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### **Emily Arneson Receives Outstanding Young Lawyer Award**

*Spokane attorney acknowledged for exemplary leadership of Spokane Young Lawyers Division*

**SEATTLE, WA [Sept. 29, 2017]** – The Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) presented Emily Arneson with its 2017 APEX Award for Outstanding Young Lawyer. This award recognizes an attorney who has made significant contributions to the professional community, especially the community of young lawyers, within their initial years of practice. Recipients must be active WSBA members within five years of admission to any bar association or under 36 years of age. WSBA President Brad Furlong presented the award at the WSBA Annual APEX (Acknowledging Professional Excellence) Awards Dinner on Sept. 28 at the Sheraton Seattle.

Arneson is the community ombudsman and accessibility officer at Spokane Transit Authority, where she works to ensure that transit services are accessible and inclusive. Previously, she practiced in the areas of elder law, employment discrimination, and open government.

She has been steadily involved in the Spokane Young Lawyers Division (SYLD) for several years, most recently as its president. During her tenure with SYLD, she oversaw the development of a new committee structure which resulted in increased volunteer opportunities, an avenue for public recognition of member achievements, enhanced professional training, and a renewed focus on mentorship as critical to the advancement of the legal profession. As SYLD president, Arneson guided the development of several CLEs for new and young lawyers. The SYLD also awarded its first scholarship to a Gonzaga University School of Law graduate to assist with costs related to traveling to sit for the bar exam.

“Ms. Arneson is an exceptional young attorney who has made a profound and lasting impact on our local community,” says Whitney Norton, member of the Washington Young Lawyers Committee. “When she took over as president of the SYLD, she led our division to take on events, activities, charitable causes and community involvement previously not done. SYLD has become a very active, reliable, and engaged group thanks to her outstanding leadership skills and tireless efforts.”

In 2016, Arneson received the Public Service and Leadership Award from the WYLC, and was named Member of the Year for the Spokane Chapter of Washington Women Lawyers. Earlier this month, she was named one of Spokane’s “Top 20 under 40” by *Inland Business Catalyst* magazine.

### **About the Washington State Bar Association**

The WSBA is part of the judicial branch and is authorized by 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 under the authority of the Court 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. For more information, visit [www.wsba.org](http://www.wsba.org).