

J.D. Smith
Ward Smith, Attorneys at Law PLLC
1000 2nd Avenue, Suite 4050
Seattle, Washington 98104

(206) 588-8529 (8LAW)
(206) 588-8531 Fax
JD@WardSmithLaw.com
www.WardSmithLaw.com

LEGAL EMPLOYMENT

9/1/10-present	Ward Smith, PLLC Attorneys at Law	Partner
7/1/08-8/31/10	J.D. Smith, Attorney at Law PLLC	Managing Partner
2006–2008	Stritmatter Kessler Whelan Coluccio	Of Counsel
2002-2006	Gordon, Thomas, Honeywell, Malanca, Peterson & Daheim	Partner
2000-2002	Bullivant House Bailey	Senior Associate
1998-2000	Cusack Knowles Ferguson	Associate

TEACHING POSITIONS

2008-2009	Bellevue Community College, Business Law 200	Bellevue, WA
Fall 2007	University of Washington School of Law Adjunct Professor, Trial Advocacy	Seattle, WA

EDUCATION

Texas Wesleyan University School of Law Fort Worth, TX
Juris Doctor, 1997

Activities: Student Bar Association, Vice President, 1996-1997
National Order of Barristers, Chancellor, 1996-1997
Moot Court Honors Program, Chairman, 1996-1997
Regional BLSA Communications Director, 1996-1997
ABA Representative, Law Student Division, 1995-1996
Black Law Students Association, Vice President, 1995-1996
ATLA Mock Trial Competition, 1997
Frederick Douglass Moot Court Competition, 1997
John Marshall Intellectual Property Moot Court Competition, 1996
Inter-School Moot Court Competition, 1995
Texas Supreme Court, Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee, 1996

Texas Wesleyan University, Fort Worth, TX
Bachelor of Science, Mass Communication, 1993

Activities: Presidents' Commission on Diversity, 1993
Student Ambassadors, 1991-1993
Men of Service and Success, 1991-1993

BAR ADMISSIONS

1998 Washington State Bar
1999 United States District Court, Western District of Washington
2001 United States District Court, Eastern District of Washington
2004 United States District Court, Southern District of Texas
2004 United States Supreme Court
2006 United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
2010 United States District Court, Northern District of Texas
2011 Dallas County District Court, Pro Hac Vice (*Shabazz v. ATI, Inc.*)

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND ACTIVITIES:

Board of Judicial Administration

Justice in Jeopardy Implementation Committee, 2010-2012

American Bar Association (ABA)

Commission on Youth at Risk, 2006-2007
House of Delegates, 2003-2007
Select Committee of the House of Delegates, 2004-2007
Presidents' Advisory Council on Diversity 2004-2007
Bar Leadership Institute, February 2003
Minority Caucus, 2003 to 2007
Young Lawyers Division 1998-2004
Law Student Division 1994-1997

GP/Solo/Small Firm Section

Chair, Litigation Committee, 2005-2006
Corporate Sponsors Committee, 2004-2005
Public Service and Professional Service Committee, 2003-2004

Washington State Bar Association (WSBA)

Judicial Recommendation Committee, 2004-2007
Legislative Committee, 2005-2006
Resolutions Committee, 2004
Annual Awards Committee, 2003
Chapter Editor, Civil Desk Handbook, 2002

Washington Young Lawyers Division (YLD)

President, 2003-2004
President-elect, 2002-2003
Secretary, 2001-2002

Board of Trustees, 1999-2002
Initiative for Diversity Governing Council, 2003-2004
Long Range Planning Committee Chair, 2002-2003
Public Service Committee, 1999-2001
Trial Advocacy Program Committee, 1999-2000

Washington State Association of Justice (WSAJ) formerly (WSTLA)

Diversity Taskforce, 2008-2009
Board of Governors, 2006-2008
Annual Convention Co Chair, 2006-2007
Strategic Planning Taskforce, 2006-2008
 Mission Statement/Name Change sub committee
Holly Ball Planning Committee, 2006-2007
Annual Awards Committee, 2006-2008
Diversity Committee, 2005-2007
Seattle downtown Roundtable, Vice Chair, 2007-2008
Development Committee, 2004-2005
Holly Ball co chair, 2003-2004 (50th Anniversary) and 2004-2005
Associate member since 1999 and Eagle Member since 2002

American Association of Justice (formerly ATLA)

AAJ State Delegate, 2006-2008
Minority Caucus, 2nd Vice Chair, 2007-2008
Member, 2000-present

Minority and Justice Commission

Appointed by Washington Supreme Court 2003-2005

Public Justice (Formerly Trial Lawyers for Public Justice)

Member, 2006-present

NITA (National Institute for Trial Advocacy)

Lecturer/Instructor, 2005-present

Washington Defense Trial Lawyers Association

Board of Trustees, 2001-2002
New Lawyers Committee Chair, 2000-2001
Insurance Committee, 2000-2001
Defense Research Institute, 1999-2001
Chair, Sun break Seminar, March 21-24, 2002, Indian Wells, California

National Bar Association

Member, 1999 to present

Loren Miller Bar Association (LMBA)

President elect, 2007-2008

Budget, Building Search and Membership Committees

Vice President, 2000-2004, 2008-2009

Judicial Recommendation Committee, 2001-2003

United Negro College Fund Walkathon Chair, 1999, 2000

Community Service Committee Co-Chair, 1999-2000

Annual Dinner Committee, 2000

King County Bar Association Member, 2000 to present

King County Bar Foundation

Board of Trustees, 2003-2005

Future of the Law Institute Governing Council 2004

Corporate Sponsors Committee 2003

Endowment Campaign Task Force 2003-2004

Washington State Equal Justice Coalition Advisory Council, 2006-present

Professional Liability Underwriting Society Steering Committee, 2001-2002

Seattle Claims Adjusters Association Monthly Speaker and legal case review author, 2001-2003.

PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION

American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA), Associate Membership, June 2011

Distinguished Alumni of the Year Award, Texas Wesleyan School of Law, May 15, 2010

Washington Law & Politics Super Lawyer 2004, 2007-2011, Rising Star 2001-2003

King County Bar Association Nominated for Outstanding Young Lawyer 2004

American Bar Foundation¹ Fellow, 2009-Present

¹ The American Bar Foundation is an honorary organization of lawyers, judges, and legal scholars whose public and private careers have demonstrated outstanding dedication to the welfare of their communities and to the highest principles of the legal profession.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Northwest African American Museum

Board of Directors, 2006-2009

Chair, Program Committee, 2007-2008

Youth and Law Forum

Steering Committee 1999-2002, Co-Chair 2000, Chair 2001

First African Methodist Episcopal Church

Member since 1998

Richard Allen Brotherhood

Young Adult Lay Organization

Forum Chair "Understanding Diversity in a Christian Society," June 2000

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Friendship Fund Foundation, Inc., Board of Directors, 1999-2001

Keeper of Records and Seals, 2003-2005

Reporter to the Oracle, 1995-1997

Asst. Keeper of Records and Seals, 1996-1997

PUBLICATIONS, LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS

2011

Faculty, Building Trial Skills: Northwest Program, National Institute for Trial Advocacy, Seattle, WA, August 13-14, 2011

Faculty, Deposition Skills Program: Northwest, National Institute for Trial Advocacy, Seattle, Washington, August 9-10, 2011

Faculty, Building Trial Skills, Western Program, National Institute for Trial Advocacy, San Francisco, CA, June 16-19, 2011

Keynote Speaker, Seattle University School of Law, BLSA graduation, May 12, 2011

Economics of Practicing Law, Panelists, Washington Leadership Institute, February 11, 2011

2010

Faculty, Deposition Skills, Western, National Institute for Trial Advocacy, San Francisco, CA, October 15-17, 2010

Washington Association of Technical Accident Investigators, Spring Conference, Panelists,
“Preparing for a Deposition”, Redmond, Washington, May 14, 2010

“Thoughts after Reading *Reptile*; Closing Argument, Washington State Association of Justice,
Seattle, Washington, March 31, 2010

Economics of Practicing Law, Panelists, Washington Leadership Institute, February 19, 2010

2009

“50 Random Tips for Your Personal Injury Practice; At Least One Will Be Helpful”
LITIGATION STRATEGIES in the Post-BUSH Era, Buenos Aires, Argentina, October 12, 2009

“Handling the Auto Injury Claim: KNOW HOW TO WALK THE ETHICAL LINE;
Common Threats to the Attorney-Client Relationship; Dealing Fairly With Conflicts Involving
Multiple Defendants; the Ethics of Disclosing Information Which Defeats Coverage; How Issues
of Legal Liability and Ethics Intersect, National Business Institute CLE, August 25, 2009

“Going Solo: A Personal Injury Attorney’s Perspective” Early Years of Litigation Practice,
Washington State Association of Justice, Seattle, Washington, June 25, 2009

Panelist, “Tips On Keeping Your Legal Practice Profitable In This Economic Downturn”,
Statewide Diversity Conference, Seattle University, Seattle, WA, June 12, 2009

“Identity and the Law: The Fight for Rights”, Bellevue College, Bellevue, WA, May 5, 2009

“Litigating to Win Through Advanced Trial Advocacy: Ethical Considerations (Conflicts of
Interest, Handling Prejudicial Evidence, Talking to Witnesses Before they Testify and The Rules
of Professional Conduct”, National Business Institute CLE, April 22, 2009

“Automobile Litigation: Strategic Issues and Answers: Auto Insurance Policies: Interpretation,
Issues and Hidden Treasures”, National Business Institute CLE, April 21, 2009

“Automobile Litigation: Strategic Issues and Answers: Experts: Finding the Right Ones,
Affordability, and Strategies”, National Business Institute CLE, April 21, 2009

Economics of Practicing Law, Panelists, Washington Leadership Institute, February 21, 2009

2008

Panelist, “Building Client Confidence” Washington State Trial Lawyers Association, hosted by
Seattle University School of Law, November 6, 2008

Master of Ceremony, Wiley A. Branton Twentieth Annual Awards Luncheon, National Bar
Association, Seattle, Washington, October 17, 2008

“Family Services; the Most Under-Utilized Damages”, Damages: Everything but the Kitchen Sink Seminar, WSTLA, Seattle, Washington, October 10, 2008

“Railroad Injuries; from injured employees to grade crossing crashes”, Planes, Trains and Automobiles Seminar, WSTLA, Tacoma, Washington, September 19, 2008

Faculty, “Building Trial Skills”, National Institute for Trial Advocacy, September 10-12, 2008

Faculty, “Northwest Deposition Series”, National Institute for Trial Advocacy, July 29-30, 2008

“A Panel Discussion About Diversity and the Practice of Law” WSBA YLD, July 17, 2008

“Guaranteed Ways to Improve Presentation Skills” Idaho Trial Lawyers Association, Sun Valley, Idaho, June 21, 2008

Panelist, “Writing for your Audience”, University of Washington School of Law, May 16, 2008

“Friends can sometimes be your best Mentors; A Special Thank you to my friends Ron Ward and James Williams”, ABA Goal 9 Newsletter, May 2008

Minority Bar Associations: Roundtable, WSBA Leadership Institute, February 22, 2008

Young Lawyer Division: An Overview, WSBA Leadership Institute, February 23, 2008

2007

Faculty, “Western Deposition Program, National Institute for Trial Advocacy, San Francisco, California, October 12-14, 2007

“Ten Ways to Improve Presentation Skills” WSTLA Annual "Paris - Not Paris, but Prague", September 24-26, 2007, City of Prague

“Bring in the Album; Finding the Story”, WSTLA, Seattle, Washington, May 24, 2007

Career Panelist, “Being a Champion for the Underdog and Still Paying the Bills: Plaintiff Success Stories”, WSTLA, UW Law School, Seattle, Washington, April 4, 2007

Panelist, “Developing a Network”, WSBA Bridging the Gap Conference, March 4, 2007

“How the Bar Works: The ABA – Washington’s Delegation”. WSBA Leadership Institute February 23, 2007

“Motivating and Recruiting Volunteers” ABA YLD Bar Leaders Academy, Miami, Florida, February 9, 2007

2006

Future of the Law Institute, Mock Trial Demonstration, University of Washington School of Law, November 18, 2006

Panelist, "Building a Book of Business", KCBA, October 25, 2006

"Recent Developments on taxability of personal injury settlements", Washington State Trial Lawyers Association and Paris-American Academy, Lisbon, Portugal, September 19, 2006

"Juror Perceptions and Responses to the Use of Technology and How to Deal with Them", ATLA Annual Convention, Seattle, July 18, 2006

"Rebuilding Our Communities; Hurricane Katrina catastrophe and its impact on the minority community", ABA Mid-Summer Professional Development Seminar, Detroit, June 10, 2006

Keynote Address, "Everyone will stumble and fall but only Winners Get Up", WSBA Pre Law Leadership Conference, Yakima, Washington, May 13, 2006

Panelist, "Developing a Network", WSBA Bridging the Gap Conference, March 4, 2006

2005

Keynote Speaker, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Founders Day Banquet, November 17, 2005

"Jury [De]Selection Today", Winning Your Product Liability Case; Handling Death Cases, Washington State Trial Lawyers Association, October 21, 2005

"Gastric Bypass Litigation", Washington State Trial Lawyers Association and Paris-American Academy, Quebec City, Canada, September 26, 2005

Future of the Law Institute, Mock Trial Demonstration, University of Washington School of Law, summer 2005

"Closing Arguments I & II", Program Chair and Moderator, ABA National Conference for the Minority Lawyer, Seattle, WA, June 23, 2005

"Plaintiff's Testimony", Damages Essentials, Washington State Trial Lawyers Association, May 19, 2005

2004

"Damages in Washington Civil Trial Practice", National Business Institute 6.0 hour CLE, November 17, 2004

Chair, Winning Your Case in Discovery and Depositions, Washington State Trial Lawyers Association, November 2004

“Litigating Against the Government; the Nuances of the Government as a Defendant”, Washington State Trial Lawyers Association and Paris-American Academy, Paris, France, September 27, 2004

“Summation in the Modern World”, Washington State Trial Lawyers Association and Paris-American Academy, Paris, France, September, 28 2004

“The Art of Cross-Examination”, Part I: Panelist and Part II: Demonstration, ABA National Conference for the Minority Lawyer, San Francisco, California June 17, 2004

“Celebration of the 1954 decision of *Brown v. Board of Education*, WSBA De Novo, June, 2004

“Introducing the WYLD Bridge Builders”, WSBA Bar News, May, 2004

Inaugural Lecturer, “How the Bar works”, Washington Leadership Institute, May, 2004

“Civil Liability: What you should Know”, Youth and Law Forum, April 24, 2004

“Superior Deposition Strategies”, National Business Institute 6.5 CLE, April 8, 2004

2003

“My Privilege to Serve You”, WSBA De Novo, December 2003

“A Tribute to a Legend; Joe Gordon, Sr., De Novo, October 2003

“The American Legal System”, Gordon College, October 2003

“Medical Device Litigation in the 21st Century”, Washington State Trial Lawyers Association and Paris-American Academy, Florence, Italy, September 23, 2003

Faculty, Northwest Deposition Program, National Institute for Trial Advocacy, September 9-11, 2003

“Trying your First Premises Liability Case in Washington”, National Business Institute 6.5 hour CLE, August 27, 2003

“*Switching Sides; Helpful Defense Techniques for the Plaintiff Lawyer*“, Washington State Trial Lawyers Association Annual Convention; Paul Luvera Seminar, July 25, 2003

“The Art of cross examination”, ABA National Conference for the Minority Lawyer, Philadelphia, PA, June 5, 2003

Panelist against Tort Reform, Washington State Orthopedic Association, Socioeconomic Symposium, Chelan, Washington, June 21, 2003

Demonstration: Voir Dire, Trial Skills in the Courtroom, Washington State Trial Lawyers Association, May 29, 2003

“The New General Rules of Evidence”, Strategies for the Information Age, Washington State Trial Lawyers Association, April 11, 2003

“Rules of the Game” Guidance and Support Panel, Seattle University School of Law, February 27, 2003

“So, you think you want to be a Plaintiff’s Attorney?” Seattle University School of Law, February 5, 2003

2002

"Arguing the Motion for Directed Verdict", Nuts & Bolts of Trial, Washington State Trial Lawyers Association, October 31, 2002

Moderator, Auto Cases Replay, Washington State Trial Lawyers Association September 17, 2002

"Liability for elevator injuries: A case to consider", Seattle Claims Adjusters, September 2002

"Caution when buying property on a slope", Seattle Claims Adjusters, April 2002

"Claims Handling Developments", Seattle Claims Adjusters Spr. Conference, 2002

2001

"Motion Practice - Winning before the Hearing is Held", Tacoma-Pierce County Bar Association Convention, July 2001

"Jury Selection in a Catastrophic Injury Case", The Jury, Washington State Trial Lawyers Association, May 16, 2001

"New Approaches to Professional Development", WSBA Bar Leaders Conference, June 2001

2000

"Pre Trial Motions/Trial Preparation," WYLD Trial Advocacy Program 2000

"Jury Selection", WSBA CLE Lunch and Learn Series 2000

"Opening Statements", WSBA CLE Lunch and Learn Series 2000

"Jury Selection/Cross Examination", WSBA Annual Mid-Year Meeting 2000

1999

"Strategies for Lawyer Development", Law School Dean's Forum, 1999

HOBBIES

Travel, movies, exercising and gardening

REFERENCES

Gary D. Gayton	(206) 521-3002
Ronald R. Ward	(206) 957-1273
John R. Connelly, Jr.	(253) 593-0377
The Honorable Leroy McCullough	(206) 296-9245