



Washington State Bar Association

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date

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Tim Connor Receives 2011 WSBA Excellence in Legal Journalism Award

(SEATTLE) — The Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) announces that **Tim Connor** will be presented with the 2011 Excellence in Legal Journalism Award. This award is given to a journalist and his/her organization that has set the standard for relevance, clarity, accuracy, and understanding in news reporting. The award recognizes that describing the context, facts, and players involved in the legal system with fairness and sensitivity requires intelligence, knowledge, dedication, and skill. WSBA President **Steven G. Toole** will present the award at the WSBA Annual Awards Dinner, to be held on September 22, 2011, at the Hyatt at Olive 8 in Seattle.

After beginning his career as a newspaper reporter, Connor became an associate editor at *Spokane Magazine* in 1981, where he broke the nationally important story of the impending collapse of the Washington Public Power Supply System's nuclear construction program. He joined the Hanford Education Action League as a staff researcher in 1985 and was instrumental in uncovering evidence of the massive radiation releases from Hanford plutonium plants in the 1940s and 1950s.

Connor is currently the communications director at the Center for Justice (<http://cforjustice.org>), a non-profit public-interest law firm in Spokane. He is also the senior editor for the Community Building LLC website (<http://community-building.org>) and a member of the Hanford Concerns Council, an alternative dispute resolution body that is chartered to resolve worker safety and accountability concerns at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation.

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From 2000–04, Connor was the senior editor at *Camas Magazine*, where his reporting for online media and television earned several regional and national reporting awards from the Society of Professional Journalists. He has also been awarded three Sigma Delta Chi first-place national awards for investigative reporting.

At the national level, Connor was one of the founders of the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability and was a spokesperson for the ANA in its efforts to end secrecy and reform environmental laws governing the nation's nuclear weapons production and testing complex. He has served on national advisory committees to the United States Department of Energy, Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of Health and Human Services. Connor chaired a key subcommittee to the federal Advisory Committee on Energy-Related Epidemiologic Research. He has testified several times before both houses of Congress on issues related to nuclear contamination and health effects.

Connor's published books include *Burdens of Proof: Science and Public Accountability in the Field of Environmental Epidemiology* (1997), *Secret Deal* (2000), and *Under the Influence: Spokane, The Cowles Family and River Park Square* (2002), with Larry Shook.

“[Connor's] current news website demonstrates how melding innovative journalism and internet technology can give the public access to informed insight on the complicated legal issues of the day on a non-profit budget,” said Spokane attorney **Brean Beggs**. “He serves the greater public by courageously reporting the truth with a keen pen and the highest integrity.”

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 34,470 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 **Steven G. Toole**, of Bellevue. The 2010–2011 president-elect is **Stephen R. Crossland**, of Cashmere; the 2011–2012 president-elect is **Michele G. Radosevich**, of Seattle; and the immediate past-president is **Salvador A. Mungia**, of Tacoma. 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.

The Washington State Bar Association’s mission is to serve the public and the members of the Bar, ensure the integrity of the legal profession, and to champion justice.

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