



The Defender Initiative

First Annual Conference on Public Defense
February 25, 2011. [CLE](#) credits are available.

*Supported in part by a grant from the Foundation to Promote Open Society and The Korematsu Center
With additional support from Skellenger, Bender; Foster Pepper PLLC; Schwabe, Williamson; and Steve Hayne. Co-sponsored by the Washington Defender Association.*

It has been 48 years since the United States Supreme Court decided in *Gideon v Wainwright* that poor people in felony cases are entitled to counsel at public expense, and 39 years since it decided the principle applied to misdemeanor cases. Yet, as the Washington Supreme Court wrote in the *A.N.J.* case last year,

we continue our efforts to fulfill Gideon's promise. While the vast majority of public defenders do sterling and impressive work, in some times and places, inadequate funding and troublesome limits on indigent counsel have made the promise of effective assistance of counsel more myth than fact, more illusion than substance. Public funds for appointed counsel are sometimes woefully inadequate, and public contracts have imposed statistically impossible case loads on public defenders and require that the costs of experts, investigators, and conflict counsel must come out of the defenders' own, already inadequate, compensation.

The Defender Initiative's first annual Public Defense Conference will offer ideas on how defenders and assigned counsel can meet the promise of *Gideon* and will provide an opportunity to ask questions and to share ideas to improve representation of clients. The Initiative plans to establish this conference as an annual gathering of defenders and others committed to improving public defense.

Moderated by Robert C. Boruchowitz, Director, The Defender Initiative and Professor from Practice, Seattle University School of Law.

Schedule as of February 8, 2011

- 8:00 a.m. Registration and coffee/tea
- 8:30 a.m. Introduction—Dean Mark Niles
- 8:45 a.m. *The Shaky Implementation of the Right to Counsel in Misdemeanor Courts and How Diversion Can Help*
Professor Bob Boruchowitz and Tucker Carrington, Professor and Director, Mississippi Innocence Project, University of Mississippi School of Law; Vanessa Gregory, freelance journalist; and Mary Muramatsu, Spokane City Prosecutor
- 10:00 a.m. Break
- 10:15 a.m. *How to Deal with Racial Disparity and Race Bias in Your Everyday Practice*
Lisa Daugaard, Deputy Director and Director of The Racial Disparity Project, The Defender Association; Anita Khandelwal, Staff Attorney, The Defender Association
- 11:15 a.m. *How Client-Centered Representation Can Save Lawyer Time.*
Cynthia Skow, Chief Social Worker, The Defender Association; Kristin Shotwell, Staff Attorney, The Defender Association
- 12:15 p.m. Lunch
Welcome from Robert Chang, Director, Korematsu Center
Guest Speaker, Tom Hillier, Federal Defender
- 1:30 -3:00 p.m. *Lessons Learned From Grant County Systemic Litigation on Ineffective Assistance of Counsel—is This Kind of Litigation a Practical Tool for Systemic Reform?*
Dave Taylor, Plaintiff's Counsel on the Grant County case; Beth Colgan, Columbia Legal Services; Emily Chiang, Professor, University of Utah School of Law; Nancy Talner, ACLU-Washington
- 3:00-3:15 p.m. Break
- 3:15-4:15 p.m. *How to Use National Standards and Ethics Opinions in Your Practice*
Professor Emily Chiang and Professor Bob Boruchowitz
- 4:15-5:15 p.m. *New Washington Supreme Court Rule on Compliance With Standards—How will it affect your practice and help your clients?*
Jackie McMurtrie, Professor and Director, Innocence Project Northwest, University of Washington; and Joanne Moore, Director of Washington Office of Public Defense
- 5:15-7:15 p.m. Reception Second Floor Sullivan Hall