

Speaker Biographies

Breean Beggs

Breean has been the Center for Justice's chief catalyst since February 2004. His law practice emphasizes the rights of individuals against companies and government agencies discriminating against people based on race, gender, disability, sexual orientation, or their free expression of ideas. Prior to joining the Center, he practiced law for 12 years in Bellingham, Washington, with Brett & Daugert, where he focused on plaintiff's personal injury, civil rights, and timber trespass. Breean graduated from Whitworth College in 1985 with a bachelor's degree in international studies and then attended the University of Washington School of Law, graduating in 1991 as Order of the Coif. Breean has volunteered in his community with the Volunteer Lawyer Program, the ACLU, the Literacy Council, the Washington State Trial Lawyers, the Washington State Young Lawyers Division, his church, and youth sports programs.

Robert Boruchowitz

Robert C. Boruchowitz was an attorney at The Defender Association, a non-profit public defender office in King County, for 33 years. He is leading an initiative at the law school to advance efforts to improve public defense representation for thousands of people in Washington and provide models for application in other states. He has handled appeals at all levels of the state and federal courts and argued the *Seling v. Young* case in the U.S. Supreme Court, challenging the application of Washington's "sexually violent predator" law. He was lead counsel on a recent Washington Court of Appeals decision that due process requires that children in truancy proceedings have counsel. *Bellevue v. E.S.* (2009). That case began in the Youth Advocacy Clinic and two clinic students worked with him on the appeal.

For 28 years, he served as The Defender Association's Director. Founding president of the Washington Defender Association and a former member of the Executive Committee of the American Council of Chief Defenders, he has been instrumental in developing defender standards that have been endorsed by the Washington State Bar Association and the American Bar Association. Recently he has led a committee that wrote a caseload statement for the ACCD, and served on the State Bar Committee on Public Defense and as vice-chair of the Seattle Mayor's Police Accountability Review Panel. In 2003, he was a Soros Senior Fellow working on access to counsel in misdemeanor and juvenile cases. He speaks frequently at continuing legal education seminars on ethical issues relating to defender caseloads. He spoke at a Symposium on the 45th Anniversary of *Gideon v. Wainwright* at the Washington Supreme Court Temple of Justice on April 11, 2008.

Professor Boruchowitz recently provided an affidavit in support of a summary judgment motion filed by the Kentucky Public Advocate in a declaratory judgment action involving excessive public defender caseloads. Available at <http://www.dpa.ky.gov/>. He also provided a declaration in the motion filed by the Miami-Dade Public Defender to withdraw because of excessive caseload in *Florida v. Bowens*.

Professor Boruchowitz completed a two-week training for law teachers at the United States Holocaust Museum in 2007. He teaches a seminar on Law and the Holocaust that examines the role of lawyers and judges in responding to the abuse of executive power.

He is leading the new Defender Initiative, aimed at providing better representation for people accused of crimes or otherwise facing loss of liberty. The project will advance efforts to improve public defense representation for thousands of people in Washington and provide models for application in other states. The first project of the initiative was a joint effort with the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers to conduct a comprehensive investigation of misdemeanor public defense in the United States. He hosted a conference at the Open Society Institute in New York in May, 2008, and a second conference at Seattle University July 11, 2008.

He coauthored a report, "Minor Crimes, Massive Waste: The Terrible Toll of America's Broken Misdemeanor Courts".

Sophia R Byrd McSherry

Sophia Byrd McSherry has served since late 2007 as Deputy Director of the Washington State Office of Public Defense. She previously spent eight years as a policy director and lobbyist for the non-profit Washington State Association of Counties, focusing on public defense funding as well as other budget and policy issues related to the criminal justice system. Ms. McSherry also has worked as a land-use attorney for King County and is a former board member of the Capitol Land Trust. She is a 1997 graduate of the University of Washington School of Law, where she was Comments Editor for the Pacific Rim Law and Policy Journal. Ms. McSherry enjoyed a pre-law career as a reporter, editor and editorial writer at several major daily newspapers and was awarded the Congressional Fellowship for Journalists in 1990 by the American Political Science Association. She spends her free time and spare change trying to restore a drafty 100-year-old money pit in Old Town Tacoma.

Twyla Carter

Twyla Carter graduated from SU Law School in 2007, and she has worked at The Defender Association since graduation. She spent the first fifteen months appealing misdemeanor convictions under the direction of Christine Jackson, and now she currently handles a misdemeanor trial caseload in King County District Court. She currently serves on the executive board for the Loren Miller Bar Association as well as Interaction Transition, a non-profit organization that assists ex-offenders with a successful transition from prison back into the community. In 2008, she was awarded "Young Lawyer of the Year" by the LMBA.

Chris Jackson

Chris Jackson is the supervisor for misdemeanors and appeals at The Defender Association where she has worked since 1990. The Defender Association is a non-profit law firm that provides representation to indigent persons in criminal prosecutions and other matters for which appointed counsel is mandated. Chris supervises lawyers handling misdemeanor cases in Seattle Municipal Court and King County District Court. She also handles appeals from misdemeanor convictions, writs of habeas corpus and other extraordinary writs and defends against appeals and writs filed by the prosecution. She also pursues or defends appeals in the Court of Appeals and Washington State Supreme

Court. Over the years, Chris has represented adults charged with misdemeanors and felonies; and persons detained for traditional civil commitment and under the "sexually violent predator" law. Prior to her work at TDA, Chris was a staff attorney for the Washington State Supreme Court and a bailiff in King County Superior Court. She was admitted to the bar in 1987 after graduating from the University of Puget Sound School of Law, now Seattle University School of Law.

Terry Mulligan

Terry Mulligan obtained a B.A. in philosophy and economics from Illinois Wesleyan University in 1980. He obtained a J.D. from Georgetown University in 1983. After spending two years doing oil and gas law, he joined The Defender Association in Seattle in 1985. After spending 10 years as a public defender in Seattle he became the Director of the Clallam-Jefferson Office of Public Defense in Port Angeles. He spent 10 years in that position before going to work for the Washington State Office of Public Defense in Olympia. He has been in his current position as the Director of the Cowlitz County Office of Public Defense since March of 2007.

Judge Jean Rietschel

In her 12 years as a Seattle Municipal Court Judge, Jean was Presiding Judge for 3 years, and on the Court's Executive Committee for eight years. She's been a member of the Judicial Ethics Advisory Board; Chair, Trial Court Coordinating Counsel; Chair, King County Regional Law and Justice Committee; Chair, Regional Relicensing Summit; and Co-chair, Misdemeanor Work Group. She worked for eight years in the Public Defender Association in all divisions: felony, misdemeanor, juvenile, dependency, appeal, and civil commitments. Before that, she was in private practice, handling juvenile, criminal, personal injury, consumer bankruptcy, domestic partnership, adoption, wills and probate matters.

Judge Mary Yu

Judge Mary I. Yu was appointed judge by Governor Locke in April 2000. Prior to her appointment, she served as Deputy Chief of Staff to King County Prosecutor Norm Maleng and Director of the Peace and Social Justice Office for the Archdiocese of Chicago.

A frequent speaker for legal education seminars, Judge Yu is also active in a variety of community and professional activities which include service on:

- the Board of Directors of FareStart, an organization devoted to assisting homeless individuals develop job skills in the culinary industry;
- the Board of Advisers of the Leadership Institute of the Washington State Bar Association (co-chair for 2009);
- the State of Washington Minority and Justice Commission; and
- the Board of Directors, Future of the Law Institute, King County Bar Association; an organized effort to mentor young people from diverse backgrounds to consider the legal profession as a career.

Judge Yu was appointed Dean for the 2009 Judicial College and *Distinguished Jurist in Residence* at Seattle University School of Law (2008 -2009 academic year). She is the Washington State Superior Court Judges Association representative to the Judicial Division of the American Bar Association; member of the Superior Court Judge's Association Civil Law and Procedure (chair from 2005-2008); and Past-President of the Judge Dwyer American Inn of Court, Seattle Chapter

Judge Yu was recognized as the 2005 "Judge of the Year" by the American Board of Trial Advocates, Washington Chapter (ABOTA). She was also the recipient of the 2008 President's Award, Washington Women Lawyers; the 2006 "Model of Excellence" Award, the Latina/o Bar Association of Washington; and the 2005 Reah Whitehead Public Leadership Award, Seattle University School of Law.