

King County Bar Association's
Pro Bono Services
Presents



Coordinator: Paige Hardy
VLS Staff Attorney
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Race Matters: *A Crash Course into Race and Lawyering*

Beth Leonard, Regional Developmental Disabilities Ombuds, Office of the Developmental Disabilities Ombuds, Presenter

Omid Bagheri, Director of Equity & Community Partnership at JustLead WA, Presenter

Merf Ehman, Executive Director Columbia Legal Services, Presenter

Nick Allen, Directing Attorney for the Institutions Project at Columbia Legal Services, Presenter

2.25 Ethics CLE credits

Approval #1079064

Monday, August 20, 2018, 12:00-3:00 PM

KCBA Office – 1200 5th Avenue Suite 700 Seattle, WA 98101

This CLE is FREE to all new and current KCBA Pro Bono Services volunteers

Registration is required.

Attendance is in person or via video streaming.

In-Person Location

KCBA Office – 1200 5th Avenue Suite 700
Seattle, WA 98101

Please RSVP for

streaming instructions

Please RSVP to Paige Hardy at paigeh@kcba.org

When confirming attendance, please include:

Name, bar number (if applicable), and whether you will be attending in person or via video streaming.

AGENDA

11:55 AM – 12:00 PM	Sign-In and Introductions Click here to enter text.
12:00 – 1:00 PM	<i>Race and Lawyering 101</i> <i>This section is meant to give a brief overview about common terms used when talking about race, race equity, implicit bias, and inclusion. How power, privilege, oppression, and micro-aggressions inform the legal profession.</i>
1:00 – 1:15 PM	Break
1:15 – 2:45 PM	<i>Race and Lawyering 102</i> <i>How identifying and addressing implicit biases with your pro bono clients will improve your practice of law; useful tips and tools</i>
2:45 – 3:00 PM	Q&A
3:00 PM	Evaluations and Adjourn

Biographies

Beth Leonard, Regional Developmental Disabilities Ombuds & Legal Counsel to the DD Ombuds, Office of the Developmental Disabilities Ombuds

Beth Leonard joined the DD Ombuds in 2017. Beth is a passionate advocate for justice who focused her legal career working on behalf of low-income and marginalized communities. Prior to joining the DD Ombuds, she worked as a staff attorney at Legal Action Center providing eviction defense services to low-income tenants in King County. Beth also served as Washington State's first Pro Bono Council Manager where she provided coordinated support and advocacy to Washington's 17 Volunteer Lawyer Programs. Beth is an adjunct professor at Seattle University and a graduate of Washington's JustLead Leadership Academy. Beth graduated cum laude from Seattle University School of Law where she was chosen by faculty as the Law Faculty Trust Scholar for the class of 2013. In her free time, she enjoys being outdoors, cooking, and visiting with her family and friends.

Omid Bagheri, Director of Equity & Community Partnership JustLead WA

Omid is committed to addressing structural racism and oppression affecting communities by changing unjust laws and policies with a health equity lens. He is faculty at the University of Washington School of Public Health and organizes locally and nationally with community-based programs and public health practitioners focused on anti-racist public health practice.

Merf Ehman, Executive Director Columbia Legal Services

Merf is the Executive Director of Columbia Legal Services (CLS). She has deep experience with multi-disciplinary advocacy through partnerships with local universities, government agencies and national research groups to employ cutting edge research in the quest for social justice. As a staff attorney with Columbia Legal Service's Institutions Project, Merf focused on removing barriers to housing and employment for people with criminal records so they could successfully re-enter society. Throughout her career, Merf has trained numerous lawyers, students, and other advocates on working with clients from diverse backgrounds and clients with limited capacity. Merf's work is informed by her past experiences as a legal aid client and person living in poverty.

Nick Allen, Directing Attorney for the Institutions Project at Columbia Legal Services

Nick Allen is the Directing Attorney for the Institutions Project at Columbia Legal Services (CLS). Nick began at CLS as an Equal Justice Works fellow, whose two-year project focused on addressing the legal barriers to legal financial obligations (LFOs) – the fees, fines and restitution imposed by the court as part of a criminal judgment and sentence. As a staff attorney, he continues to work on LFOs as well as other issues, including juvenile life without parole in Washington State. Additionally, as a Youth Justice Leadership Institute fellow, he advocates for policies that change the way youth are transferred to and sentenced in the adult criminal justice system.