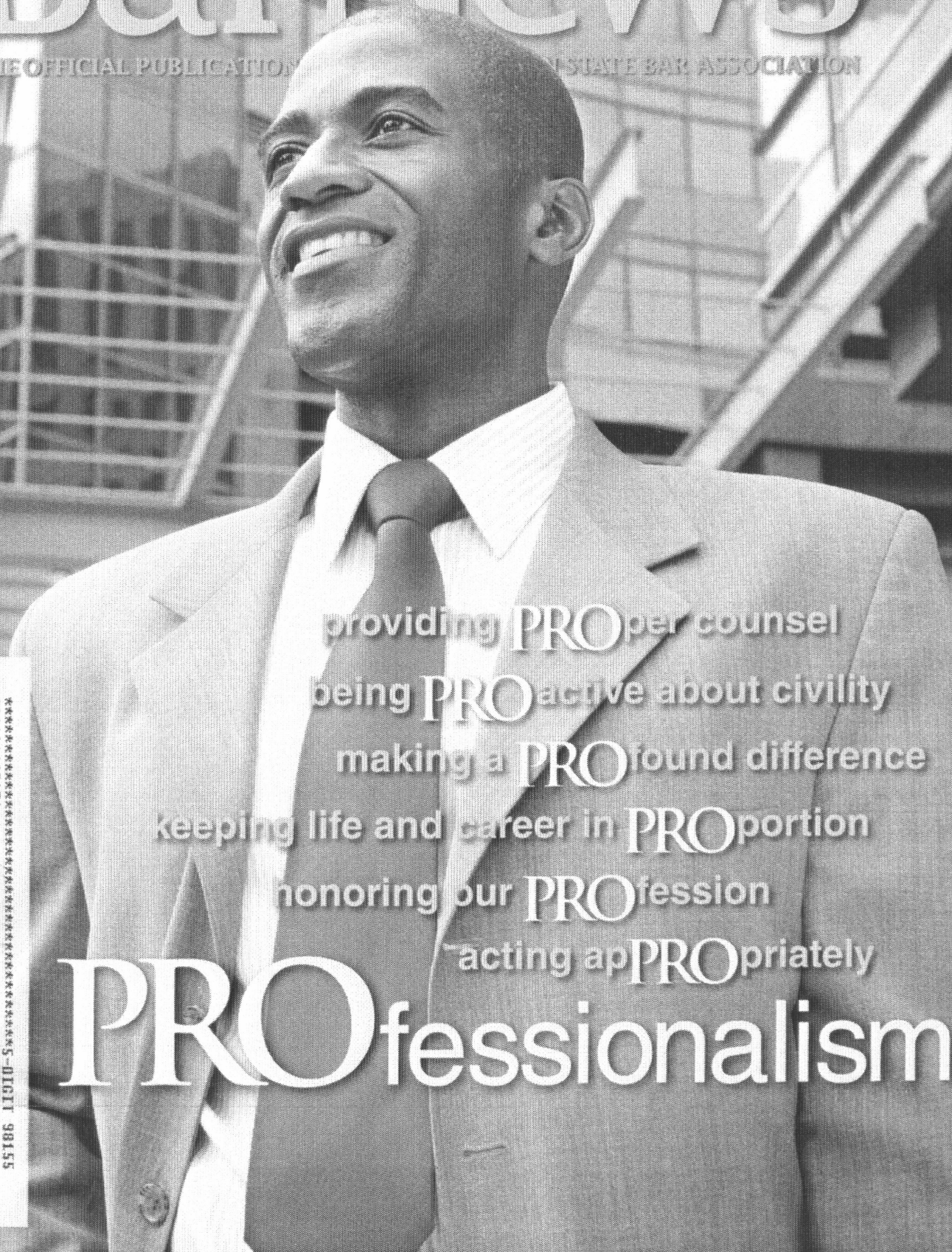


Washington State

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Profiles in Professionalism

Get to Know a Few of the Recipients of the Random Acts of Professionalism Award

BY MARK A. ARTHUR

“
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Profiles in
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”

In 2001, the WSBA Board of Governors adopted the Creed of Professionalism, a statement of professional values intended to guide and inspire all members of the Bar to conduct themselves with civility, integrity, and fairness. Two years later, the WSBA Professionalism Committee created the Random Acts of Professionalism Award to promote the Creed and highlight those who have demonstrated these principles, whether from the bench or in practice.

The recipients, nominated by their fellow members of the Bar, receive a certificate of recognition, a copy of the Creed of Professionalism, and a congratulatory letter from the Professionalism Committee chair explaining the laudable conduct recognized by the recipient's nominating peer. While neither the WSBA Board of Governors nor the Professionalism Committee specifically endorse a selection, the award serves as an important testament to the professional behavior of our members.

The following Profiles in Professionalism are a necessary reminder that our Bar is composed of dignified, courteous, and honest members who do not confuse ardent client advocacy with “win at all costs” tactics. Likewise, the conduct of the following recipients encourages every member of the Bar to act with similar integrity and to recognize the commendable professional acts that they witness.



James A. Conley

James A. Conley

James Conley practices in commonly contentious areas of law and does so with integrity, grace, and, as he puts it, "an innate sense of justice." After serving as a prosecutor for 11 years, James established his own Edmonds firm in 2001 to provide plaintiffs' personal injury and criminal defense services.

His dedication to professionalism is apparent both in the courtroom and out. After noting a deposition for an opposing counsel's witness, James learned that the witness was forced to use his only day off that week to attend, and that the witness's employer would not cover the witness's wages for the day missed. Upon receiving this news, Mr. Conley graciously offered to pay for the witness's lost wages and expenses to attend the deposition. Without prompting from opposing counsel, Mr. Conley immediately offered to pay the witness an amount which more than covered the lost wages and expenses. Mr. Conley had no obligation to pay for the witness's time, but he chose to look beyond legal mandates to promote what he believed to be just and courteous.

When he is not in a suit supporting his clients, James is in a baseball cap rooting on the Seattle Mariners, often with his wife and eight-year-old daughter by his side. He has been a season passholder since 1979, was named the "three millionth fan" in 2002 and even threw out the first pitch at a game. James's dedication to professionalism produces just results; here's hoping that his loyalty to the Mariners does the same.

Robert Graham Cross (posthumous)

Robert Graham Cross was posthumously nominated for a Random Act of Profes-



Robert Graham Cross

sionalism award for his years of service to his profession and his community. In this regard, Mr. Cross's dedication to professionalism was far from random, but was borne out each day of his life. Graham attended the University of Idaho College of Law and, upon graduating, clerked for the Honorable Richard B. Ott, the chief justice of the Washington State Supreme Court at the time. Graham went on to found the firm Cross & Hadley, where he practiced until the day of his passing. During his 44 years of service, he was a dedicated lieutenant in the Naval JAG Corps Reserve, was a member of the Longview Chamber of Commerce, Longview Lions Club, Kelso Mason Lodge No. 90, Kelso Scottish Rite, and served on the Board of Directors of Youth and Family Link.

His nominator wrote: "Graham represented hundreds of youth who found themselves in trouble with the law. He not only shared his legal knowledge and advice with them but counseled many youth to do the 'right' thing, to change the course of their lives if need be, to earn respect and achieve their goals. He and his wife worked hard with the court to establish the HOPE (Helping Our Parents Excel) Court, which is a 'drug court' specifically designed to help parents overcome their

sionalism award for his years of service to his profession and his community. In this regard, Mr. Cross's dedication to professionalism was far from random, but was borne out each day of his life.

Graham attended the University of Idaho College of Law and, upon graduating, clerked for

addiction and to reunite their family. Graham always had a smile and treated everyone with respect and kindness. He was the embodiment of the principles set forth in the Creed of Professionalism and inspired others to do the same. He will always be remembered as a person with the highest ethical standards." And as Graham's brother, Shaun Cross, one of six Cross family lawyers in Washington, shared, "Graham saw law as a vehicle, a platform, to help people, to serve his community and to right wrongs." Mr. Cross's legacy is a shining example of a life lived in service and professionalism.

Lisa J. Dickinson

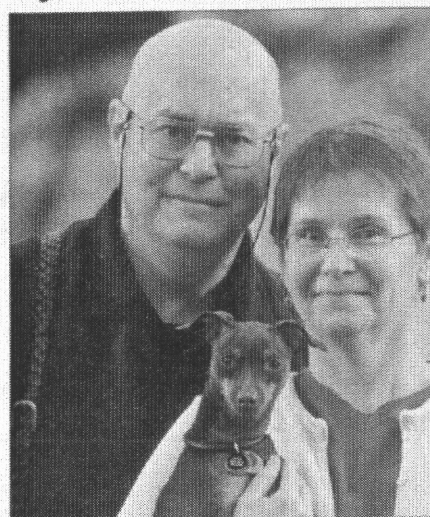
Spokane attorney Lisa Dickinson seems to do it all. Lisa previously worked for a law firm in Spokane but formed her own solo practice in 2008. While she enjoyed her time at the firm, she hung her own shingle to free up more time for public service. When Lisa is not providing civil

litigation and business legal services to her clients, she is engaged in myriad leadership roles. Lisa is a past chair of the Professionalism Committee, and although her tenure is up, she has continued to speak about professionalism at Gonzaga University School of Law. Lisa is currently serving as the vice president of the Northwest Justice Project, and was the previous president of both the Spokane County Young Lawyers Division and the Spokane County Washington Women Lawyers Club.

Lisa's nominator summed up her professionalism best: "Lisa merits recognition for her dedication to professional and courteous conduct and maintaining the respect of our profession — she per-



Above: Lisa J. Dickinson. Below: Brad A. Lancaster with his wife, Kim, and their dog, Sofie.



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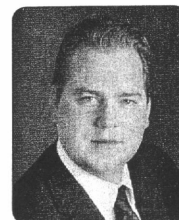
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sonally presented to Gonzaga University law classes on professionalism for some five years; is active in a number of Bar and Spokane organizations; and, as I understand it, has upheld professional conduct in a number of highly pitched cases and depositions, all the while achieving great results for her clients in a wide range of matters, including leading the way in the principle of 'equitable adoption' in a high-profile estate case."

Brad A. Lancaster

Brad Lancaster is a solo practitioner currently practicing in Shoreline. He predominantly provides assistance with wills, trusts and estates, elder law, and collaborative family law and mediation services. Brad's journey to the WSBA included time as a general contractor and as the director of youth ministries in the Presbyterian Church. Brad and his wife, Kim, not only find time to run his practice, but they also provide support for the Rain City Rotary Club, packing food and cleaning streets. You can also find Brad at Third Place Books in Lake Forest Park on Saturdays, leading a class that distills the world's great ethics writings, or out and about with his dog, Sofie.

Brad was nominated for this award by opposing counsel in an estate case. After all parties had signed a final settlement document which called for payment to Brad's client, Brad's client passed away and a subsequent inventory of the client's home was conducted. The inventory revealed that disputed payments had in fact been forwarded to Brad's client. Brad brought this new information to opposing counsel and a new settlement agreement was drafted that accounted for all previous payments. Brad's honesty and fair dealing is commendable and did not go overlooked by his colleague. 



Mark A. Arthur is currently in-house counsel and vice president of business development at Luxtom Homes and Construction, LLC, and a member of the

WSBA Professionalism Committee. Prior to joining Luxtom, Arthur was a solo practitioner, and assisted clients with a variety of real estate litigation and transactional needs.