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Mark A. Johnson Receives Professionalism Award

A 'five-tool lawyer' acknowledged for exemplifying professionalism.

SEATTLE, WA [Sept. 28, 2018] – The Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) presented Mark A. Johnson the 2018 APEX Award for Professionalism. This honor is awarded to a bar member who exemplifies the spirit of professionalism in the practice of law, as defined in the WSBA's Creed of Professionalism. William D. Pickett presented the award at the annual WSBA APEX (Acknowledging Professional Excellence) Awards Dinner on Sept. 27 at the Sheraton Seattle.

Johnson's level of professionalism has been widely recognized. He is a Fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers, was given an AV rating by Martindale Hubbell, has been listed in every edition of the Best Lawyers of America since 1995, and has been recognized as a Washington Super Lawyer since 2006.

With a deep dedication to the ethical practice of law, Johnson has promoted systemic changes in the legal profession to ensure that clients are protected and that attorneys follow procedures that raise the bar for all lawyers. He fought and advocated for civil legal aid when funding was under threat, and served in many statewide leadership positions. Johnson is a past president of the WSBA, and previously served on its Board of Governors, including as treasurer. In addition, he leads widely attended CLEs about professionalism, and is a trustee for the Legal Foundation of Washington.

Tacoma attorney and former WSBA president Sal Mungia compared Johnson, who is a huge baseball fan, to a five-tool baseball player, referring to him as a "five-tool lawyer." Mungia said Johnson "operates at the highest level of ethics, uses his time and resources to make sure other lawyers practice ethically, makes systemic changes in the practice of law, serves as a role model, and gives a voice to those who don't have access to justice."

"Mark has this passion about the law," Mungia said. "He is amazing."

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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