

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TACOMA BRANCH NAACP TO HOST 27TH ANNUAL FREEDOM FUND AWARDS BANQUET

Washington State Supreme Court Justice Helen Whitener to Deliver Keynote Address at Landmark Evening Themed “We the People”

TACOMA, WA — The Tacoma Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) will host its 27th Annual Freedom Fund Awards Banquet on **Thursday, August 27, 2026**, at the **Hotel Murano** in downtown Tacoma, Washington.

This year’s event will be held under the theme **“We the People”** — a timely and powerful declaration that the ongoing work of civil rights, equity, and justice belongs to every member of the community.

A Distinguished Keynote Speaker

The evening will feature **Washington State Supreme Court Justice Helen Whitener** as the keynote speaker. Justice Whitener brings a distinguished record of public service and a deep commitment to equal justice under the law, making her a fitting and inspiring voice for this year’s theme.

Honoring Community Excellence

The banquet will also feature a special awards ceremony recognizing three outstanding individuals whose dedication, leadership, and service have advanced the cause of civil rights and strengthened the Tacoma community. These honorees represent the very best of our community and embody the values of justice, equity, advocacy, and servant leadership.

In addition, the Tacoma Branch NAACP is proud to award **two scholarships** to deserving students, investing in the next generation of leaders who will continue the work of advancing opportunity, equality, and positive change.

Together, these recognitions celebrate both those who have paved the way and those who will carry the movement forward.

An Evening of Purpose and Investment

As the Tacoma Branch NAACP's premier annual fundraiser, the Freedom Fund Banquet provides critical support for the Branch's ongoing programs and advocacy efforts in the greater Tacoma area. Attendees are invited not only to celebrate, but to invest in the freedom work that continues every day.

"We the People is more than a theme — it is a call to action," said **Reverend Malando Redeemer**, President of the Tacoma Branch NAACP. "This evening is a reminder that civil rights is a shared responsibility, and that when we come together, we are stronger. We invite the entire community to join us."

Event Details

Event: 27th Annual Freedom Fund Awards Banquet

Date: Thursday, August 27, 2026

Venue: Hotel Murano | 1320 Broadway, Tacoma, WA 98402

Theme: "We the People"

Keynote Speaker: Justice Helen Whitener, Washington State Supreme Court

Tickets and sponsorship opportunities are available. For more information, visit www.253naacp.org.

About the Tacoma Branch NAACP

The Tacoma Branch of the NAACP is one of the oldest and most active civil rights organizations in the Pacific Northwest. Founded on the principle that all people deserve equal rights and opportunities under the law, the Branch works tirelessly through advocacy, education, and community engagement to eliminate racial discrimination and ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of all persons. For more information, visit www.253naacp.org.

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