



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Northwest Justice Project proudly subscribes to the *Hallmarks of an Effective Statewide Civil Legal Services Delivery System* and the *Plan for Delivery of Civil Legal Services to Low Income Persons in Washington State*, as adopted in October, 1995 by the Access to Justice Board.*

The board and staff are united in the belief that the Project's work must be firmly grounded in and must consistently reflect the following convictions:

Equal access to the justice system – civil as well as criminal – is fundamental to a working democracy.

Effective advocacy requires active client involvement which can only be achieved through our conscious effort. Our efforts should compliment our clients' rights and need to be responsible for their own lives.

The Project has an obligation to understand and be responsive to the broad range of values, cultures and aspirations represented within our community. Diversity among staff and board members is a major component of this obligation which needs to be continuously monitored.

The Project owes a duty to become and remain knowledgeable about the legal problems faced by its client community and is committed to the highest levels of competency in its efforts to assist clients in resolving those problems.

Every member of the Project has the capacity and responsibility to significantly contribute to its work. All efforts to make these contributions are deserving of our support, encouragement and respect.

Teams are better than committees, and stature more important than status.

Our mission will be better served by mutual accountability and mentoring than by cumbersome hierarchies and rigid supervisory systems.

We cannot achieve a more just community unless we incorporate the values of our aspiration into our daily life – particularly in our relationships with co-workers and clients.

Striving for equal access to justice is hard work but it is work we choose because of the better community that will result.



* The Access to Justice Board was established by order of the Supreme Court of Washington filed May 10, 1994.