



Appellate Law: The Role of Amicus Briefs and a Case Example

TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2026

Approved for 2.5 Law & Legal Procedure CLE credits.

\$129 - Standard

\$99 - New Members*

Washington State Bar Association

1325 Fourth Ave., Suite 600 | Seattle, WA 98101

WEBCAST
ONLY

DESCRIPTION

The appellate process requires a delicate balance between highlighting salient facts to enumerate an objective analysis while sorting through a voluminous record. Neil Fox and David Montes will share their experience as counsel and amicus curiae in *John Does v Seattle Police Department*, involving public records disclosure and privacy rights under state law. Justice Faith Ireland (Ret.) will then share perspectives from the Washington State Supreme Court bench, providing practice tips and answer questions about strategy and approaches.

FACULTY

Justice Faith Ireland (Ret.) – JAMS, Seattle

Neil Fox – Law Office of Neil Fox, PLLC, Seattle

David Montes – ACLU of Washington, Seattle

SCHEDULE

8:10 a.m. > Webcast Log-In Opens

8:25 a.m. > Welcome and Introductions

- **Jennifer Holderman** – Washington State Bar Association, Seattle

8:30 a.m. > Taking a Case from

Superior Court to the U.S. Supreme Court

90 minutes, 1.5 credits L&LP

Appellate lawyers sometimes only practice in appellate courts and are wary about appearing in proceedings in the trial court. *Does v. SPD*, though, was a case that spanned all levels of our courts, superior, the Court of Appeals, the Washington Supreme Court and the U.S. Supreme Court, with the same attorneys representing the public requesters throughout the entire case. Neil Fox, one of these attorneys, will take us through the complicated procedural history of the case, with an emphasis on how the record was created. He will also discuss the pseudonym issue that allowed a defendant in a civil lawsuit essentially to change the focus of the case. David Montes, staff attorney at the ACLU of Washington, will also share the decision making around writing an amicus brief for this case.

- **Neil Fox** – Law Office of Neil Fox, PLLC, Seattle
- **David Montes** – ACLU of Washington, Seattle

10:00 a.m. > BREAK

10:15 a.m. > Appellate Advice from the Washington State Supreme Court

60 minutes, 1.0 credit L&LP

Justice Faith Ireland will discuss the obligations and practices of the State Supreme Court. That includes how cases are chosen, the prehearing procedures and posthearing practices including decision preparation and release. She will give advice on briefing and oral argument. She will discuss the changing court with new Justices and more to come. This session will conclude with a panel discussion, providing practitioners with the opportunity to further explore these tools and techniques.

- **Justice Faith Ireland (Ret.)** – JAMS, Seattle
- **Neil Fox** – Law Office of Neil Fox, PLLC, Seattle
- **David Montes** – ACLU of Washington, Seattle

11:15 a.m. > Adjourn • Complete Online Evaluations

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Tuesday, March 24, 2026 • #26650 WEB

REGISTRATION

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☐ **#26650 WEB, attend via webcast, 3/24/26**

☐ \$159 - Standard

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