

Volunteer of the Month



By **Tanya Wanchena**

KCBA's Community Legal Services recognizes Amy Meharry as November's Volunteer of the Month for her work with the Self Help Plus Program. The Self Help Plus Program currently assists low-income to modest-means petitioners in non-contested dissolution and establishing parenting plan cases. Meharry was instrumental in assisting with a child support modification case, which was a prior area of service within the Self Help Plus Program.

Meharry received her law degree from Seattle University School of Law in 2003. Due to her commitment to providing services to those in need in our community, she began volunteering with KCBA's Neighborhood Legal Clinic in Kent. Meharry then volunteered to assist the Self Help Plus Program with a child support modification case.



Prior to her volunteer work at KCBA, Meharry volunteered through the Young Lawyers Division of the Tacoma-Pierce County Bar Association where she helped coordinate Law Day for high school students. She assisted in coordinating tours, job shadowing and scholarships. Meharry states, "It's fun to see high school students interested in the legal field."

What makes Meharry stand out is her dedication to serving clients in need. Her child support case involved a single mother with a son about to graduate from high school. The mother wanted to ensure post-secondary support so her son would be able to afford a college education. Her son was an excellent student and a recipient of a

Amy Meharry

football scholarship to a local Washington college.

The mother had been injured while working and was no longer able to work. She also had been recently diagnosed with a very rare blood disease and was concerned about her son's future when hers was so uncertain. At a point in time when the mother had many medical issues and was in dire straits, Meharry stepped in and helped.

She knew the mother didn't have the ability to get around and would not be able to present information to the court on her own. Meharry helped the mother with discovery and gathering documents, and was able to obtain a successful outcome at the court hearing.

When asked what drives her to volunteer, Meharry says, "We always say we never have the time, but you've got to set a goal for yourself to take one or two cases a year. You have to push your-

self. It's definitely worthwhile and it means a lot to help somebody."

When asked why she will continue to volunteer, she says, "It's important [because] a lot of people don't have resources or the opportunity to hire an attorney and it's important to provide access to everybody. I feel blessed to be an attorney. I worked for it, but it's a unique position to be in. It's important to use it not just as a career, but to make an impact with it."

KCBA congratulates Amy Meharry for being selected the Volunteer of the Month and extends its thanks and gratitude for her dedication and commitment to providing legal assistance and representation to those who otherwise could not afford it.

For more information about the Self Help Plus Program, contact Program Manager Tanya Wanchena at 206-267-7021 or tanyaw@kcba.org. ■

Want to donate money? Every \$1 donated produces \$7.26 in free legal services for low-income clients. King County Bar Foundation supports the KCBA *pro bono* programs. To make a donation or for more information, contact Marzette Mondin at (206) 267-7007 or send an email to foundation@kcba.org.