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OWLS History: Our First 20 Years

By Trudy Allen and Diane Rynerson

OWLS celebrates its 20th anniversary this year, and we will mark the occasion with a CLE and reception on September 25 in Portland. (Please see page 3 for details.) In honor of the anniversary, this article describes OWLS' formation and some highlights from the past 20 years.

Like many things, OWLS came about through an evolutionary process. Queen's Bench, a Portland-based women lawyers' group founded in 1948, had at times called itself a statewide organization, in part because for many years it hosted a breakfast for women lawyers from all over the state at the Oregon State Bar (OSB) convention. By the mid-1970s, new women lawyers' groups had formed in Eugene and Salem, and by the mid-1980s, they co-hosted an annual women's event at the OSB convention with Queen's Bench.

Voices had been calling for a true statewide women lawyers' organization, but nothing started to coalesce until 1987, when Susan Hammer, the first woman to serve as president of the Multnomah Bar Association (MBA), reconstituted the MBA's Committee on the Status of Women, which had been dormant for at least the two

previous years. On January 27, 1987, Susan sent letters to ten women, inviting them to join the committee and "seize this opportunity to work

with selected issues facing women in our profession today." As the committee worked to define those issues, it came up with a long list of goals, and it soon determined that a statewide effort was needed to bring together sufficient energy to tackle so many goals. When Katherine O'Neil became chair of the committee in 1988, the impetus gained significant momentum. At Saturday morning meetings, up to 30 women joined the discussion.

Katherine asked Queen's Bench, Lane County Women Lawyers, and Salem's Mary Leonard Law Society to co-host and invite all their members to attend an "organizational breakfast" at the September 16, 1988, OSB convention

in Eugene. The keynote speakers at the breakfast were retired Supreme Court Justice Betty Roberts and Multnomah County Circuit Court Judge Mercedes Deiz, both of whom provided profound inspiration to those present. (See page 5 for excerpts.) They garnered unanimous support for the proposal to form a statewide women lawyers' association. With that momentum, Katherine

Continued on page 4



OWLS Founding President Katherine O'Neil (right) and our third president, Kathryn Ricciardelli

Photo by Jodee Jackson



OWLS founding member Susan Hammer (left) and founding board member Judge Ellen Rosenblum

Photo by Jodee Jackson

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OWLS 20th Anniversary Celebration and CLE on Sept. 25

Please see page 3 for details.

Co-Presidents' Message



Gwyneth McAlpine

We are honored and excited to be the first co-presidents of Oregon Women Lawyers. Gwyn brings to the post her experience with corporate and nonprofit governance and budgeting, while Heather brings knowledge of litigation and the courts, as well as event organization. We chose to be co-presidents because, frankly, we were already close friends, thanks to OWLS and the dragon boat team, and if we can vacation



Heather Van Meter

overseas together, we can certainly take on the OWLS presidency together. We also chose to be co-presidents to highlight the fact that women can achieve and contribute more by working together. Our skill sets are complementary, and we believe that this expanding statewide organization can benefit from our combined talents. We also hope our co-presidency inspires other organizations and employers to think creatively about leadership opportunities to foster more diversity in leadership positions.

Gwyn has already been busy getting our corporate governance in place, including proposing revisions to our bylaws to reflect the growth in chapters and the importance of having statewide and diverse representation on our board. Gwyn also worked with our prior executive director, Catherine Ciarlo, to finalize a policy manual that addresses topics such as political endorsements and the privacy of the OWLS membership list. Heather has been working with Executive Director Linda Tomassi and board members Cynthia Fraser and Kathi Rastetter to organize the OWLS 20th anniversary celebration, scheduled for September 25 at the Marriott Waterfront in Portland. The event will feature nationally known keynote speaker Sarah Weddington, who argued *Roe v. Wade* before the U.S. Supreme Court at age 26, among other accomplishments. Our theme is how far we have come as women lawyers, and how far we have yet to go. We are very excited about the event, and you won't want to miss it!

Additionally, Gwyn and Heather have worked with the board and Linda to create and adopt OWLS' first employee handbook. Speaking of Linda, she is doing excellent work as our new executive director, including organizing and attending events throughout the state. In the past few months, Gwyn, Heather, and Linda have visited half the OWLS chapters, and we plan to visit all chapters by year-end. These regional visits serve the purpose of strengthening our chapter ties, offering program assistance to chapters, and ensuring that our chapters know the important role they all play in making our statewide organization meaningful and valuable to everyone.

In closing, and consistent with the "How Far We Have Come" theme for our 20th anniversary celebration, we want to acknowledge the advances recently made on Oregon's judiciary. OWLS board member Frances Roberts Burge was just named as the first minority female judge on the Douglas County Circuit Court. And at the Federal Courthouse Connection on June 5, we were thrilled to honor Judge Ann Aiken as Oregon's first female U.S. District Court chief judge. Oh how far we've come. . . .

Gwyneth McAlpine Heather Van Meter
Co-Presidents, Oregon Women Lawyers

Congratulations, OWLS Members Recently Appointed to the Bench

Frances Roberts Burge, Douglas County Circuit Court Judge
Cynthia Easterday, Yamhill County Circuit Court Judge
Karen Brisbin, Clackamas County Justice of the Peace

Our mission is to transform the practice of law and ensure justice and equality by advancing women and minorities in the legal profession.

Save the Date! OWLS Fashion Show and Benefit for Dress for Success

Thursday, October 8, 4:30 p.m.
Dr. Martens
10 NW 10th Ave., Portland

Book Drive Begins Soon

By Heather Vogelsong

The OWLS Coffee Creek Book Drive will take place the week of Monday, September 28, through Sunday, October 4. Christine Furrer and Heather Vogelsong are coordinating the drive, which collects books to donate to the Coffee Creek Correctional Facility, located in Wilsonville. If you can coordinate a drop-off site for books, please contact Heather Vogelsong before August 1 at maitaly28@yahoo.com. And please speak with Heather before seeking donations from outside of OWLS.

Hard- and soft-cover books will be accepted. Books on CD are also acceptable, but NO books on tape.

Any form of fiction is acceptable. Mysteries, romance, and science fiction/fantasy are the most popular. The women at Coffee Creek have a wide range of reading abilities, as well as tastes in literature. If you read a book and liked it, chances are that someone at Coffee Creek will too. Books written for young adults are particularly needed.

Nonfiction is also acceptable, but NO true crime books, books on gambling, law books (the facility buys those), or textbooks of any kind will be accepted.

Children's books are also welcome—many of the women have children who visit them, and reading together is a great bonding experience. But please, NO coloring or activity books that have already been used or played with.

Books must be in good-to-excellent condition. No books with torn covers. No books that have been written in. No books that are water damaged or have broken spines. The basic rule: Donate only books that you would give as gifts to friends. We are giving the women at Coffee Creek gifts—and their high quality will convey the message that we care.

Questions? Please contact Heather Vogelsong at maitaly28@yahoo.com.

OWLS 20th Anniversary Celebration and CLE on September 25 in Portland

Breaking Barriers: How Far We Have Come, How Far We Have to Go

The OWLS Fall CLE and 20th Anniversary Reception and Awards Presentation will be on Friday, September 25, at the Waterfront Marriott in downtown Portland. Celebrate women lawyers and join the discussion of "Breaking Barriers: How Far We Have Come, How Far We Have to Go."

We are honored to feature as keynote speaker Sarah Weddington, lawyer, professor, and women's rights advocate. She will speak at 3 p.m. about her experiences, including arguing *Roe v. Wade* at the U.S. Supreme Court when she was just 26 years old. She recalls being asked repeatedly, "Who will argue the case for you?"—the assumption was that a 26-year-old female attorney could not possibly argue before the country's highest court!

The emcee will be OWLS' first president, Katherine O'Neil, who will also moderate an impressive panel from 4:15

to 5:30 p.m. The distinguished panelists will include Holly Fujie, president of the California State Bar; Janis Harwell, in-house counsel for Intermed Inc. of Everett, Washington; and OWLS members Hon. Darleen Ortega of the Oregon Court of Appeals and Kris Olson, former U.S. attorney.

The 20th anniversary celebration and reception will follow the panel. All past OWLS presidents and board members, and all past OWLS chapter presidents and board members, are particularly encouraged to attend. We will present the fourth annual Workplace Leader Award, as well as a new award to be announced. We will celebrate with a special anniversary cake, and we hope to enjoy book signings by both Ms. Weddington, of her book, *A Question of Choice*, and former Oregon Supreme Court Justice Betty Roberts, of her memoir, *With Grit and By Grace*.

OWLS' 20th anniversary follows close on the heels of Queen's Bench's 60th anniversary, making this a unique moment to honor and celebrate Oregon women lawyers.



Sarah Weddington

The cost of the CLE is \$50 for OWLS members, \$65 for nonmembers, and \$20 for students. Look for a registration brochure in the mail this summer or register online at www.oregonwomenlawyers.org. CLE credits for elimination of bias/access to justice are pending approval. All OWLS members and friends are welcome to attend the reception at no charge. See you there!

Cascade Women Lawyers Hosts OWLSNet Event

By Bethany Graham

The Cascade Women Lawyers chapter of OWLS (CWL) hosted a successful OWLSNet event in Bend on April 24. To adapt the inter-professional networking model to a smaller community with fewer professional women's groups, CWL invited all the female members of the bar in Deschutes, Crook, and Jefferson Counties and asked each to bring a friend in a nonlaw profession. This approach worked well—about 50 women from a range of professions attended the event.

In addition to offering wine, appetizers, and good conversation, the event was a fundraiser for Legal Aid Services of Oregon. Attendees were asked to donate at least \$5, and the event raised about \$250 for the Legal Aid office in Bend. Leigh Dickey, manager of that office, spoke about the vital services provided by Legal Aid attorneys to low-income residents of Central Oregon. Another guest of honor was OWLS Treasurer Megan Livermore, who traveled from Eugene to attend on behalf of the OWLS board.

CWL thanks Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt [where the author practices law] for sponsoring the event.



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OWLS History: Our First 20 Years

O'Neil became the catalyst for action and, the following year, the founding president of OWLS.

Decisions needed to be made about what kind of organization this would be. Should it be a committee or interest group of the Oregon State Bar? To make that decision, women from all over the state were called to a meeting at the Oregon State Bar Center in Lake Oswego on Saturday, November 5, 1988. After discussions in breakout sessions, the group came together and by a large majority determined that it was important to control our own destiny and therefore not to become part of the Oregon State Bar. From there it was a matter of incorporating as a nonprofit (with 501(c)(6) status), and Agnes Sowle, OWLS' first corporate secretary, filed the Articles of Incorporation with the Oregon secretary of state on March 31, 1989, showing April 1, 1989, as the date of formation.

OWLS' first major event was the First Annual Spring Conference on Saturday, April 1, 1989, which was dedicated to the women judges of Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. Among the speakers were Norma Paulus, former Oregon secretary of state, and Hon. Edwin Peterson, then the chief justice of the Oregon Supreme Court. The panelists included Hon. Jean Lewis, retired Multnomah County Circuit Court judge and the first woman to have served on the circuit court in Oregon; Multnomah County Circuit Court Presiding Judge Donald Londer; and Roosevelt Robinson, then of the Oregon parole board and later a judge on the Multnomah County Circuit Court. OWLS continued to have an annual spring conference through 2002. The tradition continues with an annual Fall CLE.

At a dinner on April 3, 1992, capping the Fourth Annual Spring Conference, OWLS presented awards to Justice Betty Roberts and Judge Mercedes Deiz in their respective names—and thus initiated the practice of bestowing these awards on attorneys or judges who have made outstanding contributions to supporting the advancement of women and minorities

in the legal profession. Subsequently the awards were given on December 14, 1993; November 12, 1994; April 12, 1996; and then in March every year since. The gala awards dinner has become one of OWLS' most cherished events and certainly the best attended, with a peak of nearly 550 attendees in 2005.

a support and referral network, and a source for finding personal and business resources. On September 24, 2004, OWLS sent out the first edition of its electronic newsletter.

One of OWLS' most unusual activities, first spearheaded by then-Executive Director Sunny Radcliffe, is the OWLS dragon boat team, the DragonFlies, which has competed in the dragon boat races at the Portland Rose Festival and in other races around the Northwest. The team has provided an outlet for athleticism, as well as a special camaraderie.

OWLS has fostered many networking and advocacy activities over the years, including the contract lawyer service, the cable television show *Ask the Lawyer*, playgroups, mentoring circles, a speakers bureau, the Working Parents Forum, Courthouse Connections, and NightOWLS. All came about because individual members identified needs and provided leadership to meet those needs.

Throughout OWLS' existence, former Justice Betty Roberts has provided immeasurable support and inspiration to many OWLS efforts (including serving on our founding board of directors), and this was again true when she was the speaker at OWLS' first Leadership Empowerment Gathering (fondly known as a "LEG-Up" event) on Thursday, September 11, 2003, when she discussed the importance of gaining power through networking and mentoring. Justice Roberts has been an inspiration both individually to many OWLS members and as a speaker at numerous OWLS conferences, CLEs, and other events.

Through its public presence and behind-the-scenes efforts, OWLS has gained a well-deserved reputation for pressing to the forefront the issues that women and minorities face in the legal profession. Much of OWLS' success in moving forward as an organization has been due to the work of its executive directors (listed in the sidebar) and board members (founding board members are listed in the sidebar). One hundred sixty-six people have served on the OWLS

continued from page 1

OWLS founding board members included these women:



Hon. Mercedes Deiz, 1995



Agnes Sowle



Sandra Hansberger



Elizabeth Harchenko



Phylis Myles

Over the years, OWLS has used a variety of means to communicate in writing with its members. With the publishing of OWLS' first quarterly *AdvanceSheet* issue in fall 1989, a time-honored OWLS tradition began. *AdvanceSheet* articles have profiled women attorneys and judges and have focused on issues of particular concern to women lawyers. The first annual membership directory was distributed at the 1990 Spring Conference.

OWLS was one of the first women's bar associations to have a website, due in no small measure to the efforts of OWLS' first webmaster, Linda Kruschke. To provide more frequent news of OWLS' and its chapters' events, OWLS mailed a monthly calendar to its members for many years (through September 2005). Of course, the listserve, which started in 2002 and had 450 members by October 1, 2002, has facilitated providing even more timely news bulletins. Over 900 members participate on the listserve today, providing a valuable resource for discussion of issues,

Board of Directors. Hundreds more have made significant contributions by serving on committees or chapter boards; writing articles for the *AdvanceSheet*; being organizers, speakers, or participants at conferences and events; attending chapter meetings and welcoming new members; offering thoughtful comments to the listserve; or contributing in countless other ways. Over the years, a multitude of people have given their vision, wisdom, energy, and talents to OWLS, its chapters, and the OWLS Foundation. We are all team members in OWLS' efforts. And all members now share a 20-year heritage, of which we can be very proud.

Trudy Allen is historian of the OWLS Foundation and general counsel of U.S. Bancorp Equipment Finance, Inc. **Diane Rynerson** was the first OWLS executive director and is now the executive director of the National Conference of Women's Bar Associations.

OWLS Founding Board Members

Jeanne Atkins
 Kathryn Augustson (now Root)
 Cynthia Barrett
 Nell Hoffman Bonaparte
 Hon. Nancy Campbell
 Hon. Mercedes Deiz
 Sandra Hansberger
 Janice Krem
 Debra Kronenberg
 Corinne "Corky" Lai
 Stephen Moore
 Phylis Myles
 Katherine O'Neil
 Agnes Petersen
 Mary Anne Petersen
 (now Anderson)
 Diane Polscer
 Vernellia Randall
 Hon. Betty Roberts
 Hon. Ellen Rosenblum
 Sharon Smith
 Agnes Sowle
 Ruth Spetter
 Elizabeth Stockdale
 (now Harchenko)
 Irene Bustillos Taylor
 Celeste Whitewolf
 Ann Zeltmann

Excerpts from keynote speeches at the September 16, 1988, formation breakfast at the Oregon State Bar Convention:

Judge Mercedes Deiz:

By becoming a readily identifiable association, we can urge various positions with authority... I am convinced that the key to our success in our profession is organization and networking among ourselves as women lawyers... We must remember that one voice crying out loud alone is frequently ignored, whereas many voices loudly speaking through a spokesperson shielded by an organizational framework will be heard and heeded... Here is our opportunity.

Justice Betty Roberts:

The problems women encounter now are much more subtle than they once were when we were dealing with overt discrimination practices. I don't believe the subtleness of discriminatory incidents means there is a conspiracy against us, but I do believe that none of us is exempt from being caught in a discriminatory trap... A women lawyers association would be uniquely capable of working on employment conditions that are considered to be primarily a women's problem but in reality are societal and professional responsibilities... In summary, I do not see a women lawyers association as a social organization. I see it as very necessary to the future welfare and prosperity of women lawyers in this state.

OWLS Executive Directors

S. Diane Rynerson (1990–1998)
 Loey Werking Wells (1998)
 Sania ("Sunny") Radcliffe (1998–2000)
 Loree Devery (Dec. 2000–March 2004)
 Paula Manley (Interim, March–July 2004)
 Betsy Kauffman (July 2004–June 2006)
 Linda Tomassi (Interim, June 2006–Sept. 2006)
 Catherine Ciarlo (Sept. 2006–Nov. 2008)
 Linda Tomassi (Nov. 2008–present)



Photo by Jodee Jackson

Diane Rynerson

"A Portland lawyer called me at 4:12 pm and asked if I could get him a reporter that afternoon and again the next day. The location was aboard a Greek ship which could only be reached by a short ride in a small boat and a long climb up a rope ladder. There was only one thing to say.

"Of course."

—Catherine Teach



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Lewis & Clark Hosts Women in Law Program

By Hon. Jill Tanner

“When you could do anything in the world, why would you pick the law, where you can’t succeed?” That question, asked by Judge Deanell Reece Tacha’s father when she announced her intention to enter law school, ignited the inaugural event for the Hon. Betty Roberts Women in the Law Program, hosted by Lewis & Clark Law School on April 16. Judge Tacha, who serves on the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals and was its chief judge from 2001 to 2007, participated on a panel with Elizabeth Cabraser, founding partner of Loeff, Cabraser, Heimann & Bernstein in San Francisco, and Donna Maddux, the attorney in charge of the Organized Crime Section at the Oregon Department of Justice (DOJ). Their panel presentation was titled “Listening to the Past, Working for the Future—Celebrating Women in the Law.”

Panel moderator Lydia Loren, a professor at Lewis & Clark Law School, asked the panelists to discuss the role that gender has played in their careers. Judge Tacha said that when she entered law school in 1968, it was a “lonely world” for women. She described the change from then to now as “cataclysmic.” Elizabeth Cabraser encountered institutional limitations in the late 1970s. She said that women and men have not done enough to humanize the bar. “We haven’t done what we need to do,” she explained, “to transform the profession for future generations” because the “burn out rate” for women “is too high.” Donna Maddux, who graduated from law school in 2002, said she has found at the DOJ that gender “barriers come down” when the work environment fosters collaboration.

In her keynote address, former Justice Betty Roberts, the first woman appointed to the Oregon Court of Appeals and the first woman appointed to the Oregon Supreme Court, discussed the changes that have occurred since she graduated from law school in 1966. Most changes for women in the law, she noted, have occurred in her lifetime.

The Hon. Betty Roberts Women in the Law Program is generously endowed by the Portland law firm Williams Love O’Leary & Powers.

Hon. Jill Tanner is the presiding magistrate of the Oregon Tax Court.

OWLS Celebrates Chief Judge Aiken

Federal judges opened their doors to OWLS members and friends at the Mark O. Hatfield U.S. Courthouse in Portland on Friday, June 5, for our annual Federal Courthouse Connection, attracting over 100 people, including judges on the Oregon



Hon. Betty Roberts (left) and Chief Judge Ann Aiken

appeals and circuit courts, OWLS members and their mentees, law students, and the OWLS dragon boat team. The group was welcomed by OWLS Co-Presidents Heather Van Meter and Gwyn McAlpine, who had something up their sleeves this year.

On February 1, Judge Ann Aiken became the chief judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon. She is the first woman to serve in that role. To mark the event, a surprise presentation had been brewing for months. Judge Aiken’s mentor, Justice Betty Roberts, spoke about her long relationship with the chief judge, following comments by one of the judge’s mentees, Carrie MacLauren. Heather and Gwyn then presented a special gavel on behalf of OWLS to Judge Aiken, inscribed “OWLS honors Ann Aiken, First Female Chief Judge, U.S. District Court of Oregon.”

Judge Aiken then made a few comments, encouraging those present to be a strong force in the wider community. “It’s not just what we do in the law, it’s what we do for the people in the community,” she said, asking the lawyers in the room to “stop and think about what we can do . . . it matters when you pull together.” Judge Aiken said that throughout her career, she had always chosen her family over her work, concluding that “when you stand up as women lawyers, you stand up for everyone.”

While networking, the crowd enjoyed ice cream provided by Judge Aiken and a celebratory cake provided by Heather Van Meter, decorated with a blind lady of justice and “Hail to the chief.”

OWLS thanks Jolie Russo, Judge Aiken’s assistant, and OWLS members Gosia Fonberg, Amber Hollister, and Susan O’Toole for helping organize this celebration.



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Judges Discuss “Road to the Bench” in Portland

By Heather L. Weigler

The OWLS “Road to the Bench” CLE program returned to Portland on April 24, after presentations in different parts of the state. The Portland event, held at the World Trade Center, was co-sponsored by the Oregon Minority Lawyers Association and the OSB Diversity Section. U.S. District Court Judge Ancer Haggerty, Oregon Court of Appeals Judge Ellen Rosenblum, Multnomah County Circuit Court Judge Youlee You, and Washington County Circuit Court Judge Marco Hernandez generously shared their perspectives on getting appointed to the bench. Describing their own paths to the judiciary, they emphasized that it takes planning, professionalism, experience, and civic involvement to become a judge.

Lawyers with judicial aspirations should start by talking to their mentors and to judges. “Talk to as many people as you can about the appointment process,” advised Judge You. “It requires preparation, and . . . you need to be strategic about applications and references.” It is also important to guard your reputation and credibility. “You have to list opposing counsel on the application,” she noted.

Lewis & Clark Presents Mentor Awards

By Libby Davis

“My mentor reminded me to trust my instincts as I enter the legal profession. During the year we worked together, she made major choices concerning how to balance her family and her career. . . . I can think of no better role model than my mentor, Alex West, ’99,” said Patrick Foran, ’09, a fourth-year evening student, in nominating his mentor for the annual Andrea Swanner Redding Outstanding Mentor Award. Alex, an OWLS member and a sole practitioner in Portland, received the award during Lewis & Clark Law School’s Spring Mentor Program Awards Reception on April 7.

Four OWLS members who mentored first-year law students received First Year Partner Awards: Ashlee Albies, a civil rights and employee-side employment attorney at Steenson Schumann Tewksbury Creighton & Rose; Maya Crawford, the associate director of the Campaign for Equal Justice; Mami Fujii, an associate attorney at Schwabe Williamson & Wyatt; and Trung Tu, a partner at McEwen Givold. Congratulations, all.

The panel emphasized the importance of courtroom experience, especially trying cases. “People don’t get the same opportunities to get to court now,” said Judge Haggerty, “so you have to watch others and seek out opportunities.”

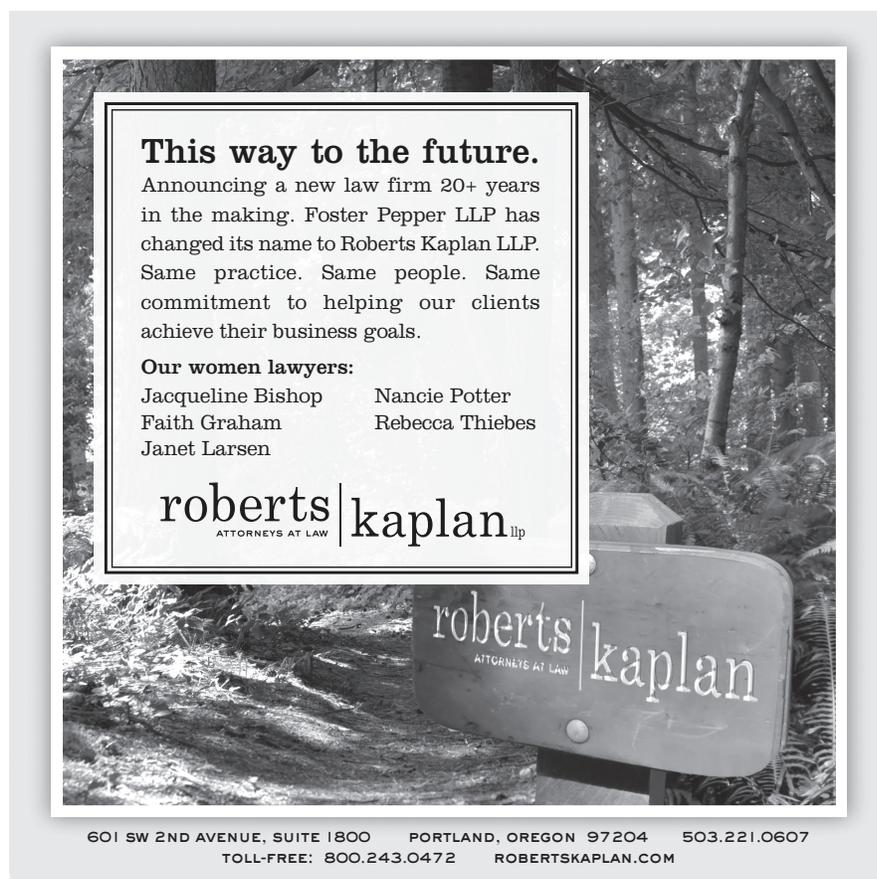
The judges also advised lawyers to be involved in their communities. “Community involvement helps to keep you rooted in what life is about for the people you see before you,” explained Judge Hernandez. “While you need a basic set of legal skills, a diversity of experience is extraordinarily important.” Judge Hernandez’s work as an advocate for migrant field workers before he became a lawyer now gives him insight into what Spanish-speaking litigants must experience in court, for example. “Everything that’s in your background, no matter how small or minute you think it is, may ultimately affect your getting an appointment,” observed Judge Haggerty. “Don’t forget every aspect of your being—draw upon it.”

Judge Haggerty and Judge Rosenblum also noted that serving on governmental committees can help you become

known to people who may be involved in appointing judges. Judge Rosenblum commented that she is fairly certain that her appointment to the bench in 1989 was attributable, in major part, to having served on the governor’s corrections planning task force. The governor’s legal counsel, who always has an important role in judicial appointments, was also the staff person assigned to the task force. Becoming involved with your state and county bar associations will help you network and connect with other lawyers and develop your reputation in the legal community.

After the CLE, the audience visited with the judges and others who stopped by to enjoy a social sponsored by Williams Kastner. OWLS, OMLA, and the OSB Diversity Section are grateful to the panelists for sharing their thoughts on becoming a judge. Interested lawyers are encouraged to obtain a copy of OWLS’ *Road to the Bench* handbook by emailing shawn@oregonwomenlawyers.org.

Heather L. Weigler, the OWLS board secretary, is an assistant attorney general at the Oregon Department of Justice.



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Political Leadership Speakers Address Running for Office

By Heather L. Weigler

Three inspiring women candidates discussed the challenges and opportunities for women interested in running for office at the third session of the OWLS Political Leadership Series, held May 13 at the Portland office of Tonkon Torp. Kate Brown, Donna Maddux, and Cyreena Boston shared campaign stories, offered advice on planning a run for office, and encouraged women to become more involved in all aspects of politics.

"I ran because I repeatedly saw things fail because of a lack of a diversity of views," explained Cyreena, currently a field representative for U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley and a past candidate for the Oregon House of Representatives. Noting that less than 30% of the members of the Oregon Legislative Assembly are women, Cyreena has no regrets about her run for office, even though she was not elected. "It's important for women to run and to encourage other women to run so that their perspectives inform government and lawmaking," she said.



Cyreena Boston

Photo by Jake Weigler

Donna Maddux, a Tualatin City Council member and the attorney in charge of the Organized Crime Section at the Oregon Department of Justice, is an example of the value of gender diversity in government. She was elected to an all-male city council in 2006. Since then, two other women have been elected to the council, and women have told Donna how different it is to address a gender-diverse council rather than an all-male council.

In addition to informing lawmaking and governance, electing more women to local offices is critical to creating a pipeline of potential candidates to run for higher office, such as OWLS member and Oregon Secretary of State Kate Brown. Kate also emphasized that it's important for women to support women candidates, particularly financially. The harsh reality is that it takes money to mount a successful campaign, and to increase the number of women in office, women need to financially support women candidates. Women also need to become involved in the leadership of institutions that endorse

and support candidates. "We need to enrich institutions that help candidates with women in the leadership ranks," said Cyreena. "We need a coordinated effort to support women candidates."

The panelists acknowledged that women running for office face challenges that men don't. A woman, for example, once told Cyreena that she would never vote for another woman. Kate noted that male elected officials are seldom asked about their family commitments, even though many men also struggle to find a healthy work/life balance, given the demands of serving in office.



Donna Maddux

Photo by Libby Davis

Kate credited organizations dedicating to supporting women candidates with helping her get elected. Emily's List, which generally does not endorse candidates in primaries, took the unusual step of supporting her in the hotly contested Democratic primary for secretary of state in 2008. Kate, who may be the highest-ranking bisexual elected official in the United States, noted that early support from the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund, which helps elect LGBT leaders to all levels of office, also made a huge difference in her success.

The speakers emphasized that candidates must make sure that voters recognize their names. Although political advertisements and the money to air them were necessary in Kate's statewide race, Donna and Cyreena both stressed the importance of knocking on voters' doors in local and district races. "Knocking on doors was critical to my success, Donna said. "And it's a great experience." Not only does it allow candidates to target likely voters and garner their support, but "you get to know your community," added Cyreena.

The candidates encouraged participants to consider what it would take to get elected. Whether you're ready for a run for office "boils down to your sense of self, what you truly believe in, and what you're willing to sacrifice," explained Cyreena. Although potential candidates should be realistic about the work

required to get elected and serve, the panelists agreed that it's never too early to run. Kate was first elected at age 31; Donna, at 35; and Cyreena was 28 when she threw her hat in the ring. "Women feel like they have to wait, but men very rarely do," she noted.

Regardless of the campaign's outcome, the panelists agreed, the very act of running is valuable for the lessons learned and the opportunity to connect with your community and challenge yourself.

The OWLS Leadership Committee will sponsor three more sessions of the Political Leadership Series this fall. For more information, please contact OWLS.

Heather L. Weigler, the OWLS board secretary, is an assistant attorney general at the Oregon Department of Justice.



Kate Brown

Photo by Libby Davis

Jane Bell Addresses Stress at April LEG-Up

By Maiya Hall

On April 9, Stoel Rives generously hosted an OWLS Leadership Committee LEG-Up in Portland, featuring Jane Bell. Jane explained that one can handle external stress by shifting internally. She discussed the very simple, ever-present tool of focusing on your own breath, and led the group in doing so.

Jane then explained the benefits of mindfulness and meditation. She cited *Full Catastrophic Living*, by Jon Kabat-Zinn, PhD, which deals with meditative practice in a secular way. She also cited a *Harvard Negotiation Law Review* article by Leonard Riskin titled "The Contemplative Lawyer: On the Potential Contributions of Mindfulness Meditation to Law Students, Lawyers, and Their Clients" (May 2002), which contends that lawyers who are less stressed-out are more able to effectively solve their clients' problems.

Jane leads a weekly program on stress reduction for lawyers. Many thanks to her and to Stoel Rives.

Maiya Hall is an attorney with the law firm Alan W. Karpinski, PC, in Portland.

Meet Josephine County Presiding Judge Lindi Baker

By Janice Hazel

Presiding Judge Lindi L. Baker, of the Josephine County Circuit Court, brings to the bench a dynamic combination of personal qualities and life experiences that have contributed to her success as an effective leader, positive role model, and visionary of how courts can help to make our communities safe, strong, and healthy places in which to live.

As the child of a father with a long career in law enforcement (including serving as sheriff of Josephine County, where she grew up) and a mother who was a registered nurse, Judge Baker was introduced early in life to the dual concepts of the rule of law and compassionate care. These concepts lent themselves well to an evolving, and ultimately lifelong commitment to promoting access to justice and building programs to address the growing problems associated with substance abuse and at-risk families in Josephine County.

In 1974, Judge Baker graduated from Southern Oregon University (SOU) with a bachelor's degree in criminology and

took at job with the Josephine County Juvenile Court, where she worked until she started law school in 1981. She earned a master's degree in interdisciplinary studies at SOU in 1978. For her thesis project, she designed and implemented the Victim and Witness Assistance Program for the Josephine County District Attorney's Office, a program still in operation today. At the Josephine County Juvenile Court, she served as a counselor and a probation officer, directed the court's felony intake caseload, initiated and supervised volunteer programs, and served as the Children's Services Division (now Department of Human Services) liaison, presenting all dependency, abuse, and neglect petitions in court. As a result, she decided to become a lawyer.

Judge Baker graduated from the University of San Francisco School of Law in 1984 and stayed in San Francisco for about 14 years. She served as a staff attorney for the California Supreme Court (criminal division) and then practiced complex commercial litigation, real estate law, and financing at a large San Francisco law firm before accepting an "of counsel" position with Schultz, Salisbury, Cauble & Dole in Grants Pass.

In 2003 Governor Kulongoski appointed her to fill a vacancy on the Josephine County Circuit Court, and in 2004 Judge Baker was elected to her current six-year term. The first (and only) female circuit court judge in Josephine County, she now serves as presiding judge, carrying, in addition to her administrative duties, a full (and varied) regular court docket.

Due to the relatively small size of the Josephine County court system, docket specialization is not feasible and a full range of cases are allocated among its judges. Judge Baker regularly hears family court matters, but the greatest volume of her case load involves criminal matters of all types. One source of great satisfaction is serving on the drug court, which, she says, is a highly effective program.

The challenges of her job demand enormous focus and sustained energy, but Judge Baker says, "I believe that I have the best job in the world as a judge and I love every day on the bench (admittedly some days I love more than others!). I honor the rule of law and feel privileged to serve as a member of the judiciary."

An early riser, Judge Baker relishes the morning solitude and quiet of the

Rogue River home she shares with her husband (in August, they will celebrate 37 years of marriage) and the youngest of their three children. She says she has

a "great, supportive family" that understands the pressures of the judiciary and "unabashedly" pampers her. She loves to garden (flowers and vegetables), and her recreational passions include sailing (she and her husband once lived on their sailboat in San Francisco Bay), snowmobiling, fishing, boating and all water sports, and travel within the United States and beyond, including to Eastern Europe, the South Pacific, and the Caribbean.

When asked what advice she would have for young women lawyers today, Judge Baker offered this insight:

First and foremost, don't go into the law unless this truly is your passion. I worry that many young women don't really know what they are getting into when they apply for law school. It is too much work if you don't really love what you do.

Also, I think it is extremely important to stand up to your own standards. Do not let the "practice of law" turn you into something that you are not. Be true to yourself and know your own priorities. Draw that line, across which you will never venture. For if you do not, then you may find yourself unwittingly pulled into a place you do not wish to be. Work hard, be professional and never underestimate yourself.

Regarding a career in the judiciary, Judge Baker said, "I encourage other women to consider judicial careers and hope that they find it as rewarding as I have. It is the hardest job I ever had (long hours, lots of pressure, inadequate resources, etc.), but the rewards and true sense of satisfaction far outweigh any of these sacrifices."

Janice Hazel is a lawyer in private practice in downtown Portland, specializing in small business, nonprofit organizations, and personal and business tax matters.



Judge Lindi L. Baker

MLLS Hosts CLE on 1965 and the Right to Vote

By Lora Keenan



Ron Silver

The Mary Leonard Law Society hosted a CLE on April 21 titled "1965, Selma, Alabama, and the Right to Vote," presented at Wil-

lamette University by Ron Silver, an assistant U.S. attorney in Portland.

Ron recounted the context, execution, and aftermath of the 1965 civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama. Culling material from historical photos and accounts, music, speeches, and newspapers, as well as his own visits to sites in the South where important civil rights events took place, Ron vividly recreated the political and social atmosphere of the civil rights movement in the 1960s. Thank you, Ron, for your terrific presentation.

Lora Keenan is a staff attorney at the Oregon Court of Appeals.

Photo by Shannon Terry

A Further Step in the Dialogue Between Mentors and Mentees

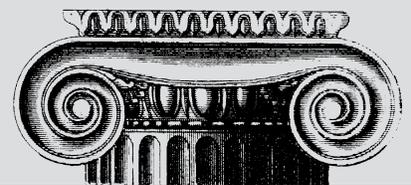
In the last issue of the *AdvanceSheet*, Susan Hammer compiled advice for mentees that she had gleaned from a conversation with several experienced mentors. ("Tips for Mentees from Your Mentors," Spring 2009.) I do a fair amount of mentoring myself—and shortly after the article came out, I began to hear reactions to the article from some young women whom I mentor. It struck me that publicizing those responses would encourage helpful dialogue—and since those young women didn't feel comfortable with attribution, I offered to collect their thoughts and include them in this column.

Reviewing those responses has brought to mind some additional thoughts about cross-cultural conversation among women. But first, a sampling of the responses I got from about ten women two to three years out of law school, who have worked with mentors in formal programs and informally with professors and co-workers:

Good advice, but struggled with the tone. In general, the women I heard from mostly appreciated the advice included in the article, but found parts of it to be condescending. They bristled at the suggestion that some younger women lack "some basic life-training." Several missed a sense that mentors expected to learn from the relationship, too. They got the impression that the authors were surprised by the need to communicate expectations—but isn't communicating expectations something one would anticipate needing to do as a mentor?

How much should younger women be expected to assimilate? The article expressed an expectation (or at least a wish) that mentees should accommodate more senior women's views regarding such matters as dress code and methods for expressing thanks. The women I heard from felt particularly insulted by the comments about dress, expressing the view that no one thinks "cleavage . . . make[s] you look smarter." Some felt that the advice about dress wasn't concrete enough and just undermined their confidence in their ability to judge what is appropriate. They wondered to what degree, if any, people of the older generations are willing to accommodate dress that is, for example, more casual—not to mention

THE JUDGES' FORUM



By The Honorable Darleen Ortega
Oregon Court of Appeals

methods of communication that are second nature to women in their twenties (like Facebook and texting).

Who's got the power? Some women felt that the article lacked recognition that the mentor is inherently in a position of power over the mentee. They missed a sense that the authors expected to take some responsibility for setting boundaries and communicating expectations. They didn't feel that it was fair to expect mentees to know about boundaries and expectations that the mentor has not communicated. They also felt that, in some instances, mentees will find it difficult to come up with a focused agenda for meetings and to initiate everything. It can be hard to know what you need when your understanding of how to succeed in the profession is still shaky.

Conflicting expectations. Some felt that the article set up some conflicting expectations. For example, how should mentees balance being responsive to criticism that they only call when they need something with being respectful of how busy their mentors are?

A lot has been written about cross-cultural communication problems between women and men (as well as between people of other outsider cultures and those in power in the legal profession). Generational differences are another cross-cultural divide that we all should be prepared to navigate if we are going to effectively support each other in succeeding in the legal profession.

As mentors, we need to keep in mind that success will look different as manifested in our mentees than it does in us. The barriers they will encounter may be similar to what we have encountered, and we may well have experiences to share that will help them to navigate those barriers. But the solutions they devise may not always look like what we would devise—even when they have listened to our advice and taken it quite seriously. That makes sense because their experience is also different, and their peers also

have different expectations and ideas of what success looks like than our peers did.

We also should expect that we have plenty to learn from each other. The peers of our mentees are now our colleagues as well. There is a lot written about miscommunication between, for example, those labeled "baby boomers" and "Generation X." Perhaps our mentor/mentee relationships can help us to avoid imposing our expectations on each other in the way that we women have struggled against with regard to expectations that we regard as male.

Additionally, we all need to do a better job of communicating our expectations. This takes work, since all of us have expectations that we haven't even identified as expectations—we only expect what inherently makes sense, right? Except there isn't much that inherently makes sense to everyone. While the women I heard from appreciated hearing the perspective of those who contributed to the article, I think all of our mentees would most appreciate hearing what their particular mentors expect of them. Sometimes we discover our expectations when they are not met—and at those moments, it's important to have the conversation that we perhaps neglected to have earlier about where our boundaries are and what we expect. That goes for both mentors and mentees.

Finally, it strikes me that we all need to extend each other a little grace. I hope we can be courageous enough to ask for feedback from each other—and then look for what is valuable in what we hear, even if we have to look past problems in the delivery. Even better, I especially hope that we mentors can make our relationships with our mentees safe enough that they can ask us questions, well formed or not; that we can listen to their stories deeply enough to help them discern what it is they need rather than imposing on them what we think they need; and that we create a context where they feel safe enough to ask for our perspective and also free to do with our advice whatever they can.



Hon. Darleen Ortega



Meet Teresa Schmid, Executive Director of the OSB

By Cashauna Hill

Teresa Schmid became the new executive director of the Oregon State Bar (OSB) in January. I recently enjoyed an opportunity to interview her for the *AdvanceSheet*.

Originally from Ohio, Teresa spent her high school years in Atlanta, Georgia. While in college elsewhere, she met and married her first husband; the two then moved to his native Oregon, and she obtained a BA in English at Oregon State University. She later earned a law degree from Lewis & Clark Law School.

Beginning in 1979, Teresa spent seven years in private practice in Washington County. In the early 1980s, she was a sole practitioner sharing office space with two other women lawyers. Their three-woman shared offices were sometimes referred to as "the Bunny Hutch" within the local legal community.

Teresa's legal experience covers an array of practice areas. In her solo practice, she focused on family law, including juvenile dependency and delinquency cases, and consumer law. Teresa also served as an assistant disciplinary counsel at the OSB for a year before accepting a litigator position at the State Bar of California, where she spent ten years in the field of attorney disciplinary enforcement. After a year in private practice in Los Angeles, Teresa worked for three years at the Los Angeles County Bar Association before becoming executive director of the State Bar of Arizona, a position she held for five years before returning to the OSB.

Having lived and worked all over the country, Teresa says that OWLS is by far the most active of any women's bar association she has encountered.

When asked what has been instrumental in her career progression, Teresa noted the importance of foresight and the ability to think ahead. Continued education, she says, is a cornerstone of her success. She has an executive master's in business administration from Claremont

Graduate University and will soon earn an executive doctorate in law and policy from Northeastern University in Boston.

Teresa's business background provides some context

for the views she expresses about an issue important to OWLS: diversity. Teresa is committed to increasing ethnic and racial diversity in the OSB, and she would like to see the OSB prepare itself for the globalization of law practice. Teresa was instrumental in forming a diversity planning task force that reported to the OSB Board of Governors in June 2009 with a long-range plan to increase the number of ethnically diverse lawyers in Oregon.

Another issue that Teresa sees as paramount is the idea that low-cost legal services providers are the interface between the individual and the economy. She



Teresa Schmid

would like to see the OSB move toward a model that is able to meet the representation needs of low-income clients.

Teresa says she has been lucky to have had great mentors help her along the way, and so she offers this advice to women attorneys:

- Do a job that you love.
- Networking happens in context: make sure you talk to others about work and skills, and try to share ideas and skill sets whenever possible.
- Constantly be prepared; re-create yourself by learning new things.

In her free time, Teresa enjoys spending time with her husband, a certified airframe and power-plant mechanic who owns a general aviation repair facility based in Los Angeles. She is an avid reader and also enjoys weight lifting, hiking, and taking walks.

OWLS welcomes Teresa back to Oregon and wishes her success at the OSB.

Cashauna Hill, an OWLS board member, is the fair housing staff attorney at the Oregon Law Center in Portland.

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For more information on OWLS and our activities, please visit our website, www.oregonwomenlawyers.org. You'll find photos, an events page, historical information, chapter contacts, and volunteer opportunities.

Diane Polscer: An OWLS Founding Mother

By Julia Waco

This spring, I had an opportunity to visit with one of the people who founded OWLS, Diane Polscer. Diane is the managing partner in her firm, Gordon & Polscer, and works in its Portland office, specializing in commercial litigation. She is president of the Oregon chapter of the International Network of Boutique Law Firms (INBLF) and a member of the National Association of Minority and Women Owned Law Firms (NAMWOLF). She is a frequent speaker and author and a past faculty member of the National Institute for Trial Advocacy.

Diane believes that it is important to embrace who we are as women in the legal profession. Some of us choose not to get involved with women and minority groups because we think that admitting we are different means we are unequal. Diane firmly believes that this is not true, and that there is strength in our numbers that creates new opportunities.

Diane decided that she wanted to be a lawyer in the first grade, when her class went on a field trip to the local courthouse. After growing up in Pennsylvania and earning a BA in political science at Pennsylvania State University, she attended the University of Oregon School of Law, graduating in 1984. She then clerked for federal Judge Robert McNichols in Spokane.

Diane's graduating law school class was about one-third women. In school she found no barriers to the advancement of women, Diane says, but that changed when she first became a lawyer in private practice. The first time she stood up in court to represent a client, the judge peered over his glasses at her and asked, "Young lady, are you a lawyer?"

Diane says that her grandparents and Judge McNichols were the most influential people in her life. She often repeats to her children one of her grandmother's favorite sayings: "You can be bitter or better." Judge McNichols taught Diane about being a good trial lawyer and the value of preparation and common sense.

As a mother of two children, ages 5 and 15 (Maddy and Kelly), Diane is very busy with their activities and her many philanthropic pursuits. Diane enjoys needlepoint with her daughter Kelly, and they have visited the Royal School of Needlepoint in England. Diane points out that our world revolves around relation-

ships. "Clients themselves have a family and they like to get to know you. So personalize yourself!" She suggests that we find ways to appropriately incorporate our family life into our business, professional, and community activities.

Diane encourages philanthropy in her children by being active with them in many charitable and community organizations. Her professional and civic activities are enough to fill a second article, but some in particular have been dear to her heart. She was appointed to the Oregon State Board of Bar Examiners in 1991 and served for three years. Since 2001 she has volunteered for the Children's Cancer Association, and from 2006 to 2008 she was an Oregon Special Olympics liaison and vice president for the National Charity League. She was also a founding member of the Gus Solomon Inns of Court, and for 20 years found it a terrific opportunity to mentor attorneys.

Developing a women's professional network has always been a passion for Diane, and it ultimately led her to become an OWLS founder. When Diane first began practicing law in the 1980s, she was actively involved in Washington Women Lawyers (WWL), and she realized how important it was for women to have a "women's network" and a support system of other women lawyers. When she came to Oregon and began practicing at Bullivant Houser Bailey, she learned that Oregon had no equivalent to WWL, so she called Katherine O'Neil, and in 1989

they and many other wonderful women founded OWLS. Diane served on the OWLS board from 1989 to 1991, as its first recording secretary and chair of the Professional Liaison Committee in 1989-90, and then as treasurer in 1990-1991.

Diane offers three pieces of advice to women lawyers: First, find balance in your life—that is the key, she says, to having a successful career and family life. If you cannot find balance at a big firm, start your own firm or find a different job in the public sector. Second, use your skills as a lawyer to make a difference in the world. Some of Diane's most rewarding experiences as a lawyer have come from using her litigation skills to help others less fortunate through pro bono work and by volunteering at various philanthropies. Third, follow your heart.

Thank you, Diane, for your inspiration and your dedication to making our world a better place.

Julia Waco is in-house counsel for First Commerce LLC in Lake Oswego. She's also an artist; her work is shown at First Avenue Gallery in downtown Portland.



Diane Polscer

Multnomah County Judges Welcome Kids to Court

By Janice Hazel



Judge Julie Frantz and Brittini Ann Gordon

To the delight of a growing throng of enthusiastic children, each year OWLS sponsors its unique version of Take Your Kids to Work Day in Portland. This year over 120 children, ranging in age from 5 to 15 years old, participated in the April 23 noontime event, which featured an inside glimpse of the judicial system and an opportunity to meet and ask questions of 12 Multnomah County judges.

As in prior years, the highlight of the program was the mock criminal trial, which had the children assuming the judge, attorney, witness, and jury roles. The courtroom drama played out under the patient coaching of the participating judges, with multiple juries delivering their verdicts to a somewhat raucous reception.

"This positive learning experience in court, with half the bench and all the leadership being women, gives girls a chance to see what they can become and normalizes women as leaders for all," said OWLS Executive Director Linda Tomassi.

OWLS thanks all the participating judges.

Janice Hazel is a lawyer in private practice in downtown Portland.

May LEG-Up Examines Business Financing Solutions

By Helen Yu

At the May 14 OWLS LEG-Up, Aaron Stoffers, a business banking officer at IronStone Bank, and Karen O'Keefe, president of Evergreen Funding Group, provided a solid overview of business financing options for legal professionals, offering many helpful insights. Aaron addressed business lending basics during the various stages of the business cycle, and Karen explored the funding options for plaintiffs and their attorneys when pursuing litigation.

Aaron discussed the business cycle from start-up to maturity. He first addressed the general considerations associated with starting a business—everything from leasing office space to ensuring that one has the necessary equipment to run a business.

Regarding on-going business concerns and growth opportunities, Aaron discussed the usefulness of lines of credit and permanent working capital to support one's practice. Financing opportunities are available for almost any need, he said, and now is a great time to borrow. Most important, Aaron reminded us that the key to successful business financing is a sound plan.

Karen turned our focus to options for funding litigation. What should be done when one is expending substantial resources while waiting for a case to run its course? Karen discussed two types of vehicles available to assist plaintiffs and their counsel during the litigation process: non-recourse transactions and full-recourse transactions. Non-recourse transactions are contingency-based advances made both before and after settlement without personal guarantee. Full-recourse transactions are lines of credit with personal guarantee.

Karen then reviewed a law firm's borrowing schedule while its capital was tied up in case costs, and demonstrated how non-recourse options coupled with a line of credit allowed the firm to grow its practice while awaiting the conclusion of the pending litigation.

Thank you, Aaron and Karen, for sharing your expertise, and thanks to Miller Nash for hosting this event in Portland.

Helen Yu is corporate counsel at Hynix Semiconductor Manufacturing America in Eugene.

Meet Board Member Cashauna Hill

By Mavel Morales

Cashauna Hill, an OWLS board member since spring 2007, is a native Oregonian. She grew up in northeast Portland and attended Fernwood Middle School. At age 14 she moved with her parents to Atlanta, Georgia. Cashauna majored in political science at Spelman College and graduated from Tulane University Law School in 2005. She then returned to Portland and clerked for two years for Judge Ronald Cinniger of the Multnomah County Circuit Court.

Cashauna worked next at the Wiles Law Group in Portland, litigating construction defect cases. In April 2009 she joined the Oregon Law Center as its fair housing staff attorney; she is located in the Portland office.

Cashauna became an OWLS member because she wanted to give back to the organization that had given her so much support and wisdom through its members when she returned to Portland as an attorney. In addition to serving on the OWLS board, she is a writer for the *AdvanceSheet*, a paddler for the DragonFlies, and a member of the OWLS Transformation Committee. Her advice to

new attorneys is to "be open to a variety of opportunities, build relationships through organizations like OWLS, and above all, be nice: a good attitude can take you a long way."



Photo by Jodee Jackson

Cashauna Hill

One of Cashauna's true passions is volunteering. She says she is guided by the knowledge that she didn't get where she is today by herself. She helps coach the Jefferson High School mock trial team and serves on the board of the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center. She also mentors several high school, college, and law students. This spring, Cashauna was awarded the Multnomah Bar Association Young Lawyers Award of Merit.

OWLS thanks Cashauna for her great energy and dedicated service to OWLS.

Mavel Morales is the attorney at the Oregon Law Center in Hillsboro.

Around Oregon

Cascade Women Lawyers. In addition to its regular networking lunches, Cascade Women Lawyers (CWL) hosted a three-hour access-to-justice CLE, "Understanding Poverty and Working with Low-Income Clients," on March 10 at the First Presbyterian Church in Bend. The CLE, supported by a donation from Deschutes County, was presented by Dr. Donna Beelge. On April 24, CWL held a very successful OWLSNet event at Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt in Bend; please see page 3 for details. CWL's next networking lunches are on Sept. 16 and Nov. 18. For more information, please see the OWLS events page online or contact Lori Harris Hancock at 541.749.4060 or lhancock@schwabe.com.

Clackamas Women Lawyers. Clackamas Women Lawyers hosted bestselling author Chelsea Cain on Feb. 12 for a book reading and signing event at Bugatti's in Oregon City. Chelsea read from her latest novel, *Sweetheart*, the second of three thrillers set in Portland. The chapter held a luncheon CLE on April 16 at the Clackamas County Courthouse. Attorneys from Catholic Charities Immigration Legal Services provided an excellent presentation on how immigration laws can help victims of abuse and crime.

On May 5, the chapter hosted a gathering to meet the five members of the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners. The board serves as the governing body of Clackamas County and directs its general administration. Over 20 chapter members attended the event, as did three members of the OWLS Executive Committee, Gwyn McAlpine, Concetta Schwesinger, and Kathi Rastetter, who coordinated the event.

For more information, please see the OWLS events page online or contact Bonnie Carter at 971.344.3003 or bcarter_esq@yahoo.com.

Josephine County Women Lawyers. JCWL continues to meet monthly for lunch and conversation at the Bistro in Grants Pass. For upcoming dates and times, please see the OWLS events page online. For more information, contact Victory Walker at victory@grants.sopd.net.

Lane County Women Lawyers. LCWL hosted a social hour at Adam's Place in Eugene on Jan. 20. On March 19, LCWL and the University of Oregon's Women's Law Forum held an event to raise funds and collect clothes for Dress for Success.

For information about upcoming LCWL events, please see the OWLS events page online or contact Jane Yates at yates@gleaveslaw.com.

Linn-Benton Women Lawyers. LBWL meets every other month for dinner and networking at Sybaris Restaurant in Albany. OWLS Co-President Heather Van Meter and Executive Director Linda Tomassi joined chapter members for dinner on May 20. LBWL meeting dates can be found on the OWLS events page online. For more information, please contact Fay Stetz-Waters at 541.926.8678 or fay.stetzwaters@lasoregon.org.

Mary Leonard Law Society. Betsy Earls, general counsel for Oregon Associated Industries, spoke at the MLLS lunch on March 17. On April 21, the chapter hosted a CLE, "1965, Selma, Alabama, and the Right to Vote," presented by Ron Silver; please see page 9 for details. OWLS member and Oregon Secretary of State Kate Brown shared her leadership story at the May 19 MLLS luncheon, also attended by Gwyn McAlpine, OWLS co-president; Concetta Schwesinger, OWLS vice president; and Linda Tomassi, OWLS executive director. For more information, contact Shannon Terry at 541.554.6915 or shannon.a.terry@ojd.state.or.us.

Queen's Bench. Queen's Bench meets monthly for lunch in Portland. At the Feb. 10 lunch, the speaker was Mary-Beth Baptista, the new director of the Portland Independent Police Review Division. At the March 10 lunch, Multnomah County Circuit Court Judge Kristena LaMar talked about preparing and advocating effectively in a civil settlement conference.

Liz Baxter of the Archimedes Movement spoke at the April 14 lunch about the citizens' movement to improve and restructure health care in Oregon. At the May 12 lunch, Susan Anderson, director of Portland's Office of Sustainable Development, talked about what that office is doing to alleviate global warming and what individuals can do to reduce their carbon footprint. Queen's Bench and Multnomah County Circuit Court Judge Adrienne Nelson welcomed new Oregon attorneys at the annual New Admittee Luncheon on June 9.

The Queen's Bench monthly lunches are held on the second Tuesday of the month from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Rock Bottom Brewery in Portland. For more information, please see the OWLS

OAPABA Begins

OWLS congratulates the Oregon Asian Pacific American Bar Association (OAPABA) on its recent formation.



Julia Markley

OAPABA plans to foster communication among Asian Pacific American (APA) attorneys and the community, advance APA attorneys in the legal profession, and advocate for the interests of APAs in the legal profession and the community.

For more information, contact OAPABA President Julia Markley at jmarkley@perkinscoie.com.

events page online or contact Kristin Sterling at khsterling@stoel.com.

Rebecca J. Bloom Chapter (Umatilla and Morrow Counties). The Rebecca J. Bloom Chapter meets monthly for lunch at El Charrito in Pendleton. The chapter will host a social in Hermiston on Saturday, August 15, with U.S. Magistrate Judge Pat Sullivan, who will distribute copies of OWLS' *Road to the Bench* handbook. OWLS Co-President Heather Van Meter and Executive Director Linda Tomassi will also attend, and they look forward to meeting local lawyers. For more information, please see the OWLS events page online or contact Sally Anderson Hansell at sally@andersonhansell.com or 541.567.7800.

Rogue Women Lawyers. RWL meets for lunch or dinner each month. On May 27, RWL hosted a "Road to the Bench" presentation in Medford, featuring Judge Lisa Greif and Judge Patricia Crain. All RWL events are listed on the OWLS events page online. For more information, please contact Debbie Mitchell at dmitchell@brophymills.com.

Washington County Women Lawyers. WCWL meets on the third Tuesday of each month for a brown bag lunch at the Washington County Courthouse. For more information, see the OWLS events page online or contact Mary Brington at mbrington@mpdlaw.com or 503.846.3413.

The 2009 Legislative Session

The 2009 Oregon legislative session ended on June 29, 2009. To balance the 2009–2011 budget, the legislature cut \$2 billion, used federal stimulus dollars and state reserve funds, and modestly raised taxes on corporations and wealthy Oregonians. Majority Democrats point to expanded health care coverage to uninsured Oregonians and a transportation funding bill as major achievements. The session, however, will also be remembered for the majority's decision to balance the budget by raising taxes.

Bills to increase corporate and personal income tax rates face a likely referendum next January. If the tax hikes reach the ballot and voters reject them, lawmakers returning to Salem in February will make further cuts in spending, which may not bode well for the courts.

OJD Budget. Although it appeared, early in the legislative session, that court funding might be dramatically reduced, Chief Justice De Muniz's tireless effort to identify revenue sources and persuade legislators of the critical nature of the services at stake resulted in a budget for the Oregon Judicial Department (OJD) that includes reductions but preserves core functions and staff. The 2009–2011 biennium budget cuts roughly ten percent of the OJD's general fund allocation in the last budget cycle, but some of that shortfall will be made up with funds from filing fee revenues generated by HB 2287. The legislature anticipates that those revenues will restore the OJD budget to no less than a 7.5% reduction, which translates into a loss of approximately 11% of its workforce. The legislature requested that the OJD assign priority to the Citizen Review Board, court referees, pre-trial release programs, pro se facilitation programs, and paid mediation programs and that it not backfill other funding reductions until these programs have been restored.

Filing Fees. To deal with budget shortfalls for the courts, indigent defense, and other public safety system agencies, the legislature enacted HB 2287. The bill came out of a work group of legislators, the OJD, plaintiff and defense trial lawyers, the bar, and collection agencies. It will raise an estimated \$39.6 million from new court fees and surcharges, which take effect on October 1, 2009, and sunset on June 30, 2011. Except for fees raised by local justice, municipal, and county courts, all this revenue will be placed in a new



By Susan Evans Grabe

Judicial System Surcharge Account.

Initially, \$10 million from this account will be distributed, 65% to the OJD and 35% to the Public Defense Services Commission (PDSC). Further distributions will require legislative action. The bill also creates an Interim Committee on State Judicial System Revenues, which will make recommendations on permanent court fees, fines, surcharges, and the distribution of the revenue.

Indigent Defense. The PDSC fared better than expected this session, receiving \$214.6 million for the 2009–2011 biennium. Nonetheless, it faces a potential deficit of \$10.6 million to cover the projected caseload for the biennium. That means that the PDSC will likely run out of money to fund trial-level representation in May 2011, five weeks before the biennium ends.

Legal Aid. The legislature showed its commitment to civil legal services for low-income Oregonians by passing two measures. SB 687 requires that abandoned funds in lawyer trust accounts be reported to the Department of State Lands and forwarded to the bar for funding legal services programs. The bar will reimburse a claimant who comes forward after the funds are transferred. This bill is expected to generate about \$10,000 per year.

Additionally, in the close-of-session reconciliation bill (HB 5054), the legislature made a general fund appropriation to Oregon Legal Aid of \$1 million. Half the appropriation will be retained until July 1, 2010, in case budget exigencies require its use on other priorities. The revenue comes at a time when poverty is increasing dramatically, as is the need for legal services. Revenue from Interest on Lawyer Trust Accounts (IOLTA), the third largest source of funding for Legal Aid, has declined by 66%, and will remain low until interest rates rebound.

Measure 57 Phase-In. The most contentious issue this session turned on whether to phase in implementation of Measure 57, passed by voters in November 2008, as a cost savings. Measure 57 increased

criminal sentences for repeat property offenders and provided incentives to complete substance abuse treatment programs. In light of the deteriorating economy, legislators were faced with making significant reductions to public safety agency budgets unless a different revenue source could backfill the budget shortfall. The bill that finally emerged keeps Measure 57 in effect until February 15, 2010, and then suspends it until January 1, 2012. The savings will help fund state police, corrections, and Oregon Youth Authority operations.

Next Session. The legislature will likely convene in February 2010 for a second experiment with a short session in the second year of the biennium. The February session will address difficult budget issues if the two tax measures (increasing the corporate minimum tax and the tax on wealthy Oregonians) are rejected by the voters. The legislature will then have to regroup and cut budgets.

If the economy does not rebound, the legislature may be forced to meet again before February. The next revenue forecast is due in September.

Susan Evans Grabe is the public affairs director at the Oregon State Bar.



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OWLS Officers, Board 2009–2010

(Left to right)

Seated: Jane Yates, Concetta Schwesinger,
Heather Van Meter, Linda Meng,
Heather Weigler

Standing: Kate Weatherly, Heather Hepburn,
Hon. Julia Philbrook, Cashauna Hill,
Shannon Terry, Maiya Hall, Gwyn McAlpine,
Megan Livermore, Linda Tomassi,
Dana Forman, Kathi Rastetter,
Hon. Frances Roberts Burge

Not pictured: Cynthia Fraser, Shari Gregory,
Kendra Matthews, Hon. Katherine Tennyson,
Hon. Youlee You



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OWLS Welcomes New Officers, Directors

At its annual retreat in May, the OWLS Board selected new OWLS officers, who serve from May 2009 to April 2010. Sharing the role of president are Gwyn McAlpine, an associate at Perkins Coie, and Heather Van Meter, an attorney at Williams Kastner. Both are located in Portland. Gwyn previously served as co-vice president and treasurer of OWLS, and Heather previously served as co-vice president and secretary. Concetta Schwesinger, the district attorney liaison to the Oregon child support program in Marion County, remains on the executive committee, moving from treasurer to vice president.

Megan Livermore joins the executive committee as treasurer, and Heather Weigler joins as secretary. Megan is an associate with Gaydos, Churnside & Balthrop in Eugene. Heather is an assistant attorney general with the Charitable Activities Section of the Oregon Department of Justice. Kathleen Hansa Rastetter,

a senior county counsel for Clackamas County, joins the executive committee as historian. All OWLS officers are also members of the board.

The newly elected and re-elected OWLS board members are Hon. Frances Roberts Burge from Roseburg; Dana Forman, Maiya Hall, Kendra Matthews, Hon. Julia Philbrook, and Hon. Youlee You, all from Portland; Heather Hepburn from Bend; and Kate Weatherly from Eugene.

Board members continuing their service are Cynthia Fraser, Shari Gregory, Cashauna Hill, Linda Meng, and Hon. Katherine Tennyson, all from Portland; Shannon Terry from Salem; and Jane Yates from Eugene.

OWLS extends gratitude to outgoing board members Alice Bartelt, Nancy Cook, Julia Markley, Hon. Adrienne Nelson, and Leslie W. O'Leary. OWLS also thanks Laura Caldera Taylor, outgoing board president and an associate at Bullivant Houser Bailey, for her dedicated service.