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MAMAS Honors Collingsworth with Leadership and Justice Award

The Mother Attorneys Mentoring Association of Seattle (MAMAS) presented its annual Leadership and Justice Award to Connie Collingsworth, general counsel and secretary at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, during its October 26 banquet. Nearly 300 people attended the event at the W Hotel in Seattle.



Collingsworth manages all of the foundation's legal needs by providing guidance, developing solutions to support the foundation's goals, and helping to ensure the foundation follows its guiding principles. Before joining the foundation, Collingsworth was a partner and member of the Executive Committee of Preston Gates & Ellis (now known as K&L Gates), where her practice focused on corporate securities law and private equity investments.

"It is important for mother attorneys to have role models like Connie," said Rachel Black, president of MAMAS. "Connie has shown that it is possible to have a busy legal career that involves international travel, and still be very involved with children and family."

Collingsworth is currently a member of the Board of Advisors to the New York University School of Law National Center on Philanthropy and the Law. She also previously served as board chair of Social Venture Partners, a network of accomplished individuals who leverage expertise and resources to strengthen promising nonprofits for maximum community impact, and was a founder and board chair of the French American School of Puget Sound.

The Leadership and Justice Award is given each year to an individual who has paved the way to success for and has served as an inspiration to other women attorneys striving to excel in their legal careers while balancing family demands.

MAMAS was founded in 2006 and has grown quickly in both numbers and prominence. Among its many goals, MAMAS aims to empower mother attorneys and facilitate their success in the legal profession. To this end, MAMAS hosts monthly networking events and brown bag lunches featuring panel presentations of particular interest to mother attorneys.

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