



Appellate Practice Section January Meeting

Meeting Called By: Tori Ainsworth, Chair

Date: Monday, January 9th

Time: 12:00 PM to 1:15 PM

Topic: *Recent Developments in Criminal Law*

CLE Credit: **1.00 Law & Legal CLE Credit – A/V Approval #1235022**

Agenda

12:00 PM Introduction

12:10 PM Presentation: “Recent Developments in Criminal Law”, by Marla Zink and Jim Whisman

This presentation will cover:

Recent updates in criminal law with a focus on the *Blake* decision finding criminalization of simple drug possession unconstitutional, the application of juvenile brain development science, racial bias jurisprudence, and habeas corpus developments.

1:15 PM Adjourn

Speaker Biographies

Marla Zink practices appellate law at every level of our state and federal courts. In May 2019, she partnered with Kathleen Shea to form Luminata, PLLC. Luminata serves private and public defense

clients in their direct criminal appeals and all forms of post-conviction relief, including limited civil matters.

Prior to forming Luminata, Marla served clients in federal and state court at The Law Office of Marla Zink, PLLC and at the Washington Appellate Project, where she represented indigent clients in direct criminal appeals and post-conviction proceedings. Marla also worked in the Appellate, Constitutional and Governmental Law group at Preston, Gates and Ellis, which became K&L Gates LLP. After graduating *cum laude* from Georgetown University Law Center, Marla moved to Seattle to serve as a law clerk to the Honorable Robert R. Beezer on the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Marla is a member of the Washington Appellate Lawyers Association (WALA), the Washington Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (WACDL), the Washington Defender Association (WDA), and a past executive committee member of the KCBA Appellate Practice Section. She was the lead author for two chapters in the Washington State Supreme Court's Gender and Justice Commission report, 2021: How Gender and Race Affect Justice Now.

James W. Whisman received his Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy from the University of California, Berkeley in 1985 and his J.D. from the University of Washington School of Law in 1989. He has been a deputy prosecuting attorney with King County since 1990. He was appointed chair of the Appellate Unit in 1997 and has handled hundreds of cases before the Washington Court of Appeals and the Washington Supreme Court and two cases in the United States Supreme Court. He is a former co-president of the Washington Appellate Lawyers Association.
