

Honorable Suzanne Parisien  
Noted for Hearing: August 1, 2016  
ORAL ARGUMENT REQUESTED

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON  
FOR KING COUNTY

MARIA LUISA JOHNSON, CARMELIA  
DAVIS-RAINES, CHERYL MUSKELLY,  
PAULINE ROBINSON, ELAINE SEAY-  
DAVIS, TONI WILLIAMSON, and LYNDA  
JONES

Plaintiffs,

vs.

SEATTLE PUBLIC UTILITIES, a  
department of the CITY OF SEATTLE, a  
municipality,

Defendants.

Case No.: 15-2-03013-2 SEA

**PLAINTIFFS' RESPONSE IN  
OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANT'S  
MOTION TO EXCLUDE  
DR. ANTHONY GREENWALD'S  
EXPERT TESTIMONY AND REPORT**

1                                   **I.           INTRODUCTION AND REQUEST FOR RELIEF**

2           It appears after defendant’s summary judgment motion was denied as to every claim  
3 brought by the plaintiffs, the defendant is using this motion in limine to reargue its failed  
4 summary judgment motion. The defendant lost because the jury will have to decide whether  
5 the alleged misconduct of the plaintiffs (accessing their own accounts and accounts of  
6 friends and families) was in fact authorized conduct that had occurred for years without  
7 management’s criticism, until City managers became the focus of State and City auditors for  
8 having no internal controls to prevent theft—then SPU management looked to the customer  
9 service center, populated mostly by persons of color and older workers, and began  
10 disciplining those employees for conduct going back 10 years—conduct that was  
11 permissible and approved—so that management could tell the auditors, the newspapers, and  
12 the City Council that they were rooting out theft. None of the plaintiffs are accused of theft,  
13 but Caucasian comparators who gained financial benefits or who violated serious policies  
14 were treated more favorably. The imposition of discriminatory discipline was done publicly,  
15 and no one in management stepped up to say that there were no policies prohibiting the  
16 decade old practice, except one supervisor named Beverly Flowers—and she was ignored.

17           The defendant is seeking to exclude Dr. Anthony Greenwald from testifying at trial  
18 while conceding in the same breadth that his testimony is admissible under the *Frye* Rule<sup>1</sup>,  
19 meaning that his opinions are not “novel” and that his opinions have “a valid scientific  
20 basis.” The defendants dare not challenge the valid scientific basis of his opinions, or that it  
21 his work and theories are well accepted and not novel, because the very same testimony has  
22

---

23           <sup>1</sup> When the admissibility of *novel* scientific evidence is at issue, Washington courts initially turn to the general  
24 acceptance test derived from *Frye*. The general acceptance standard serves as a shorthand method for judges in  
25 deciding whether novel scientific evidence, or evidence which is in the “twilight zone” between the  
“experimental and demonstrable stages,” has a valid scientific basis. Once novel scientific evidence has been  
deemed admissible under *Frye*, the trial court must analyze whether that testimony is proper expert testimony  
under ER 702. Reese v. Stroh, 128 Wn.2d 300, 306, 907 P.2d 282 (1995).

1 been admitted in federal court in the Eastern District of Washington under the more rigorous  
2 *Daubert* standard. Samaha v. Wash. State Dep't of Transp., No. CV-10-175-RMP, 2012 WL  
3 11091843, at \*3 (E.D. Wash. Jan. 3, 2012) (the Court is satisfied Dr. Greenwald's opinions  
4 are sufficiently “ground [ed] in the methods and procedures of science”; *relying on Daubert*  
5 *v. Merrell Dow Pharm., Inc.*, 509 U.S. 579, 590, 113 S. Ct. 2786, 2795, 125 L. Ed. 2d 469  
6 (1993)). Having admitted that Dr. Greenwald’s testimony has a valid scientific basis, the only  
7 issue left to resolve is whether it is helpful. That issue has also been addressed by the same  
8 federal court. Defendant contends that it is not helpful because, “Dr. Greenwald is unable to  
9 state with any degree of scientific certainty that implicit bias played any role in the disciplinary  
10 recommendations and decisions made by the decision makers *in this case*.” Mot., at 2. However,  
11 his testimony is helpful because he does not invade the province of the jury, but instead he will  
12 educate the jury on general principles found in his research and that of others in his field—  
13 background information well known and often cited by Dr. Greenwald’s peers, but not  
14 commonly known to laypersons. Such expert testimony is relevant to the jury’s  
15 understanding of the evidence in this case and to deciding whether race was a “substantial  
16 factor” in the disciplinary actions that Defendant took against the Plaintiffs. “Expert  
17 testimony is usually admitted under ER 702 if helpful to the jury’s understanding of a matter  
18 outside the competence of an ordinary layperson.” Reese, 128 Wn.2d at 308.

19 In Samaha v. Wash. State Dep't of Transp., the State of Washington attempted to  
20 exclude many of the same opinions of Dr. Greenwald regarding general principles presented  
21 here. *Compare id.*, at \*1, *with Simpson Dec.*, Ex. A ¶¶ 13-32. The State claimed his  
22 testimony was “not relevant, ... unfairly prejudicial, and fail[ed] to ‘appl[y] the principles  
23 and methods reliably to the facts of the case,” the same arguments Defendant now raises in  
24 its motion and which Chief Judge Peterson rejected in Samaha, notwithstanding the higher  
25 standard for admission of expert testimony in federal court. *See id.* at \*2. This Court should

1 likewise reject the arguments and find that “[t]estimony that educates a jury on the concepts  
2 of implicit bias and stereotypes is relevant to the issue of whether an employer intentionally  
3 discriminated against an employee.” *Id.*, at \*4. Dr. Greenwald’s opinions on these issues  
4 “consist of relevant subject matter,” which assist the jury by providing “information that it  
5 will be able to use to draw its own conclusions.” *See id.*, citing *Rolls–Royce Corp. v. Heros,*  
6 *Inc.*, 3:07–CV–0739–D, 2010 WL 184313, at \*1, \*3 (N.D.Tex.2010) (finding expert  
7 testimony about parts manufacture approval industry process admissible “to teach the jury  
8 background information to understand the case”). Thus, the motion should be denied.

## 9 II. STATEMENT OF FACTS

### 10 A. Seattle Public Utilities knew for years that it lacked adequate procedures and 11 training for employees making adjustments to customer utility accounts.<sup>2</sup>

12 According to the City Auditor, until at least April 2011, “there was no documented  
13 policy within the CCSS policies and procedures manual that stated employees were not  
14 allowed to enter transactions on their own utility accounts,” nor specifying that a supervisor  
15 was required to be involved in such transactions. *See* Sub #191, at Ex. 1. As a result, *more*  
16 *than a third of all employees* with Consolidated Customer Service System (“CCSS”) access  
17 made transactions on their own account or the account of someone they knew. Sub #157 (¶¶  
18 3, 6). In 2009, when the Washington State Auditor conducted an audit of SPU, the report of  
19 the exit conference from the audit criticized SPU, noting it had a “weakness in internal  
20 control over utility customer accounts,” Sub. # 191, Ex. 7 at 3, and needed to “to develop  
21 more policies and procedures” for the handling of such accounts. Sub. #192, Ex. 3 at 33-34.  
22 In June 2009, the State Auditor sent the Mayor and the Seattle City Council a “Management  
23 Letter” about these concerns. *See* Sub #191, Ex. 8. In April 2010, Guillemette Regan, then

24 \_\_\_\_\_  
25 <sup>2</sup> Due to page limitations, Plaintiffs cannot recite all of the facts and evidence supporting their theory of the case, which were described in detail in the brief opposing summary judgment, Sub #187, and which will be laid out in the forthcoming trial brief. Plaintiffs instead provide here a substantially truncated set of facts.

1 Director of Corporate Policy and Performance at SPU, was told by the State Auditor’s  
2 office that the previously issued management letter about the “utilities’ ability to establish  
3 effective internal controls over customer’s accounts” remained “unresolved.”<sup>3</sup> Regan admits  
4 the State Auditor continued raising these concerns into 2011. Sub # 192, Ex. 3 at 34.

5 “Defendant admits that no SPU manager received discipline for failing to create a  
6 specific written policy prohibiting employees from performing transactions on their own  
7 utility accounts.” Sub #192, Ex. 9 at Request for Admission No. 6.

8 **B. SPU discovered fraud and asked for help investigating it from the City Auditor,  
9 which decided on its own that it needed to audit SPU’s internal controls.**

10 In October 2010, “while performing routine reconciliation of payment reports,” SPU  
11 discovered that a civil engineer (Joe Phan) used his access to CCSS to create “*fraudulent*  
12 *payments*” totaling \$1,049.49 for utility accounts connected to Mr. Phan’s properties. Sub  
13 #192, Ex. 4. On December 7, 2010, SPU reported to the Seattle City Auditor that Phan and a  
14 second SPU employee utilized CCSS system access rights to make inappropriate  
15 transactions. Sub #192, Ex. 5. “SPU contacted [the City Auditor] to ask that [it] assist them  
16 with this investigation” of these two employees. Sub # 192 Ex. 6, at 6-7. The title that the  
17 City Auditor gave to this investigation at its inception indicated it was a “fraud  
18 investigation,” but admits that changed with time. *See id.*; and Sub #192, Ex. 5 at 1. The  
19 original fraud investigation “morphed into different things” and at some point the City  
20 Auditor “decided to conduct an audit of internal controls related to utility account  
21 transactions,” an audit SPU had not requested, but which the City Auditor deemed  
22 necessary. Sub #192, Ex. 6 at 8, 11. In February 2011, when Assistant City Auditor Robin  
23 Howe wrote in a draft memo about the fraud investigation of Phan that, “*per SPU policy*,  
24 employees should not be entering any transactions to their own accounts and certainly not

25 \_\_\_\_\_  
<sup>3</sup> Sub #192, Ex. 3 at 9-10; Sub #202, Ex. 3 at 97; Sub # 191, Ex. 10.

1 posting payments,” Ms. Regan responded, “I don’t believe we have an actual policy. ... If  
2 there is a policy, I would love to see it.” Sub #191, Ex. 11; Sub #192, Ex. 3 at 94-95. Such  
3 lack of internal controls for making adjustments to utility accounts concerned Howe and the  
4 City Auditor’s office. Sub #192, Ex. 6 at 11-12.

5 In July 2011, the City Auditor’s office met to discuss “strategy for drafting a memo  
6 on CCSS Transaction Controls,” which would be a procedural review of the CCSS  
7 transaction **procedures.**” Sub #192, Ex. 13 at 1. The City Auditor, Dave Jones, felt his  
8 office had already completed enough fieldwork at that time to draft the memo, but was  
9 concerned about the issuing the memo “while SPU is in the middle of an investigation” and  
10 did not want “to jeopardize the results of the investigation in any way.” *Id.*, at 1-2. By  
11 August 2011, the City Council was “applying some pressure” to the City Auditor’s office to  
12 complete the “‘controls memo’ highlighting the **internal control weaknesses** with the  
13 CCSS transaction processes ... as soon as possible.” Sub #191, Ex. 19 at 3. Regan and SPU  
14 knew that such a report by the City Auditor was going to be “a problem for us,” and agreed  
15 it “jeopardized” the alleged legitimacy of the disciplinary actions SPU management planned  
16 to take against lower-level employees in the Customer Service branch that were  
17 predominantly persons of color. *See* Sub #192, Exs. 26 and 29.<sup>4</sup> In February 2012, the City  
18 Auditor, Mr. Jones, confirmed in an email to Regan that he intended to tell Councilmember  
19 Burgess that the City Auditor “believe[s] it is appropriate for us to let SPU complete the  
20 investigation,” and after speaking with Jones, Regan responded for Jones to “add to your  
21 statement that SPU also felt that the work the City Auditor is undertaking in 2012 overlaps  
22 too much with [SPU’s] continued investigations into CCSS billing system transactions and  
23

24 <sup>4</sup> *See* Sub # 192, Ex. 28 (report to SPU Director Hoffman that Customer Response division was **67% persons**  
25 **of color** and that as of March 2012 persons terminated from the CCSS investigation were 60% persons of  
color); Sub #192, Ex. 8 at 145 (Hoffman testified, “**I knew that the composition of Contact Center**  
**employees had more people of color than their distribution in the city population and than in some of**  
**the other divisions within the department.**”)

1 would benefit from greater separation in order to avoid conflict or risk to the outcomes of  
2 the investigations.” Sub #192, Ex. 16; *id.*, Ex. 17 at 222-224, 227. As a result, the City  
3 Auditor’s report was not released until April 2014, more than two and a half years later. *See*  
4 Sub #191, Ex. 20. In the intervening period, all of SPU’s disciplinary actions related to the  
5 CCSS system, including those against the Plaintiffs, were taken. *See generally*, Sub #162.

6 **C. Recognizing its procedures for customer utility account adjustments were  
7 inadequate, SPU overhauled its procedures.**

8 On March 9, 2011, Debra Russell, the Director of the Customer Response branch  
9 and head of SPU’s Call Center sent an email to Labor Relations Coordinator Charlene  
10 MacMillan-Davis: “*What do you think about adding to the UAR Expectations the  
11 information that employees should not access their own utility accounts?*” MacMillan-Davis  
12 replied, “Let’s not do it just yet. With everything else going on related to this, I think it  
13 would be best to handle that separately. We can - and should - add it once we have a  
14 comprehensive approach to managing it.” Sub #191, Ex. 13. In March 2011, SPU drafted a  
15 policy, CS-106, which “respond[ed] to a need to clarify expectations related to employees  
16 performing transactions in our billing system.” Sub # 192, Ex. 10. The policy stated on its  
17 face that it was “new” and did not supersede any prior policy. Sub #156, Ex. D. The policy’s  
18 stated purpose: “This policy *establishes* employee expectations related to performing  
19 transactions involving customer accounts in conformance with SMC 4.16.070” (the Code of  
20 Ethics). *Id.* The policy bars employees from performing account transactions involving  
21 themselves or people they know. *Id.* In a report generated by the City Auditor around the  
22 same time, it confirms that “Customer Service has a **distinct lack of documented policies  
23 and procedures.**” Sub #192, Ex. 11. Director Hoffman also admits that SPU at that time  
24 “didn’t have adequate controls over customer accounts.” Sub #192, Ex. 2 at 22. On May 17,  
25 2011, the State Auditor issued a blistering audit of SPU, finding the “*Utilities’ policies and  
employee training do not clearly define the process for adjustments,*” and

1 “*recommend[ed] the utilities adopt formal policies and establish processes for*  
2 *determining when account adjustments are necessary.*” Sub #191, Ex. 16 at 13. In  
3 November 2011, Director Hoffman received a memo from his management containing a  
4 summary of an interview with one Utility Account Representative (“UAR”) Supervisor who  
5 said “it is acceptable for UARs to do payment arrangements for themselves, a family  
6 member, friend, or for co-workers, as long as it is within the policy guidelines which apply  
7 to any other customer”; and a report from another of Plaintiffs’ supervisors that he “did not  
8 recall specifically learning that a UAR should not touch family or friends’ accounts,” nor  
9 recall any ethics training during his orientation. Sub #191, Ex. 4 at 2-3.

10 **C. SPU Management Exercised Discretion in its Decision-Making, Failed to Use**  
11 **Objective Criteria in Making Decisions, and Treated Others Persons Who**  
12 **Engaged in Acts of Comparable Seriousness Different than the Plaintiffs.**

13 Defendant’s motion claims “[t]he type of discipline ... was based on the objective  
14 evidence of the number and character of improper account changes or adjustments the  
15 employee made.” Mot., at 3, *citing* Sanchez Dec., ¶¶ 5-7; Hoffman Dec., ¶¶ 6-7; *see also*  
16 Mot., at 12, fn. 12 (claiming decisions were based on “objective criteria”). In her deposition,  
17 Susan Sanchez was asked how she made disciplinary recommendations to SPU Director  
18 Hoffman and admitted she had no specific written criteria for deciding who to discipline.  
19 *See* Sheridan Dec., Ex. 1, at 56-59. Sanchez later corrected her answer to say she took into  
20 account various “considerations,” but had not prioritized them and had no formula for her  
21 decisions. *See id.*, at 72-77. When SPU Director Hoffman was asked for his criteria for  
22 disciplining or terminating a person, he listed many subjective criteria (for example,  
23 “*whether or not they are contrite*”) and did not claim he relied on any set number of alleged  
24 improper transactions to trigger one level of discipline versus another. *See* Sheridan Dec.,  
25 Ex. 2, at 164. In his declaration supporting the present motion, Hoffman testifies vaguely, “I  
terminated employees who made higher numbers of CCSS financial adjustments utility



1 accounts, at least one of which not otherwise within policy. I suspended employees who  
2 made **lower** numbers of CCSS financial adjustments, as well as employees who made CCSS  
3 financial adjustments that were otherwise within SPU policy.” Hoffman Dec., ¶ 7. His prior  
4 summary judgment declaration said even less. *Compare* Sub # 156.

5       It is clear management exercised discretion in deciding which charges to pursue, if  
6 any, and what level of discipline to recommend or issue. Many illustrations of this were  
7 discussed in Plaintiffs’ brief opposing summary judgment. Sub #222, at 29-34. As one  
8 example, SPU’s investigation found that Debra Warren cancelled a payment arrangement to  
9 align the payment date with her pay days, and that 5 of the payment arrangements she  
10 created on her own account “failed.” Sub #162 (D.W. File, at JOHNSON000138). Hoffman  
11 wrote that Warren “misused [her] position as an SPU employee by accessing [her] account  
12 for the purpose of managing it for [her] personal benefit,” and that her “responses  
13 demonstrate an **apparent failure or unwillingness to comprehend that working on your  
14 own account is simply not acceptable.**” *Id.* Ms. Sanchez recommended Hoffman terminate  
15 Ms. Warren. *Id.*, at JOHNSON000142. However, after Hoffman met with Warren, who is  
16 white, in a *Loudermill* hearing, he wrote that he had considered, *inter alia*, “the fact that  
17 [she] had no prior disciplinary action” and “decided to impose a thirty (30) day suspension,  
18 in lieu of termination, on the condition that [she] enter into a last chance agreement.” *Id.*, at  
19 JOHNSON000138. After Hoffman met with Plaintiffs Johnson and Williamson, who are  
20 Filipino and African-American respectively, he made no similar offer of mercy, instead  
21 terminating both with no “last chance.” *Compare* Sub #162 (Files for Luisa Johnson and  
22 Toni Williamson). The City’s personnel rules give Hoffman the ability to apply principles  
23 of “progressive discipline” using any considerations he “deems relevant.” Personnel Rule  
24 1.3.2(C), Sub #192, Ex. 25. Records of the City Auditor’s office reflect just how similar  
25 Debra Warren’s conduct was to the alleged misconduct of Plaintiff Johnson, who was

1 terminated, rather than suspended like Ms. Warren:

2

Name/dept	Analytics Questions	Action	Date (approximate)	\$
Luisa Johnson/SPU	16 (pmnt arr own acct) 17 (canceled * own acct)	Made and canceled payment arrangements on spouse's account	2005, 2006, 2008 (2), 2010	116.46, 155.5, 241.8, 199.02, 299.99
Debra Warren/SPU	16 (pmnt arr own acct) 17 (canceled * own acct)	Payment arrangement to spouse's acct Cancel pmnt arr to spouse's account	2002, 2007, 2009, 2010	47.37, 143.69, 121.76, 162.37, 141.06, 230.01, 139.54, 140.05, 121.76
Kimberly	13 (adj own acct)	Adj to account, her address, brother's name	2010	Reversed \$30 or \$40

3

4

5 Sub #191, Ex. 5, at 4.

6 **III. ISSUE PRESENTED**

7 Whether Dr. Greenwald's testimony would be helpful to the trier of fact? Yes.

8 **IV. ARGUMENT AND AUTHORITY**

9 **A. Standard of Review**

10 The rule dealing with admissibility of expert testimony "involves a two-step inquiry  
11 —whether the witness qualifies as an expert and whether the expert testimony would be  
12 helpful to the trier of fact." Reese, 128 Wn.2d at 305-06, *citing* ER 702. Here, "SPU is not  
13 disputing that Dr. Greenwald qualifies as an expert under the *Frye* standard." Mot. at 8, fn. 9.

14 Under ER 702, a qualified expert's testimony is helpful if it "will assist the trier of  
15 fact to understand the evidence or to determine a fact in issue." *Id.* "Expert testimony is  
16 usually admitted under ER 702 if helpful to the jury's understanding of a matter outside the  
17 competence of an ordinary layperson." Reese, 128 Wn.2d at 308. "Courts generally interpret  
18 possible helpfulness to the trier of fact broadly and favor admissibility in doubtful cases."  
19 State v. King Cty. Dist. Court W. Div., 175 Wn. App. 630, 638 (2013).

20 **B. Dr. Greenwald's Testimony Is Relevant and Helpful to the Jury**

21 Dr. Greenwald will not opine on the specifics of this case. As in Samaha, in which  
22 his testimony was admitted under the more challenging federal standard, Dr. Greenwald will  
23 testify on findings from his own research and his knowledge of the research of others  
24 relevant to the conditions of this case. *See* Simpson Dec., Ex. A, ¶ 11 (Greenwald testifies  
25 "the findings of existing research regarding implicit bias provide a framework that can aid a

1 judge or jury in evaluating the facts of this case to better understand the evidence as it  
2 relates to discriminatory intent, to counteract common misconceptions concerning the  
3 character of discriminatory intent, and to determine whether the plaintiff's race, color,  
4 and/or ethnic origin substantially motivated the defendant actions outlined in the  
5 complaint.”); accord Samaha, 2012 WL 11091843, at \*1, \*4 (Greenwald gave same  
6 testimony and the Court agreed, finding “Greenwald’s testimony is likely to provide the jury  
7 with information that it will be able to use to draw its own conclusions”). Other federal  
8 courts have relied on the research of Dr. Greenwald and others about implicit bias to find  
9 that an employer “behaved in a manner suggesting the presence of implicit bias” and to find  
10 a violation of Title VII’s prohibition on discrimination “because of” race. See Kimble v.  
11 Wisconsin Dep’t of Workforce Dev., 690 F. Supp. 2d 765, 776, 778 (E.D. Wis. 2010).

12 **C. Dr. Greenwald’s testimony is not unduly prejudicial**

13 The proposed testimony is not unduly prejudicial, because as Defendant admits in its  
14 motion, Greenwald offers no opinion on “whether any of the decisions at issue were the  
15 product of implicit bias.” Mot. at 10. The same was true in Samaha. See *id.*, 2012 WL  
16 11091843, at \*4. In contrast, the testimony by Greenwald that was rejected in Karlo v.  
17 Pittsburgh Glass Works, LLC, 2:10-CV-1283, 2015 WL 4232600 (W.D. Pa. July 13, 2015),  
18 cited by Defendant, “attempt[ed] to apply his research to the facts of th[e] case.” See *id.*, at  
19 \*5 and \*7 (noting that the testimony “attempts to highlight flaws in the employment  
20 practices of PGW” based on his review of deposition excerpts). *In this case, Dr. Greenwald*  
21 *conducted no such review of evidence and offers no potentially prejudicial opinion*  
22 *regarding the ultimate facts at issue in the case.*

23 **D. Dr. Greenwald’s Testimony Will Not Confuse the Jury, as the WLAD is a**  
24 **Mandate to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination**

25 Defendant writes in a footnote that “[a]llowing Dr. Greenwald to testify would create  
a significant risk that the jury would find SPU liable under RCW 49.60 based on evidence of

1 *unintentional* discrimination, when the legislature intended to create a cause of action solely  
2 for *intentional* discrimination.” Mot., at 10, fn. 11. Defendant cites no authority to support  
3 the legislative intent it alleges. *See id.* Nowhere in Chapter 49.60 RCW does it state that the  
4 prohibition on discrimination “because of race” is limited to discrimination that is  
5 “purposeful” or “conscious.” *See generally* RCW 49.60 and RCW 49.60.030; RCW  
6 49.60.180; *see also* Thomas v. Eastman Kodak Co., 183 F.3d 38, 58–60 (1st Cir.1999)  
7 (stating that the ultimate question under Title VII is whether an employer acted “because of”  
8 an employee’s protected class, “regardless of whether the employer consciously intended to  
9 base the evaluation on race, or simply did so because of unthinking stereotypes or bias”).  
10 Requiring plaintiffs to prove conscious ill-will or a similar state of mind is contrary to the  
11 letter of federal and state discrimination statutes, which speak only in terms of causation, and  
12 it is contrary to the statutes’ remedial purposes.

13 The Washington Law Against Discrimination “embodies a public policy of the  
14 ‘highest priority.’ Martini v. Boeing, 137 Wn.2d 357, 364 (1999). The law contains strong  
15 wording about the importance of eliminating discrimination to our “free and democratic  
16 state.” RCW 49.60.010. It creates a civil right to be “**free from discrimination because of**  
17 **race**,” specifically listing the right to hold employment free from discrimination. RCW  
18 49.60.030(1)(a). The law is a “**clear mandate to eliminate all forms of discrimination.**”  
19 Brown v. Scott Paper, 143 Wn.2d 349, 359–60 (2001), *citing* RCW 49.60.010.

20 “The legislature directs us to construe the WLAD liberally.” Scrivener v. Clark Coll.,  
21 181 Wn.2d 439, 441 (2014), *citing* RCW 49.60.020. Thus, the Supreme Court has given  
22 meaning to the phrase “because of,” utilized in the WLAD, to mean that the plaintiff need  
23 only show that her race or other attribute enumerated in the statute was a “substantial factor”  
24 in the adverse employment action. *See, e.g.*, Scrivener, 181 Wn.2d at 444 (“At trial, the  
25 WLAD plaintiff must ultimately prove that age [or race] was a ‘substantial factor’ in an

1 employer’s adverse employment action. ... A ‘substantial factor’ means that the protected  
2 characteristic was a **significant motivating factor** bringing about the employer’s decision.  
3 “”), *citing* WPI 330.01.01 (“*Employment Discrimination—Disparate Treatment—Burden of*  
4 *Proof—Substantial Factor*”). While Defendant repeatedly claims proof that Defendant  
5 “*intentionally* discriminated” against Plaintiffs is a “critical element of their case” (Mot., at  
6 9), no case has held there is any such element to a WLAD claim. *See* WPI 330.01.01  
7 (requiring only that race was “a significant motivating factor in bringing about the  
8 employer’s decision,” with no requirement for discrimination to be shown to be intentional,  
9 conscious, or purposeful). Riehl is not inapposite. The quote Defendant relies upon from  
10 Riehl is mischaracterized, as the next sentence of the opinion makes clear that the burden is  
11 simply to show that “disability was a substantial factor motivating [the] adverse actions.”  
12 Riehl v. Foodmaker, Inc., 152 Wn.2d 138, 149 (2004). Defendant’s reliance on two federal  
13 district court decisions from foreign jurisdictions in which Dr. Greenwald’s testimony was  
14 excluded is equally unpersuasive. Those courts were not applying the WLAD, which unlike  
15 the federal anti-discrimination laws, contains a unique provision requiring that it be liberally  
16 interpreted. Martini, 137 Wn.2d at 372–73. Federal statutes also differ from the WLAD in  
17 another important way—they contain explicit language about proving the employer  
18 “*intentionally* engaged in or is *intentionally* engaging in an unlawful employment  
19 practice....” *See id.*, *quoting* 42 U.S.C. § 2000(e)-5(g)(1); *compare* RCW 49.60.030(2).

20           Additionally, the Washington Supreme Court has recently written with approval  
21 about the need for courts to address implicit bias. The lead opinion in State v. Saintcalte, 178  
22 Wn.2d 34 (2013), a case concerning a *Batson* challenge to peremptory strikes, discussed at  
23 length what it called “The changing face of race discrimination.” *Id.* at 46-48. Discussing the  
24 pervasive problem of implicit bias, the opinion states, “[W]e are not, on average or generally,  
25 cognitively colorblind;” “To put it simply, good people often discriminate, and they often

1 discriminate without being aware of it.” *Id.* As a result, the opinion strongly suggested the  
2 Court “abandon and replace *Batson*’s ‘purposeful discrimination’ requirement with a  
3 requirement that necessarily accounts for and alerts trial courts to the problem of unconscious  
4 bias,” and that a *Batson* challenge should be “sustained if there is a reasonable probability  
5 that race was a factor in the exercise of the peremptory....” *Id.* at 54. In effect, the  
6 “purposeful discrimination” element to a *Batson* claim—for which there is no analog in the  
7 elements of a WLAD claim—ought to be replaced with a substantial factor causation  
8 standard that “accounts for... unconscious bias.” *Id.*

9 **VI. CONCLUSION**

10 For all of these reasons, the Court should deny the motion to exclude the expert  
11 testimony and report of Dr. Anthony Greenwald.

12  
13 Respectfully submitted this 28<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2016.

14 SHERIDAN LAW FIRM, P.S.

15 By: s/John P. Sheridan

16 John P. Sheridan, WSBA # 21473  
17 Hoge Building, Suite 1200  
18 705 Second Avenue  
19 Seattle, WA 98104  
20 Phone: 206-381-5949 / Fax: 206-447-9206  
21 Email: [jack@sheridanlawfirm.com](mailto:jack@sheridanlawfirm.com)  
22 Attorneys for Plaintiffs

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Melanie Kent, that on July 28, 2016, I electronically filed the foregoing document with the Clerk of the Court using the ECR E-Filing system, and served the following persons using the ECR E-Serve system:

Sarah E. Tilstra  
Seattle City Attorney's Office  
701 Fifth Avenue, Suite 2050  
Seattle, WA 98104-7097  
[sarah.tilstra@seattle.gov](mailto:sarah.tilstra@seattle.gov)

Portia R. Moore  
Davis Wright Tremaine, LLP  
1201 Third Avenue, Suite 2200  
Seattle, WA 98101  
[portiamore@dwt.com](mailto:portiamore@dwt.com)

*Attorneys for Defendants Seattle Public Utilities*

DATED this 28<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2016, at Seattle, Washington.

s/Melanie Kent  
Melanie Kent, Legal Assistant