Distinguished Alumnus of the Year

One of the outstanding personal injury lawyers in Washington state, Attorney Tom J. Chambers of Seattle is the 1998 Distinguished Alumnus of the Year. The honor is conferred by the YVCC Alumni Association. Mr. Chambers attended YVCC during 1962-63.

"I had the opportunity to mentor Tom with five other students from the University of Washington law school in 1968. They were part of a project to assist low income persons in the protection of their legal rights," said Douglas D. Peters, Selah attorney who nominated Chambers. "Tom later completed law school and became one of the outstanding personal injury lawyers in this state. In addition to writing books for trial lawyers, he is immediate past president of the Washington State Bar Association. I am proud of this 'homegrown' distinguished alumnus of YVCC!"

Since 1992 Mr. Chambers has served as chair of the Lawyer-Pilots Bar Association. He is the author of several publications including "Plight of Migrant Farm Workers in State of Washington," producer of two videos relating to legal procedures, the past president of several legal associations including the Washington State Trial Lawyers Association. In 1996 he was selected Trial Lawyer of the Year by the American Board of Trial Advocates' Washington state chapter. Washington State Trial Lawyers Association has honored him with the following: 1989 Trial Lawyer of the Year, President's Award in 1993, and the Alvin Anderson Award in 1994. He represented Washington state on the board of governors of the American Trial Lawyers.

Since 1984 he has owned Tom Chambers and Associates in Seattle which focuses on serious bodily injury, wrongful death, sexual abuse and harassment, and psychiatric malpractice. He has been credited with trying more injury cases than any other lawyer in the state over the past 10 years.

He and his wife, Judy (the former Judy Cable of Wapato), have two daughters, Jana and Jolie, and one son, Tom. Mr. Chambers graduated from Wapato High School in 1962. He graduated from Washington State University in 1966, was a governor's intern in 1966, and earned his juris doctorate from the University of Washington in 1969. His parents, Tom Sr. and Doris, founded Chambers Service in the 1940s and Chambers Auto Supply in 1950s.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS RECIPIENTS

1982 Catherine May Bedell
1983 J. Alex (Lex) Maxwell
1984 Sid Morrison
1985 James R. Sorenson
1986 Robert Brachtenbach
1987 E. Frederick Velikanje
1988 Bill Barnett
1989 Bill Lee
1990 Gene Shields
1991 Mel Lewis
1992 Penny Hitchcock
1993 Pete Rademacher
1994 David Shinn
1995 Mike Bernazzani
1996 Erasmo Gamboa
1997 Elaine Ostrander

LEADON AWARD RECIPIENTS

1988 George Meshke
1989 Judy Moore
1990 Pat Hakala
1991 Jim Newbill
1992 Rudy Pinon
1991 Millie Stenehjem
1992 Mary Patrick
1993 Cecil Terk
1994 Paul Anderson
1995 Peggy Keller
1994 Scott Peterson
1995 Inga Wichl
1996 Patti Koluda
1997 Chuck Weedin
1996 Eric Mould
1997 Joan Norton
1998 Marlene Cousens

CLASSIFIED STAFF OF THE YEAR RECIPIENTS

1989 Ardes Metz
1990 Vema Shafer
1991 Judy Lee
1992 Janet Shaw
1993 Rachel Toney
1994 Pat Brawley
1995 Shirley Bonneville
1996 Haydee Goldenberg
1997 Brian Bordeaux