

## Professor Ron Whitener Honored By White House As A "Champion Of Change"

Professor Ron Whitener, Director of the University of Washington's Native American Law Center and Of Counsel attorney at Foster Pepper PLLC, has been named a "Champion of Change" by the White House. Professor Whitener was honored at an official dinner hosted by Attorney General Eric Holder on October 13, 2011.



As part of President Obama's *Winning the Future Initiative* the "Champions" program is featuring lawyers who dedicate their professional lives to closing the justice gap in America. The program seeks to honor a small group of people who are "Winning the Future" and inspire others to follow their lead.

Professor Whitener's work in improving access to justice in Tribal communities has won national acclaim. His clinical program at the University of Washington serves as the public defender office for the **Tulalip Tribes**, and he has received a MacArthur Foundation grant for his work in developing a model juvenile justice system for Native American youth. Professor Whitener is an enrolled member of the Squaxin Island Tribe.