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Hon. Bruce A. Spanner Receives Outstanding Judge Award
*Benton Franklin Counties Superior Court Judge acknowledged
for contribution to the courts.*

SEATTLE, WA [Sept. 28, 2018] – The Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) presented Hon. Bruce A. Spanner the 2018 APEX Outstanding Judge Award. This award is presented for outstanding service to the bench and for special contributions to the legal profession at any level of the court. WSBA President William D. Pickett presented the award at the WSBA Annual APEX (Acknowledging Professional Excellence) Awards Dinner on Sept. 27 at the Sheraton Seattle.

Beginning in private practice, Spanner has spent the past decade presiding over the Benton Franklin Counties Superior Court. He has shown a devotion to equal justice under the law without passion or prejudice and is always thoroughly prepared and researched in the cases he oversees.

Spanner is highly active in his outreach to the community to show people how the court system works so they won't be intimidated by it. He handles his courtroom with dignity, respect, and professionalism, resolving disputes by emphasizing that "you can disagree without being disagreeable."

He has served as chair of the Technology Committee for the Washington State Superior Court Judges' Association and spearheaded the committee's project to replace the statewide case management software. He revamped the local court's website to host all of the information necessary for litigation before the local bench, and expended a great deal of effort to commemorate the history of the southeastern Washington judiciary by including the "History of the Judicial District," which includes historical context dating back to the late 19th century.

"The members of this bench have benefitted from many of the innovations that have been put in place by Judge Spanner, and many policies and procedures that make us a more efficient court," said Benton Franklin Counties Superior Court Judge Alex Ekstrom. "... On behalf of the bench of the judges and commissioners of Benton and Franklin Counties, I want to congratulate our colleague, Bruce Spanner. It is well deserved, and all of us couldn't be happier for him."

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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