



Contact: Jennifer Olegario, WSBA Communications Manager
206-727-8212; jennifero@wsba.org

Edwardo Morfin Receives Pro Bono and Public Service Award (Individual)

Tri Cities attorney acknowledged for dedication and advocacy

SEATTLE, WA [Sept. 28, 2018] – The Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) presented Edwardo “Eddie” Morfin the 2018 APEX Award for Pro Bono and Public Service for an individual. This award is presented for outstanding cumulative efforts in providing pro bono services, or for giving back in meaningful ways to the public, the community, or to the legal profession. WSBA President William D. Pickett presented the award at the WSBA APEX (Acknowledging Professional Excellence) Awards Dinner on Sept. 27 at the Sheraton Seattle.

After overcoming challenges in his youth, Morfin “hustled his first job” at a Yakima law firm working as a legal assistant, said Benton-Franklin County Bar President Diana Ruff. He continued to forge his own path and went on to get his GED, put himself through community college and Central Washington University, then put himself through law school at Seattle University. Now Morfin sees it as his obligation and privilege to help people who may not be able to afford legal services.

Morfin practices personal injury law and provides many pro bono services to clients; he also volunteers with a number of immigrant-rights organizations and created a bilingual legal aid program in the TriCities area as well as a yearly clinic for the community. While in law school, Morfin volunteered with the Latina/o Bar Association’s legal clinics at El Centro de la Raza and interned with the Northwest Justice Project, Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, and in the chambers of Benton-Franklin Counties Superior Court Judge Sal Mendoza, Jr. He has also worked, pro bono, for area Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) legal clinics and with the Benton-Franklin Legal Aid Society. He is a commissioner with the Washington State Commission on Hispanic Affairs where he works to build connections between the area’s Latinx population and local public officials, and advises the Office of the Governor on issues and legislation important to Latinx people throughout Washington.

“Eddie is extremely humble; one thing that he told me is that this award *that he’s already been given* has inspired him to work harder so that he deserves it,” Ruff said. “... Eddie, on behalf of the Benton-Franklin County Bar Association, we are so proud of you and we congratulate you on this award. We are extremely proud to call you a member of our board and we wish you the best of luck in the future.”

About the Washington State Bar Association

The WSBA operates under the delegated authority of the Washington Supreme Court to license the state’s nearly 40,000 lawyers and other legal professionals. In furtherance of its obligation to protect and serve the public, the WSBA both regulates lawyers and other legal professionals and serves its members as a professional association—all without public funding. The WSBA’s mission is to serve the public and the members of the Bar, to ensure the integrity of the legal profession, and to champion justice.

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