May 20, 2013

ANNOUNCEMENT: DR. MARION SMITH, JR. APPOINTED TO THE ACCESS TO JUSTICE BOARD

The Washington State Access to Justice Board is pleased to welcome our newest member, Dr. Marion Smith, Jr. Dr. Smith was appointed by the Washington Supreme Court for a three-year term through May 17, 2016.

A career-long urban educator, Dr. Smith has served educational communities in Las Vegas, Philadelphia and now Seattle. He is the principal at Lowell Elementary School, a pre-K through Grade 5 elementary school in Seattle, Washington that educates three distinct student populations: general education students, Low Incidence special education students with behavior, development, sensory and/or severe orthopedic impairments, and medically-fragile students. Dr. Smith’s work and professional practice is anchored in issues around advocacy, structural inequality and diversity, equity and social justice with a lens on K-12 urban education. He is a member of the Equity and Race Advisory Committee to the Superintendent of Seattle Public Schools.

Dr. Smith began his career with the Clark County School District in Las Vegas, Nevada, where he served in a variety of capacities: middle school and high school English teacher, AVID curriculum specialist and middle school dean of students. He was the founding Director of Culture at Young Scholars Frederick Douglass Charter School in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania before coming to Seattle to serve as Assistant Principal at Madrona K-8.

His work toward confronting institutional bias and challenging convention in the education system, and in establishing community partnerships across disciplines will be helpful to the Access to Justice Board’s efforts to eliminate bias in the justice system and strengthen collaborative relationships in support of the Alliance for Equal Justice.

Dr. Smith holds a Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership and Change from Fielding Graduate University, a Master of Arts in Education Administration, and a Bachelor of Science in Secondary English Education from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He has been accepted to Cohort 7 of the Executive Leadership Superintendent Program at Seattle University.

The Access to Justice Board was established by the Washington Supreme Court in 1994, and is administered by the Washington State Bar Association. The Access to Justice Board recognizes that access to the civil justice system is a fundamental right and works to achieve equal access for those facing economic and other significant barriers.