

CHAPTER 8

Making Weather

THE VISION TAKES HOLD, AND MAKES ITS OWN WEATHER...
NO TURNING BACK NOW!

THE JUSTICE MASH

(to the tune of "The Monster Mash")

*Judge: "It's no use!
Not even adequate
funding can bring
justice to life! If only
— if only we had
more POWER! Isn't
there anyone else
who can help us?"*

*(CHORUS OF
JUDGES enters
through audience,
chanting "Stare
Decisis" and hitting
selves on forehead
with law books.)*

*Janet: "What about
them?"*

*Judge: "Of course!
I'd nearly forgotten
about the judicial
conference! One
judge alone cannot
make justice live!
We must all work
together! (To
Judges) Quickly
now! You know
what we must do!"*

...see next page...



I was working in the courtroom late one night
When a coalition formed for legal rights
Then moribund Justice began to rise
And suddenly to my surprise

She did the mash
She did the justice mash
The justice mash
It was a courtroom smash
She did the mash
It caught on in a flash
She did the mash
She did the justice mash

Now Brad and Janet are set free
Dracula's banished by decree
Elvis and Elvira join the throng
So can you, if you sing this song

We do the mash
We do the justice mash
The justice mash
It's a Wenatchee smash
We do the mash
You'll catch on in a flash
We do the mash
We do the justice mash
THE JUSTICE MASH!

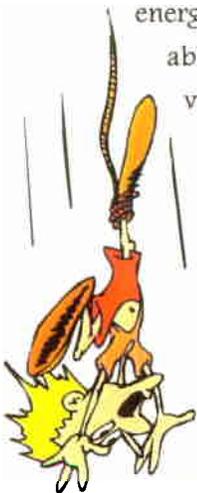
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*From "The AX-Ess Files: Justice Is Out There,"  
written and produced for BUILDING THE BRIDGE TO JUSTICE,  
Washington State's Fourth Annual Access to Justice Conference, June 1999*

Now that you have articulated your destination (VISION), set your compass (VALUES), selected those who will drive and navigate (LEADERSHIP), identified your traveling companions (PARTNERS), decided how to organize the journey (STRUCTURE) figured out your routes (MAP), and are enjoying the journey (HUMOR AND ENTERTAINMENT), what will happen?

You will begin to “make your own weather.” Making your own equal justice weather means that the community as a whole has become invested in the vision and the values, and is beginning to apply these on a day-to-day operational basis to its resource allocation and other decision-making processes. Only by making such disciplined vision/values-driven decisions (many of which will feel “counter-intuitive” under the old traditional structure), can a new Equal Justice Community and cultural identity (e.g. “Access to Justice Network”) truly emerge and endure. Putting aside personal and institutional turf is a tough, messy, unpredictable and not yet finished business! And it is the “last frontier” for true integration of resources and client service. But we are daily reminded that the payoff for poor and vulnerable people in need is a vital delivery network which, in spite of inadequate resources and attacks throughout history, is able to unleash unimaginable synergy, dynamic energy and resources well beyond that which would otherwise have been available. And we have demonstrated that we can do so without forcing disfavored poor people out of the justice system’s reach.



Commonly held vision and values allow all community partners to take “leaps of faith” with one another, extending fragile and tentative bonds of teamwork and trust, which strengthen the development of a new culture in which all partners combine forces in pursuit of the same goals. IT’S ONE BIG, COLLECTIVE BUNGEE JUMP FOR EQUAL JUSTICE.

When the vision and values are articulated as consistent and persistent messages, over time, a remarkable thing occurs. Instead of the Equal Justice Community’s energy being devoted to begging for and enlisting the support and help of others, the Community itself will come to be seen by powerful partners as a vitally important touchstone for equal justice vision, values, goals and work. Once this happens, the Community will be called upon to help these partners to commit and focus their own resources on the equal justice vision. This is the Equal Justice Community’s equivalent of a climatic shift, and once achieved, it will be irreversible. The community will directly experience the continuing benefits and profound rightness of that shift. Innovative and expanded partnerships with a broad array of partners (e.g. the private bar, pro bono entities, direct service provider organizations, law schools, bar organizations, client and community groups, human and social service organizations, community advocates for poor and vulnerable people, justice system part-

*(The CHORUS OF JUDGE’S look at each other, mumble, nod. One of them produces a giant gavel. They all grab the gavel handle, looking like the two Jima statue. Together, they hit the big switch with the giant gavel. Loud electrical buzz, more flashing lights, people in the hand chain react as if shocked strongly, smoke pours in, band plays “Frankenstein,” explosion sound. Lights and sound back to normal. All watch as MONSTER slowly tips upright. She is Blind Justice with blindfold, scales and sword, but with robe and wig like the Bride of Frankenstein.)*

*Judge: “It’s alive!”*

From “The AX-ESS Files: Justice is Out There”

*Commonly held vision and values allow all community partners to take "leaps of faith" with one another, extending fragile and tentative bonds of teamwork and trust, which strengthen the development of a new culture in which all partners combine forces in pursuit of the same goals.*

*"The EJC (Equal Justice Coalition) was the most effective grass roots coalition since the Senior Lobby. Its strengths were that it was statewide and nonpartisan. It was able to mobilize its very diverse membership — not just attorneys — to respond timely, and conscientiously."*

Hon. Marlin J.  
Appelwick, Court of  
Appeals, and former  
Washington State  
Legislator

ners such as the judiciary, office of the administrator of the courts, the attorney general's office, the chief administrative law judge, the prosecutor and defender communities, court administrators, clerks, courthouse facilitators, law librarians, educators, governmental agencies, local community, civic, business and corporate entities, and so on) will be the extraordinary result. These partnerships can be cultivated and maintained at every level — statewide, regional and local — in order to ensure maximum relevancy and responsiveness of the network to the full continuum of client needs.



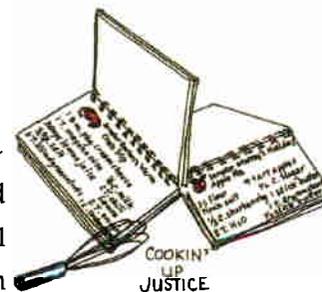
A few **examples** of the kinds of collaborative efforts that signal this change in the equal justice "weather":

### 1. ATJ CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Now in its sixth remarkable year, this inclusive band of equal justice vision drumbeaters has become an awe-inspiring force to be reckoned with. Each conference has generated a higher level of participation and a growing sense of community and urgency. Each conference has expanded to embrace and benefit by an ever-broadening community of interest, starting with the pro bono and bar leadership communities and staffed legal services provider organizations, expanding to include the catalog of partners described previously, and leading to a joint judicial, bar and access to justice community statewide conference in 2000 attended by over 800 judges, bar and equal justice community leaders (Celebration 2000). An annualized opportunity to strengthen and sustain the equal justice network has become THE keystone event for the entire statewide Equal Justice Community.

### 2. EQUAL JUSTICE COALITION (EJC)

This Access to Justice Board-created committee has successfully spearheaded a six-year campaign to solidify broad based bipartisan support for adequate funding for civil legal services for poor and vulnerable people. It has done so with an army of supporters from local equal justice networks throughout the state. The networks are bipartisan, and include a broad spectrum of community, human and social service, business, governmental, private and public sector partners and supporters. Underwritten by the Legal Foundation of Washington and Legal Aid for Washington Fund (LAW Fund), the EJC's efforts have resulted in many millions of dollars of support for civil legal services for poor and vulnerable people that would otherwise have been lost, and it has done so brick by brick, person by person, and community by community. No idea is too small or too big for the EJC to utilize in its pursuit of a broader base of support for equal justice. (See EJC cookbook and "Summer of Justice" descriptions — [www.ejc.org/](http://www.ejc.org/))



### 3. "COMTECH" (COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY) COMMITTEE

This Access to Justice Board committee drew the state's first communications/technology "blueprint" (see Washington State Communications and Technology Vision), and in a few short years has successfully implemented it statewide, ensuring interconnectivity for the entire civil legal services delivery system and support community. Among other projects underway, ComTech has teamed up with the Office of the Administrator for the Courts and the state's Coalition Against Domestic Violence to develop an innovative interactive forms pilot project to improve the justice system's responsiveness to domestic violence victims' legal needs. (See [www.wsba.org/atj/technology.htm](http://www.wsba.org/atj/technology.htm))

### 4. EDUCATION COMMITTEE

This Access to Justice Board committee is responsible for changing the judicial culture to one that highly values a demonstrated commitment to equal justice for people in need as a judicial screening and judicial training premise. The Education Committee has also spawned the Public Legal Education (PLE) Council. The PLE Council is a 35-member body created by joint initiative of the Governor, the Attorney General, the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the Chief Justice of the State Supreme Court with the leadership, support and assistance of the State Bar, Access to Justice Board, K-12 educational community leaders, leaders in the media community, judicial leaders and community organizations. The Council has adopted goals and a multi-year strategy to ensure that:

- a) all members of the public understand their legal rights and responsibilities in the context of the rule of law in a democracy in which "equal justice for all" is a cornerstone of that democracy;
- b) all members of the public understand what their options are for complying with their duties and for asserting their rights under the system of laws;
- c) a legal services delivery system exists to in fact ensure equal justice is available to all, including the poorest and vulnerable members of our society.

### 5. UNORTHODOX PARTNERSHIPS

For many years, there has been a very high level of tension and antagonism between some agribusiness community representatives and legal services programs which provide civil legal representation for farm workers. Some of this tension is irreducible given the difficult, complex tensions and conflicts which arise out of the relationship between agribusiness, farm labor, and the Equal Justice Community's role in ensuring justice for poor farm workers. In a mutual effort to find common ground on the issue of equal justice for all, two of the largest growers in the North Central Region reached across this tradi-

*"It's terrific, it's wonderful! It really is special that Stemilt Growers and Auvil Fruit Company are doing something exceptional for their community. The money will pay for an additional attorney to make sure children receive long-term help in trying to escape the cycle of violence many fall into. The generosity of these growers is a wonderful example of how the business community can help us expand services to low income people."*

Ty Duhamel, Staff Attorney, Columbia Legal Services, Wenatchee, Washington

## Growers start fund for abused children

tional "divide" to partner with the equal justice network. They agreed to sponsor a two-year NAPIL fellow at their region's legal aid office. The fellow established "For a Safer Future," a project to enhance and expand legal and other help for victims of family abuse. Local community businesses, civic, human and social services organizations have been called upon to help raise funds to support the project in a variety of ways, including three very successful golf tournaments. Sponsorships for the tournament have proven to be an effective way to educate community leaders about the importance of civil equal justice for poor and vulnerable people, and to build a stronger base of community support.

**Senator**

**Slade Gorton's  
Warm Crab Dip**

**1 8 oz. pkg. cream  
cheese, softened**  
**1 Tbls. mayonnaise**  
**3 drops lemon juice**  
**1/2 tsp. salt**  
**3 Tbls. sliced green  
olives**  
**1/4 cup milk**  
**2 Tbls. chili sauce**  
**2 Tbls. minced onion**  
**1 cup cooked Dunge-  
ness crab**  
**1 8-1/2-oz. can  
artichoke hearts,  
coarsely chopped**

**Preheat oven to 375  
degrees. In a mixing  
bowl, combine all  
ingredients thor-  
oughly except crab,  
olives and artichoke  
hearts. Gently fold  
in the remaining  
ingredients. Spread  
into 8-inch dish.  
Bake for 15 minutes.  
Serve hot, with  
crackers or corn  
chips.  
Serves 8.**

From EJC Cookbook:  
"Cookin' Up Justice"

## EXERCISE

- √ Step 1: Map out the unique and innovative partnerships and bridge-building already ongoing in your equal justice community.
- √ Step 2: Using your vision and values, brainstorm whether these ongoing partnerships might be manipulated to deliver additional benefits to the client service delivery system, or to increase or expand available resources.
- √ Step 3: Identify new partnerships to be forged.

Through this exercise, you will be able to maximize the development of your equal justice weather fronts. Eventually, there will be a sufficient “critical mass” of activity on enough “fronts” to allow the fronts to connect. You will be making your own equal justice weather. Congratulations!

## REFERENCES TO PART II

|                                                                                                                     |          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Celebration 2000                                                                                                    | page 189 |
| EJC Cookbook: “Cookin’ Up Justice”                                                                                  | page 193 |
| Summer of Justice 2000 Job Description: Road Volunteer                                                              | page 194 |
| Washington State Equal Justice Communication and Technology Vision                                                  | page 182 |
| Council on Public Legal Education<br><a href="http://www.wsba.org/ple/default.htm">www.wsba.org/ple/default.htm</a> |          |

***“Now this is a movement!”***

**Texas Supreme Court  
Justice Deborah  
Hankinson after  
appearing as a  
Superhero in the ATJ skit  
at Celebration 2000**