



Washington State Bar Association

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date

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Steven G. Toole to Be Sworn In as WSBA 2010–11 President

(SEATTLE) — The Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) is pleased to announce that Bellevue attorney **Steven G. Toole** will be sworn in as 2010–11 WSBA president at the WSBA Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner on September 23, 2010, at the Hyatt at Olive 8 in Seattle. Washington State Supreme Court Chief Justice **Barbara R. Madsen** will swear him in, and outgoing President **Salvador A. Mungia** will pass the gavel.



Toole received his bachelor's degree from The Ohio State University in 1971 and his law degree from the University of San Diego School of Law in 1975. He was admitted to the Washington State Bar in 1976, and currently has a solo practice, where he focuses on personal injury litigation; since 2000, he has also practiced in the areas of arbitration and mediation.

Toole's service to the WSBA began more than 15 years ago, when he was elected to the Board of Governors representing the Eighth Congressional District. Since 2003, he has served as the WSTLA (WSAJ) liaison to the Board of Governors. He also was elected to the Board of Trustees of the Washington State Bar Foundation in 2008.

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Working Together to Champion Justice

During the 1980s, Toole became active with the King County Bar Association, primarily with their judicial screening committee; he was the first chair of the District and Municipal Court Judicial Screening Committee. He also served on the Board of Trustees and as president of the East King County Bar Association. In 1991, Toole was elected to the Board of Governors of the Washington State Trial Lawyers Association (WSTLA — now Washington State Association for Justice/WSAJ), and served on its board for sixteen years. He was president of that organization from 2002–2003.

Toole is also actively involved in his community. Since 1989, he has volunteered at the Eastside Legal Assistance Program, and he also volunteers with the King County Bar Association Eastside Legal Clinic. Since 1988, he has served on the Lake Washington Technical College Legal Secretary Advisory Committee, both as a member and as chair. In 2001, he was honored with the WSTLA President's Award, for his extraordinary commitment to protecting the rights of citizens, improving the state courts, and leadership in judicial and legislative arenas. In 2005, WSTLA presented him with its Alvin Anderson Award for his work in helping the organization to promote and preserve the civil justice system.

During his presidency, Toole will emphasize issues such as improving the WSBA members' level of satisfaction with their lives and the practice of law, enhancing the culture of service within the WSBA membership, providing pro bono and moderate-means legal services, supporting efforts to increase diversity in Bar leadership and promoting public legal education. "Our current economic crisis isn't going to go away any time soon," says Toole. "It impacts all aspects of the practice of law and the delivery of legal services. It will be imperative for us to work with our members, the judiciary and other stakeholders in the justice system to be creative and do whatever it takes to make certain we secure sufficient funding...to assure that the courthouse doors will remain open and accessible to all."

About the Washington State Bar Association

The WSBA is part of the judicial branch, exercising a governmental function authorized by the Washington State Supreme Court to license the state's 33,900 lawyers. The WSBA both regulates lawyers under the authority of the Court and serves its members as a professional association – all without public funding. As a regulatory agency, the WSBA administers the bar admission process, including the bar exam; provides record-keeping and licensing functions; and administers the lawyer-discipline system. As a professional association, the WSBA provides continuing legal education for attorneys, in addition to numerous other educational and member-service activities.

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The governance of the WSBA is vested in its Board of Governors. There are three governors from the seventh congressional district; one from each of the other eight districts; and three at-large, one of whom represents the Young Lawyers Division. The president is **Salvador A. Mungia**, of Tacoma. The 2009–10 president-elect is **Steven G. Toole**, of Bellevue; the 2010–11 president-elect is **Stephen R. Crossland**, of Cashmere; and the immediate past-president is **Mark A. Johnson**, of Seattle. The Board meets regularly (every six weeks) at various locations around the state, and its meetings are open to the public. Much of the work of the Bar is carried out through its numerous standing committees, 27 sections, and a Young Lawyers Division with its many committees.

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