

WHIDBEY INSTITUTE

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WHIDBEY INSTITUTE TO HOST HEALING RETREAT FOR LAWYERS

(Whidbey Island)-- New technologies and business practices have brought increased efficiency to the practice of law. Greater efficiency offers better client service at decreased cost. But what of the lawyer? How is the profession changing? What is at stake?

In a profession that is focused on competition and winning, and in a society growing more complex, lawyers experience a growing number of stresses and ethical challenges, both professional and personal. Are today's patterns inevitable?

"Fifteen years ago, Chief Justice Warren Burger challenged members of the American Bar Association with the query: 'Should lawyers not be healers? Healers, not warriors?' As a profession, we look back in order to move forward," says attorney and retreat co-leader Stella Rabaut. "We know that present order is always on its way to chaos so that a higher level of organization may arise. Our challenge is not one of reengineering things of the past but to imagine a creative design for the future; to step outside of the known and see the connecting patterns emerging within and across all professions and cultures."

The Whidbey Institute will be offering a retreat for those interested in addressing current questions affecting the legal profession and challenging both individual practitioners and our society as a whole.

"The Law as a Healing Profession: Seeking Integrity and the Common Good" is a retreat offered by the Chinook Center, Whidbey Institute on Whidbey Island, October 12th from 6:30 p.m. through October 14th until noon. The cost of the retreat is \$375-\$450 (sliding scale) for programs, materials, and meals. Lodging will be an additional cost. Eight continuing education credits, four for ethics, can be earned for attending the retreat.

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Intended for attorneys in private practice, business, and government, as well as law professors and judges, this retreat is designed to integrate the inner life of the lawyer with the outer demands of the profession and to encourage transformative leadership in a time of economic, political, and cultural change. The retreat will include presentations, engagement with critical questions, contemplation, and exploration of ways of practice that will enhance the common good.

- The conference/retreat will explore four areas for reflection and conversation:
- < The Lawyer as Counselor-- moving from adversarial ethics to problem solving
 - < The Lawyer Seeking Integrity-- healing the gap between values and practice
 - < The Lawyer and the Common Good-- regaining public confidence
 - < The Lawyer as Healer-- restoring the person, profession, and practice

"Integrity in the practice of law is a key element in the architecture of democracy. When respect and trust in the legal profession is eroded, all that we cherish in civil societies is imperiled," says Sharon Daloz Parks, co-retreat leader and co-author of *Common Fire: Leading Lives of Commitment in a Complex World*. "Just as we need physicians to heal the body and clergy to heal the spirit, we need lawyers and judges to play vital roles in healing the rending of our social fabric. The complexity and the best aspirations of our new global commons call for deep renewal in the art and practice of the legal profession."

Retreat leaders Stella Rabaut, Donald Williamson, and Sharon Daloz Parks will invite participants to join a growing national conversation about the ancient roots of the law as a healing profession, resolving disputes and building a civil society within a global reality.

Stella Rabaut, M.A, J.D. has practiced law both in private and corporate settings and currently practices in Washington State. She has chaired the Professionalism Committee of the Washington State Bar Association. She has been featured recently in legal journals for her leadership in safeguarding the human spirit in the context of the legal profession and has served as a consultant in the emerging national conversation.

Donald Williamson, Ph.D. is a diplomat psychologist specializing in a systems approach to human well-being and such issues as integrity, authority, leadership and communications in professional communities. He has served on the faculties of Duke University, Baylor College of Medicine, and University of Houston Law School. He is an author and is presently Senior Fellow at the Leadership Institute of Seattle.

Sharon Daloz Parks, Th.D. is associate director and faculty at the Whidbey Institute. Formerly she served for over sixteen years in faculty and senior research positions at Harvard University in Schools of Divinity, Business, and the Kennedy School Government in leadership and ethics. She is co-author of *Common Fire: Leading Lives of Commitment in a Complex World*. She teaches in the Executive Leadership program at Seattle University.

For more information on The Law as a Healing Profession: Seeking Integrity and the Common Good, please contact the Whidbey Institute at P.O. Box 57, Clinton, WA 98236. The Institute may be reached by telephone at 360-341-1884, by fax at 360-341-1899, or by email at whidinst@whidbey.com. Or visit the website at www.whidbeyinstitute.org.

Whidbey Institute is located in a beautiful and tranquil forested setting just one hour north of downtown Seattle on Whidbey Island.