Jim Bamberger is the founding director of the Washington State Office of Civil Legal Aid (OCLA), an independent judicial branch agency that administers and oversees legislatively appropriated funding for legal aid services throughout Washington State. He serves by appointment of the Washington State Supreme Court. Prior to joining OCLA in 2005, Bamberger served in many positions within Alliance for Equal Justice, Washington State's integrated statewide legal aid system. In addition to his work in Washington State, Jim has consulted with the Legal Services Corporation and with state civil justice communities across the country. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Jim has worked to identify and secure state and federal emergency funding need to address the waves of legal problems experienced by low-wage workers, unemployed people, victims of violence, and others directly affected by the crisis. Jim writes and speaks frequently on matters relating to civil legal aid and related equity and justice issues.