2023 Annual Banquet & Awards Ceremony  
October 7, 2023 | Seattle Art Museum

## Event Sponsors

**Davis Wright Tremaine is proud to support our friend and colleague, MaryAnn Almeida, as President of Washington Women Lawyers. We are honored to partner in furthering WWL's vision of promoting equal rights and opportunities for women in the legal profession and beyond.**

[DWT.COM](http://DWT.COM)



**PFAU COCHRAN  
VERTETIS AMALA**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW



## BREAKING BARRIERS

PCVA is tremendously proud of our women lawyers, particularly our incredible lineup of women partners: Anelga Doumanian, Liz Calora, Mallory Allen, and Colleen Durkin Peterson. Cheers to Washington Women Lawyers for its continued efforts advocating for a legal community where women lawyers can thrive.

**Catastrophic Injury • Medical Malpractice • Sexual Abuse**

800.349.PCVA | [www.pcva.law](http://www.pcva.law)

SEATTLE | TACOMA | NEW YORK

# Agenda

## **WELCOME AND THANK YOU**

Amanda Gamble and Kathryn Joy, Annual Event Co-VPs

## **KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

Jamila Johnson, Senior Counsel for The Lawyering Project

## **PRESENTATION OF CHAPTER MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARDS**

*King County* – Natasha Khanna

*Olympic Peninsula County Chapter* – Diane Cabrera

*Pierce County Chapter* – Margaret Quartararo

*Snohomish County Chapter* – Kelsey Affronte

## **PRESENTATION OF THE LEGACY AWARD**

*Presented by Amy Robinson*

Awarded to Judge Janet Chung, WA Court of Appeals, Division I

## **PRESENTATION OF THE JUSTICE MARY FAIRHURST PASSING THE TORCH AWARD**

*Presented by Emily Geddes*

Awarded to Vanessa Waldref, U.S. Attorney, Eastern District of Washington

## **PRESENTATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD**

*Presented by MaryAnn Almeida*

Awarded to Washington State Women's Commission

## **THANK TO THE OUTGOING BOARD AND PRESENTATION OF INCOMING BOARD MEMBERS**

MaryAnn Almeida

## **PASSING THE GAVEL**

MaryAnn Almeida, President 2022-2023

Dua Abudiab, President 2023-2024

## **CLOSING REMARKS**

Dua Abidab

Amanda Gamble and Kathryn Joy

## Chapter Members of the Year



**KING COUNTY CHAPTER MEMBER OF THE YEAR**  
*Natasha Khanna*

The women of the King County Chapter selected Natasha Khanna for many reasons. She is an asset to our chapter. She has been a member of KCWWL since 2018. Since that time she has been the civic affairs chair (2018 – 2022). Most recently, she spearheaded the Herculean effort to bring back the Judicial Appreciation Luncheon after the years off due to the pandemic. Natasha's connection to KCWWL runs deep, as she was also one of our scholarship recipients while she was in law school. We are grateful for Natasha's commitment to our chapter and our WWL community as a whole.



**OLYMPIC PENINSULA CHAPTER MEMBER OF THE YEAR**  
*Diane Cabrera*

Ms. Cabrera has served as the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe's prosecutor since December 2012 and was instrumental in creating Washington's second ICWA Court in Clallam County. Ms. Cabrera is an active member of the dependency court team and is highly regarded for her strong advocacy and collaboration. Ms. Cabrera also serves as a Clallam County Superior Court Pro Tem Commissioner where she presides over a number of different types of hearings. Ms. Cabrera is a regular attendee at the local bar events, pro bono fundraisers, and WWL Chapter events. Ms. Cabrera is a well-respected member of the local legal community, known for her legal acumen, a great sense of humor, and being an effective communicator. She has demonstrated mastery over her substantive area of law, and demonstrates the perspective and wisdom of a lawyer who invests in community, cares about the integrity of the court, and promotes justice within the legal system at large. Ms. Cabrera is a formal and informal mentor; she is someone who leads by example.

Ms. Cabrera was born and raised on the island of Saipan in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and has a deep interest in indigenous peoples' rights, particularly as it impacts women and children, which she has demonstrated throughout her distinguished career. Ms. Cabrera previously served as tribal prosecutor for the Crow Tribe located in south-central Montana and as a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Montana with a focus on prosecuting domestic violence and sexual assault cases committed on the Crow Reservation. Ms. Cabrera also served as an U.S. DOJ Federal/Tribal Domestic Violence Task Force member and was a participating member in a federal Indian County Working Group that culminated in the first Tribal Nations Listening Conference under U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder's leadership.

With deep gratitude for her many contributions to our local WWL chapter, local courts, and local community, the Olympic Peninsula Chapter of Washington Women Lawyers enthusiastically recognizes Attorney Diane Cabrera as our 2023 Chapter Member of the Year!

## Chapter Members of the Year



### **PIERCE COUNTY CHAPTER MEMBER OF THE YEAR**

#### *Margaret Quartararo*

Margaret Quartararo is a family law attorney with McKinley Irvin, PLLC in Tacoma. She previously worked as a Clerk for Division II of the Court of Appeals. Margaret has been Social Co-Chair for the PCWWL for two years.

Margaret was selected as PCWWL Member of the Year for her work in helping to bring back our in person events as we have returned to normal. She has brought fresh perspectives and a cheerful attitude to planning our events and getting creative in how we can improve them and involve more members (like hosting our School Supplies Drive with happy hour).



### **SNOHOMISH COUNTY CHAPTER MEMBER OF THE YEAR**

#### *Kelsey Affronte*

Kelsey was selected as the Snohomish County Chapter Member of the Year for outstanding work with Judicial Evaluation Committee (JEC). She almost single-handedly set the Snohomish JEC this year. She did an excellent job of chairing the meetings and finding other members to participate on the committee. This has been a huge part of our chapter that has been missing and we are grateful for all of Kelsey's hard work to take this project on for our chapter.

Kelsey is a Litigation Associate with Beresford Booth Lawyers in Edmonds, Washington. Kelsey grew up in Monroe and is passionate about giving back to the community. Kelsey quickly accepted the opportunity to become Chair of the Snohomish County Judicial Evaluation Committee (JEC), which was previously dormant, and is a member of the State JEC. In addition to her WWL contributions, Kelsey is on the Board of Directors for Dawson Place Child Advocacy Center in Everett - which houses many necessary service providers in one place to reduce the traumatization of child abuse victims. Formerly, Kelsey was a Snohomish County Prosecutor - primarily focused on Felony Domestic Violence cases and assisted several plaintiffs in their lawsuit against Backpage.com. Kelsey hopes her work with WWL and the JECs will improve the justice system for all.

## Keynote Speaker



### **JAMILA JOHNSON**

*Senior Counsel for The Lawyering Project*

Jamila Johnson is a reproductive rights litigator at The Lawyering Project, where she uses the law to improve abortion access and uphold the rights and dignity of people seeking and providing reproductive care. She is also one of 22 million people capable of pregnancy living in a state where abortion is illegal. Jamila joined the Lawyering Project after almost a decade in private practice and nearly six years litigating around the remains of slavery and Jim Crow in Louisiana's criminal systems. Jamila was the Deputy Director at the Promise of Justice Initiative (PJI), where she ran its End Plantation Prisons Project. She also was PJI's Managing Attorney for its Jim Crow Jury Project and led a mass post-conviction project during the pandemic for those in prison with Jim Crow jury verdicts. Before that, Jamila led Southern Poverty Law Center's criminal justice work for the state of Louisiana. Born in Walla Walla, Washington, and raised in Seattle, Jamila was a shareholder at Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt and holds a law degree from the University of Washington School of Law. She serves on the board of Columbia Legal Services.

## Legacy Award



### **JUDGE JANET CHUNG**

*Court of Appeals, Division 1*

Judge Janet Chung was elected to the Washington State Court of Appeals, Division I, in November 2022 after being appointed by Governor Jay Inslee. She is the first Korean American woman judge in Washington state to serve on the Court of Appeals.

Judge Chung's involvement in Washington Women Lawyers and the Washington legal community goes back decades. She served numerous positions on the state WWL boards, initially as VP of Judicial Affairs, Chair of the Judicial Evaluations Committee and President of Washington Women Lawyers in 2007-2008.

Judge Chung's legal experience prior to the bench has spanned the private and public sector. Early in her legal career, Chung earned a fellowship with the National Partnership for Women & Families and a judicial clerkship with Judge Lee H. Rosenthal of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas. She later served as the legal and legislative counsel at Legal Voice (formerly the Northwest Women's Law Center), whose mission is to advance and defend the rights of women and LGBTQ+ people in the Northwest through litigation, legislative advocacy, and legal rights education.

Prior to her appointment to the bench, Judge Chung was the advocacy director at the Columbia Legal Service (CLS), a state-wide agency, where she continued her efforts for social justice. At CLS, she helped guide and implement a strategic refocus of CLS's work to better serve populations unable to access traditional legal aid

*(cont. next page)*

*(Legacy Award: Judge Janet Chung—cont. from previous page)*

services, including people who are incarcerated and people who lack U.S. legal status, particularly agricultural workers.

Judge Chung was also recently recognized as the 2023 Woman of the Year by Seattle University School of Law and the Womxn's Law Caucus where she was acknowledged for her deep contributions to Seattle University's Access to Justice Institute and Public Interest Law Foundation, and mentorship and inspiration to law students having hosted so many as interns and externs in her advocacy work.

## Justice Mary Fairhurst Passing the Torch Award



### **VANESSA WALDREF**

*U.S. Attorney, Eastern District*

Vanessa R. Waldref became the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Washington on October 7, 2021. U.S. Attorney Waldref was nominated by President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. on July 26, 2021, and was unanimously confirmed by the Senate on September 30, 2021. Ms. Waldref is responsible for overseeing the prosecution of any federal criminal case brought within the 20 counties of Eastern Washington. The Office also represents the United States in all civil matters brought within this territory.

Ms. Waldref has been a transformative influence for many women in Washington. As the first woman U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Washington, she is a trailblazer. Her spirit for mentoring women lawyers, however, started long before her historic appointment. While serving as an Assistant United States Attorney in the office, she had an immense role in shaping the character of the law clerk program, a major pipeline for future AUSA positions. As part of the team recruiting for and supervising the program, Ms. Waldref helped significantly increase the number of women applying for and being selected as law clerks. What used to be another male dominated space in the legal profession transformed to see gender parity in hiring, and then some. For a several year period, over 90 percent of the law clerks hired for the two-year internship were women.

Ms. Waldref has worked tirelessly to keep our district safe by prosecuting violent offenders, including multiple murderers, international pedophiles, and leading several of the largest fraud cases in Eastern Washington History. Ms. Waldref also has expanded the office's civil rights practice, and targeted those whose distribution of deadly opioids have devastated communities and families. In her role as U.S. Attorney, she has also sought to ensure justice for women, who have been victims of domestic abuse and violence. Late last year, Ms. Waldref was even tapped by Attorney General Merrick Garland to lead the Attorney General's Advisory Subcommittee on Environmental Justice. Ms. Waldref is a native of Spokane with deep roots in Eastern Washington. Ms. Waldref served as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Washington from 2013 to 2020, handling a wide variety of civil and criminal cases. Most recently, U.S. Attorney Waldref served as a Trial Attorney with the Environment and Natural Resources Division of the United States Department of Justice where she litigated cases in federal courts around the country arising under a range of environmental protection statutes. Since 2015, Ms. Waldref has taught courses in Environmental Law, Labor & Employment Law, and Conflict of Laws at Gonzaga University School of Law.

## **WASHINGTON STATE WOMEN'S COMMISSION**



**WASHINGTON STATE  
WOMEN'S COMMISSION**

The Washington State Women's Commission was created by statute in 2018 to shape the development of public policy and efficient delivery of governmental services to meet the needs of women. It seeks to improve the life of every woman by ensuring equitable opportunities and removing systemic barriers through engagement, advocacy, and public policy, while being inclusive of our diverse populations.

This year, the Women's Commission was integral in legislation to secure critical access to women's healthcare. Its 2023 legislative priorities included HB 1469/SB 5489, the shield law protecting individuals who receive reproductive health care in Washington from extradition or investigation in other states. The bill was signed into law on April 27, 2023. The Commission also advocated for the passage of HB 1340/SB 5400, protecting health care providers who participate in reproductive health care services or gender-affirming treatment from being subject to professional discipline based on that participation. In addition to its advocacy efforts regarding reproductive and gender-affirming health care, the Commission worked on legislation to advance the safety of women and promote economic security and opportunity.





*Thank You to Our Sponsors*

Event Sponsors



Diamond Sponsor



Gold Sponsors



Silver Sponsors



Bronze Sponsors



Friend Sponsors



## 2022-2023 State Board Members

*Thank you for your dedication and service over the past year.*

**PRESIDENT**

*MaryAnn Almeida*

**PRESIDENT-ELECT**

*Dua Abudiab*

**PAST PRESIDENT**

*Elizabeth Calora*

**TREASURER**

*Kari Petrasek*

**SECRETARY**

*Lesley O'Neill*

**ANNUAL EVENT Co-VPs**

*Amanda Gamble  
Kathryn Joy*

**DIVERSITY Co-VPs**

*Cristina Sepe  
Irene Motles*

**GENDER & JUSTICE COMMISSION**

**REPRESENTATIVE**

*Dua Abudiab*

**GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS VP**

*Vacant*

**JUDICIAL EVALUATION COMMITTEE**

*Aryn Masters  
Kiera Miller*

**MEMBERSHIP Co-VPs**

*Jessica Andrade  
Jessica Kerr*

**NCWBA LIAISON**

*Jeanne Marie Clavere*

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**Co-VPs**

*Kimberly Holdiman  
Melissa Jaffe*

**PUBLIC SERVICE VP**

*Jenna Mark*

**PUBLIC SERVICE VP**

*Kristen Valore*

**PUBLICITY VP**

*Quinn Dalan*

**WWL FOUNDATION LIAISON**

*Amy Robinson*

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

*Ann Baus*

## 2023-2024 Proposed State Board Members

**PRESIDENT**

*Dua Abudiab*

**PRESIDENT-ELECT**

*Quinn Dalan*

**PAST PRESIDENT**

*MaryAnn Almeida*

**TREASURER**

*Kari Petrasek*

**SECRETARY**

*Geraldine Enrico*

**ANNUAL EVENT VPs**

*Amanda Gamble  
Kathryn Joy*

**DIVERSITY VPs**

*Cristina Sepe  
Cheryl Farrish*

**GENDER & JUSTICE COMMISSION**

**REPRESENTATIVE**

*Irene Motles*

**GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS VPs**

*Martha Phelps  
Lindy Laurence*

**JUDICIAL EVALUATION**

**COMMITTEE VPs**

*Kiera Miller  
Wendy Winfield*

**MEMBERSHIP VPs**

*Jessica Kerr  
Janelle Chase Fazio*

**NCWBA LIAISON**

*Jeanne Marie Clavere*

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT VPs**

*Kimberly Holdiman  
Melissa Jaffe*

**PUBLIC SERVICE VPs**

*Jenna Mark  
Nichole Fisher*

**RECORDS ADVISOR (NON-VOTING)**

*Lesley A. O'Neill*

**WEBSITE ADVISOR (NON-VOTING)**

*Elizabeth Calora*



The Washington Women Lawyers Foundation is a nonprofit organization formed in 1997 as an IRS 501 (c)(3) entity to act as the charitable arm of Washington Women Lawyers (WWL). The Foundation's mission, consistent with WWL, is to support "educational opportunities and efforts relating to the elimination of discrimination and the support and promotion of diversification and proportional representation of women in the legal profession."

We have served Washington for two decades and remain ever grateful for the staunch support of WWL and its members. The generous donations we continue to receive through your contributions at the WWL Annual Event and throughout the year have allowed us to contribute to a host of worthy endeavors that advance our collective mission. In particular, we have maintained a tradition of gifting funds to the Women's Law Caucuses at the law schools to use for important events and scholarships for Washington's future women lawyers.

We hope that you will help us to continue our legacy of supporting these and other worthy activities and the mission of WWL in 2023 and beyond, by making your own donation to the WWLF. Contributions are tax-deductible and can be made online at [wwl.org/donate](http://wwl.org/donate).

For more information about the WWLF or its work, please contact WWLF Board Member Amy Robinson at [Amy.Robinson@MillerNash.com](mailto:Amy.Robinson@MillerNash.com).





*Thank you  
for coming!*

WASHINGTON  
**WWL**  
WOMEN LAWYERS