

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**The National Federation of Paralegal Associations presents the
William R. Robie Leadership Award**



Indianapolis, IN – January 2019 - The National Federation of Paralegal Associations, Inc. (NFPA) congratulates Brenda Cothary as the recipient of the organization’s prestigious 2018 William R. Robie Leadership Award. The award was presented at NFPA’s Annual Convention in Seattle, Washington on October 27, 2018.

NFPA established this award in 1993 to honor the memory of the late Chief Immigration Judge William R. Robie for his dedication to the expansion of legal services and equal justice for all Americans, and his commitment to the paralegal profession. The winner of the annual award must have made a lasting legacy through contributions to the community and paralegal profession.

Ms. Cothary is a paralegal at Coordinated Care, a managed care organization that provides health care services to members across Washington State. She has worked as a paralegal for 19 years and has experience in bankruptcy, collections, risk management, eminent domain, personal injury, administrative law, and contracts.

Ms. Cothary has been advocating for expanded roles for paralegals since she obtained her paralegal certificate from Highline Community College in 2001. She has been one of the driving forces in promoting and enhancing the role of paralegals in the legal community.

Washington is the first state in the country to offer an affordable legal services option to help meet the needs of those unable to afford the services of a lawyer. A limited license legal technician, also known as a LLLT, is licensed by the Washington Supreme Court to advise and assist people going through divorce, child custody and other family law related matters in Washington.

Ms. Cothary was appointed by the Washington State Supreme Court to serve on the Limited License Legal Technician (LLLT) Board in 2013. Since her appointment, she has worked tirelessly to ensure that the educational requirements for becoming a LLLT were rigorous and challenging enough to ensure that LLLTs were adequately educated to provide services directly to the public. Ms. Cothary continues to contribute significant time to her work on the LLLT Board, which is currently working on developing new practice areas and enhancements for the existing practice area (family law).

In addition, Ms. Cothary served on the Tacoma Community College Paralegal Advisory Committee during the time the school was seeking ABA approval. She has taught various CLE seminars and has been a substitute instructor at local community colleges.

She is constantly advocating for innovative ways to address unmet legal needs in our country, and she sees the value of having qualified and trained professionals who can provide cost effective and meaningful services to those who cannot afford an attorney.

Ms. Cothary has been a member of the Washington State Paralegal Association (WSPA) since 2001. She has served WSPA as Regulation Coordinator, CLE Coordinator, Chapter Director, Vice President, President, NFPA Secondary and NFPA Primary. She has also served NFPA as its Education Coordinator, Legislative Committee Co-Coordinator, and Case Law Coordinator. She earned a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and Criminal Justice from the University of Idaho, and in 2015 she graduated from Champlain College with an M.S. in Law.

NFPA is a non-profit professional organization representing more than 8,000 paralegals and is headquartered in Indianapolis, IN. NFPA's core purpose is the advancement of the paralegal profession. NFPA promotes a global presence for the paralegal profession and leadership in the legal community.

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