

# AdvanceSheet<sup>TM</sup>

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## OWLS Spring CLE a Resounding Success

By Heather Van Meter

On Friday, May 4, approximately 70 attorneys and judges attended the OWLS Spring CLE, "Women as Leaders in Law, Society, and Politics," which provided up to 3.25 elimination-of-bias CLE credits.

The plenary session featured Corbett Gordon, Elizabeth Harchenko, and Donna Sandoval Bennett discussing women in law and society and the unique capacity of women to effect change in the practice of law. Breakout sessions included a panel with Stella Manabe, Deborah Guyol, and Hon. Katherine Tennyson on negotiating salaries and "knowing your worth," as well as a community and volunteer involvement panel with R. Elaine Hallmark, Helle Rode, and Penny Serrurier.

Oregon Senate Majority Leader Kate Brown was the keynote speaker. Just days after the legislature passed two landmark pieces of legislation supporting gay rights, Brown's high-energy talk outlined her 2007 legislative agenda, including



*OWLS President Kellie Johnson (left) and Oregon Senate Majority Leader Kate Brown at the OWLS Spring CLE on May 4*

legal protections for lesbians and nursing mothers. In addition, she described some of her experiences as a female lawyer and one of Oregon's most powerful legislators and addressed questions from the audience on topics ranging from increasing diversity to women's economic clout.

At the OWLS Annual Meeting and Past Presidents' Reception immediately following

the CLE, Brown chatted informally with OWLS members and friends. Incoming OWLS President Kellie Johnson spoke briefly about highlights of the past year and upcoming programs and events.

The OWLS Fall CLE is scheduled for Friday afternoon, November 2, 2007. It will be held at the Governor Hotel in Portland and will be followed by a reception honoring the recipient of the 2007 Workplace Leader Award.

**Heather Van Meter**, secretary of OWLS, is an attorney at Williams, Kastner & Gibbs in Portland.



*Many past presidents attended the OWLS Past Presidents' Reception on May 4 (left to right): Katherine O'Neil, Incoming President Kellie Johnson, Kate Thompson, Libby Schwartz, Helle Rode, Kathryn Ricciardelli, Hon. Marilyn Litzenberger, Sarah Crooks, Phyllis Myles, Terri Kraemer, Patricia Heatherman, and Norma Freitas.*

## President's Message



Kellie Johnson

*"Courage doesn't always roar. Sometimes courage is the quiet voice at the end of the day saying, 'I will try again tomorrow.'"*

—Mary Anne Radmacher, Author, Artist, Oregon Native

I can roar! I am used to roaring daily. Certainly as a prosecutor, a trial attorney, roaring I can do with ease. Nevertheless, I am learning that it takes more than a roar to continue making the case for women and minorities in the law. Sometimes it takes strong and persistent quiet courage. And making the case is not a race to the finish, with winners and losers, but a journey to a destination. Along the way, the triumphs and challenges make the journey as exciting as the arrival.

This year for me will be a journey of courage. My journey as OWLS president officially began May 4 with the successful conclusion of the OWLS Spring CLE conference. The dedicated women of the Spring CLE Committee worked diligently to provide a conference that was relevant and personal. It was a conference built upon the tried-and-true formula that has made OWLS conferences more than just a place to get CLE credit, but a place to connect, find support, and network. The addition of the Past Presidents' Reception that followed the conference signified the beginning of a tradition of honoring the women of courage who have served not only OWLS but Oregon. Women of courage like the founders, past presidents, and board members of OWLS and my friend and mentor Norma Freitas, the outgoing OWLS president. Under Norma's tutelage I have witnessed examples of grace, diligence, dedication, compassion, and vision. I am humbled and honored to follow in such accomplished footsteps.

My journey will embrace and uplift a vision that champions and supports diversity. On June 21 OWLS hosted, with the support of the Oregon State Bar, Oregon State Bar Affirmative Action Committee, and Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt, its first meeting of specialty bar presidents. At the meeting, we shared ideas and built allies to increase diversity in the Oregon bar, the Oregon bench, and the broader legal community.

My commitment to diversity encompasses not only supporting OWLS members in the private bar but, for example, encouraging and reaching out to our public sector lawyers and reiterating that OWLS has a place for you. My commitment to diversity also includes being responsive to the needs of our members who live outside the Portland area. The OWLS Board will continue to travel throughout the state and host its monthly meetings in varied state locations. Our June meeting was in Tillamook, and in the fall we will meet in Bend. We hope to see you there.

During this journey, I will continue to work to increase the number of OWLS members. It was wonderful to see OWLS grow to over 1,000 members in a very short time. It will be great to see our membership blossom to over 3,000 members in the next three years. We can do it! OWLS is worthy of this support because we are an organization made up of members who have great talents and truly believe that we will transform the practice of law and ensure justice and equality by advancing women and minorities in the legal profession. I look forward to meeting and working with all of you along the way. Thank you for your time!

### OWLS Fall CLE

***What You Never  
Learned in Law School:  
Business Tools for Success***

**Friday, Nov. 2, 2007, 1–5 p.m.  
Followed by the  
Workplace Leader Award  
Reception, 5–6:30 p.m.  
Governor Hotel, Portland**

**OWLS 2nd Annual  
Fashion Show  
and Benefit for  
Dress for Success**

**Thursday, Nov. 15, 2007  
4:30–6:30 p.m.  
Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt  
Portland**

### ***Thank You, Spring CLE Sponsors!***

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## **OWLS 2007 Book Drive July 30–August 10**

The organizer of the annual OWLS book drive, Cecil Reniche-Smith, has been named the Coffee Creek Correctional Institution's 2006 Volunteer of the Year and the Oregon Department of Corrections' 2006 Citizen of the Year for her work collecting books for the Coffee Creek Correctional Institution. Under Cecil's leadership, the 2006 OWLS book drive produced about 2,600 books for Coffee Creek, so many that two-thirds of the books were set aside to stock the library at the new Deer Ridge Correction Facility in Madras. Congratulations, Cecil.

The 2007 OWLS book drive runs from July 30 through August 10. Books can be brought to specified sites in the Portland-metro area. All donated books must be in very good or excellent condition because they will get a lot of use. Fiction and nonfiction books at all reading levels, paperback and hardcover, are welcome, but do not donate any true-crime books, books on gambling, or textbooks. Cash donations will be used to purchase foreign language fiction.

To donate, please contact Cecil at 503/872-9680 or [cecilanne@comcast.net](mailto:cecilanne@comcast.net).

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

# Many Celebrate New Women's History Display

By Trudy Allen

On May 17, the OWLS Foundation and Queen's Bench co-sponsored a celebration of the new women's history display that was installed at the Oregon State Bar (OSB) center in February. Members of the OSB and the public had a chance to see the museum-quality wall display—a total of 24 feet in length—and to marvel at the wealth of information it contains.

The event offered an opportunity to meet many of the women featured in the display, including the following:

- ◆ Hon. Betty Roberts, former justice of the Oregon Supreme Court, the first woman to serve on the Oregon Court of Appeals, and the first woman to serve on the Oregon Supreme Court;
- ◆ Norma Paulus, former Oregon secretary of state, the first woman attorney elected to statewide office in Oregon;
- ◆ Hon. Susan Graber, currently a judge on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, the first woman from Oregon to serve on that court, and a former justice of the Oregon Supreme Court;
- ◆ Hon. Virginia Linder, currently a justice on the Oregon Supreme Court, the first woman elected to that court without first being appointed;
- ◆ Hon. Ellen Rosenblum, currently a judge on the Oregon Court of Appeals, and the first officer of the American Bar Association from Oregon (secretary, 2002–2005);
- ◆ Noreen Saltveit McGraw, in 1957, the first woman judge in southern Oregon, and, in 1960, the first woman Oregon assistant attorney general to do trial work and jury cases;
- ◆ Carlotta Sorensen, an attorney since 1952, now retired, also a former Oregon assistant attorney general and one of five women holding that position in 1964;
- ◆ Hon. Julie Frantz, currently a judge on the Multnomah County Circuit Court, and the first woman OSB president (1992–1993); and
- ◆ Several former OWLS presidents, including Helle Rode, Patricia Heatherman, Terri Kraemer, Hon. Marilyn Litzenberger (currently a judge on the Multnomah County Circuit Court), Libby Schwartz, and Norma Freitas.

Over 50 people attended the event, including many family members of the women featured in the history display, such as the families of the late Hon. Jean Lewis (who became the first woman circuit court judge in Oregon in 1961) and the late Hon. Mercedes Deiz (who became the first woman judge of color in Oregon in 1970).

Trudy Allen, chair of the Queen's Bench Historical Perspectives Committee, took a few minutes during the event to thank the women who had been instrumental in bringing the display to life. She thanked OSB Executive Director Karen Garst for initiating the project and Anna Zanolli, supervisor of the OSB Information Design & Technology Department, for coordinating the project on behalf of the OSB. She also thanked Jeanne Galick for her graphic design work and Nanci Klinger, Diane Rynerson, Nicole Rhoades, and Kim Kaminski, members of the Queen's Bench Historical Perspectives Committee, for



Members of the Queen's Bench Historical Perspectives Committee (from left)—Diane Rynerson, Trudy Allen, and Nanci Klinger (far right)—visit with Carlotta Sorensen (center, admitted to the OSB in 1952) and Noreen Saltveit McGraw (admitted to the OSB in 1955) on May 17.

their work in bringing the information and photographs together to provide the historical content.

The wall display features many women lawyers from all around Oregon over the course of our history, since 1885. Of course, the women featured are but a sampling of all who have helped—and continue to help—blaze the paths for other women who seek to achieve prominence in a variety of legal arenas and leadership roles in the Oregon legal profession and justice system.

*Trudy Allen, historian of the OWLS Foundation, is general counsel of U.S. Bancorp Equipment Finance, Inc., in Tigard.*



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## OWLS Members Receive Mentor Awards



Vicki Smith

Three OWLS members were honored with mentor awards this spring. Concetta Schwesinger, an OWLS Board member, was named Mentor of the Year by Willamette University College of Law. Vicki Smith received the Andrea Swanner Redding Outstanding Mentor Award from Lewis & Clark Law School. Vicki is a civil litigator with Bodyfelt Mount Stroup & Chamberlain in Portland. Emily Potts, a law clerk with the Oregon Tax Court, received one of five First Year Partnership Awards, for mentoring first-year students, from Lewis & Clark Law School. Congratulations, all.

## Magistrate Judge Pat Sullivan Meets with Bend OWLS Members

By Bethany Graham

Magistrate Judge Patricia Sullivan, the newest magistrate judge appointed to the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon, visited with lawyers in Bend on May 10 at a reception co-hosted by Cascade Women Lawyers and the Deschutes County Bar Association. Sullivan was appointed to the bench in September 2005 and sits in Pendleton.

After mingling with members of the local bar and other guests, including U. S. Bankruptcy Judge Elizabeth Perris, Judge Sullivan spoke briefly about her career path and her post as a federal magistrate judge.

Judge Sullivan hails from Illinois and graduated from Loyola University and the University of Georgia School of Law. After law school, she worked for Georgia Legal Services as a staff attorney, and then as an assistant to a judge on the Georgia Court of Appeals.

In 1983, Sullivan came to Pendleton to visit her sister, planning to stay for a short time. But eastern Oregon appealed to her, and soon she was volunteering at Legal Services. Shortly thereafter, she was invited to join the firm Corey, Byler, Rew, Lorenzen & Hojem. She accepted the offer and has worked at the firm since 1983, focusing her practice on land use and general civil litigation. She has always worked part-time, ensuring adequate time in the day to participate in the activities and lives of her two daughters.

Judge Sullivan was a founding member of the Rebecca J. Bloom Chapter of OWLS. She has served two terms on the OWLS

Board, in 1991 to 1995 and 2001 to 2004.

In 2005, after the retirement of Magistrate Judge Stephen Bloom, who had held the post in Pendleton since 1988,



Judge Pat Sullivan (left) and Lorie Harris Hancock at the May 10 reception

Sullivan applied for the judicial position. The only applicant from Pendleton, she was awarded the appointment.

As a magistrate judge, Sullivan handles a variety of tasks, including the conduct of preliminary proceedings in criminal cases, trial and disposition of misdemeanor cases, various pretrial matters and evidentiary proceedings on delegation from the judges of the district court, and trial of civil cases with consent of the parties. Despite these wide-ranging duties, her position remains part-time. When she is not on the bench, she continues her private practice in Pendleton.

From all appearances, Sullivan likes her judicial position enormously. By order of Chief Judge Ancer Haggerty, she is assigned all civil matters arising in the Pendleton division, which take about half her time on the court. The remaining half is spent on the minor criminal violations docket. Most of the defendants in those cases represent themselves, she says, and she's been impressed by their level of skill and sophistication, speculating that the credit might go to legal television shows like *Law & Order*.

Judge Sullivan's story sets an excellent example for OWLS members who hope to wear the black robe someday.

**Bethany Graham** is an attorney at Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt in Bend and serves on the OWLS Board.

## Meet Board Member Concetta Schwesinger

By Kathleen Hansa Rastetter

Concetta Schwesinger loves her job because it allows her to use her favorite legal skills—analysis, strategy, and negotiation—in an interesting, fulfilling legal environment. She is the liaison for the Oregon District Attorneys Association to the Oregon Child Support Program. This federally mandated program, administered through the Oregon Department of Justice, enforces child support orders and orders for medical insurance.



Concetta Schwesinger

Concetta graduated from Lewis & Clark College with a BA in economics, and obtained joint degrees in law and management from Willamette University. Prior to her present position, she practiced insurance defense and family law, and she began her career as a deputy district attorney in Multnomah County.

Outside the office, Concetta keeps busy with her two daughters, Allegra, age 10, and Ariana, 7. Concetta also belongs to a book club, which reads long, complex books, and she reads with her daughters. Ariana is fascinated with ancient Egypt, so they have read a lot about mummies. Concetta loves to travel, and has been taking Italian language lessons to prepare for an upcoming adventure to Italy.

Her passion is cooking. After receiving a pasta maker as a gift, she has been learning to make fettuccini and ravioli, and learning all about different kinds of tomatoes, olive oils, and flours used to make pasta.

Concetta believes that it is important to be involved. That's why she is active in OWLS, which she sees as an avenue to providing guidance and mentoring to other women. She credits her many terrific mentors, and she wants to continue the mentoring tradition through her work on the OWLS Board.

OWLS is pleased to have Concetta on the board, and we congratulate her for being recently named Mentor of the Year by Willamette University College of Law.

**Kathleen Hansa Rastetter** is an assistant county counsel for Clackamas County and serves on the OWLS Board.

# MLLS Hosts CLE on Oregon Constitution

By Shannon A. Terry

On April 19, the Mary Leonard Law Society (MLLS) held a CLE on the Oregon Constitution at the State of Oregon Law Library, located in the Oregon Supreme Court Building in Salem.



Professor Burton

Joe Stephens, the state law librarian, spoke about the history of the library and its renovations, and pointed out some of the rare books on display.

Willamette University College of Law Professor Emeritus Claudia Burton then spoke on the "Process and Content of the Oregon Constitution." She spent two and a half years researching mid-19th-century Oregon, examining how our state constitution was adopted, the major issues at the time, and what the historical record suggests about how to interpret the constitution. On August 17, 1857, 60 delegates convened in Salem, and in four and a half weeks hammered out a constitution, which was approved by the voters on November 9, 1857, by a vote of 7,000 to 3,000. On February 14, 1859, Oregon was admitted to the union, and the Oregon Constitution took effect.

The next speaker was Oregon Court of Appeals Judge David Schuman, who talked about "The Court's Role in Interpreting the Oregon Constitution." He pointed out that many Oregon cases in the last few years have involved the Oregon Constitution but not the federal Constitution. For example, did the initiative to amend the Oregon Constitution to ban gay marriage make two or more

changes that were not closely related? Or, does the opening of a garbage can by a police officer violate a constitutional right? What if it is opened by a garbage collector at a police officer's direction? Judge Schuman explained how a state constitution can trump the U.S. Constitution in areas such as free speech.

Chief Justice Paul De Muniz then talked about the importance of "An Independent Judiciary." The chief justice said that independence is justified only when judges follow the law, are good stewards of resources, and are mindful of their



Judge Schuman

limited role under the constitution. He noted, however, the present threat to the judiciary's independence, characterized by three things in particular: (1) an unprecedented level of attacks on the judiciary, including attacks by politicians in the highest levels of government, (2) the influx of special-interest money into judicial election campaigns, and (3) the loosening of ethical constraints on what judicial candidates may and may not say about cases likely to come before them. These developments, Chief Justice De Muniz said, blur the line between judicial accountability and political accountability. The former is "faithfulness to the principles of fairness, impartiality, and equal treatment under the law."

Chief Justice De Muniz also spoke about the importance of civic education and educating the public about the courts' role. He said that after the current legislative session ends, he plans to begin

a discussion with the public about how judges are selected. In closing, he emphasized that the courts must maintain the public's confidence in the competency, efficiency, and impartiality of the courts by prudently managing resources, treating litigants respectfully, issuing decisions in a timely manner, and zealously protecting the public's access to impartial courts.

After the speakers finished, much of the group stayed for a reception in the library's conference room, where participants were able to enjoy refreshments, mingle, and discuss the topics presented.

The Mary Leonard Law Society thanks the speakers and participants for an enjoyable and educational event.

*Shannon Terry is a law clerk for Judge Walter Edmonds of the Oregon Court of Appeals.*



Chief Justice De Muniz

Photo by Jodee Jackson

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# Women Judges in Multnomah County: 1980–2007

By Diane Rynerson

*This is the second article in a two-part series on the history of women judges in Multnomah County. The first article was published in our Spring 2007 issue.*

In 1980, just 2.1% of all U.S. state appellate and trial court judges were female. Oregon lagged behind the national average at 1.3%. In that context, having three women on the Multnomah County bench on January 1, 1980 (Mercedes Deiz, Kim Frankel, and Kathleen Nachtigal) represented great progress to some, and an unsettling disturbance of the status quo to others. But, for an ever-increasing number of young women lawyers whose law school years had been energized by the women's movement of the 1970s, it just wasn't enough.

In January 1980, Republican Governor Vic Atiyeh appointed 1974 Northwestern School of Law graduate Linda Bergman, who had been the first woman attorney in the public defender's office, to the Multnomah County District Court. There were now four women judges on the Multnomah County bench.

The year 1982 was a landmark year

for women judges nationally and in Oregon, as Sandra Day O'Connor was nominated to the United States Supreme Court and Betty Roberts was named the first female justice on Oregon's highest court. That same year, young attorneys Dorothy Baker and Nely Johnson won contested judicial elections for seats on the Multnomah County District Court. Their election represented a turning point in the path to the Multnomah County bench. Multnomah County voters were increasingly accepting of female candidates, and their success at the polls encouraged other women to undertake the expense and hard work of judicial election campaigns.

In 1984, Kristena LaMar, then a pro tem juvenile court referee, ran against a male incumbent for Multnomah County Circuit Court and won, despite the presiding judge's active campaign for her opponent. This was the first time that a woman had been elected directly to the Multnomah County Circuit Court without first having served on the district court bench. Kristena LaMar is now Oregon's most senior female full-time judge.

Another landmark for women lawyers came in 1987, when Susan Hammer became the first woman president of the Multnomah Bar Association.

In November 1988, Democratic Governor Neil Goldschmidt appointed two women to the Multnomah County District Court: Ellen Rosenblum, formerly in private practice and then an assistant U.S. attorney, and Elizabeth Welch, an attorney with public and private practice experience who had served as a judge for a few months a decade earlier before losing an election to Kathleen Nachtigal.



Photo by Jodee Jackson

Judge Kristena LaMar

From the beginning, they heard cases as circuit court judges pro tem, providing needed coverage for the heavy circuit court docket, while deepening their own expertise with complex cases. The appointments of Ellen Rosenblum and Elizabeth Welch marked the first time an Oregon governor had appointed two women to the Multnomah County bench in the same year.

To summarize, during the 1980s, six women became new Multnomah County judges: three by appointment and three by election. The percentage of female new admittees to the Oregon State Bar during that same period was 34%. In 1989, Oregon Women Lawyers was founded. One of its first programs was a practical workshop on how to become a judge.

In 1991, Oregon's first female governor, Democrat Barbara Roberts, named Janice Wilson to the Multnomah County District Court, one of two women appointed to the state court bench that year. (Gayle Nachtigal, appointed to the Washington County Circuit Court, was the other.) The very next year, Governor Roberts appointed another woman to the Multnomah County District Court. Anna Brown, who had once worked as a courtroom clerk at the Multnomah County Courthouse, was subsequently appointed to the Multnomah County Circuit Court, and was sworn in as a federal district court judge on October 26, 1999.



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Another landmark for women lawyers came in 1992, when Julie Frantz became the first female president of the 57-year-old Oregon State Bar. Just two years later, she was one of three women appointed by Governor Roberts to the Multnomah County District Court. Also appointed in 1994 were Merri Souther Wyatt and Paula Kurshner. In no other year to date have three or more new female judges been appointed to the Multnomah County bench within the same calendar year. In the Summer 1994 OWLS *AdvanceSheet*, Janice Wilson was quoted as saying, "She [Governor Roberts] has sought and appointed very talented, hard-working men and women to the bench and has very consciously added richly to the diversity of the judiciary in the process."



Judge Julie Frantz

Governor Roberts chose not to seek re-election, and by Summer 1996, the *AdvanceSheet* reported that judicial appointments of women had declined statewide, with Democratic Governor John Kitzhaber's judicial appointments of women constituting 20% of the total, compared to Governor Roberts's 38%. The final new female judge to come to the Multnomah County bench in the 1990s was Jean Kerr Maurer, a senior deputy district attorney named by Governor Kitzhaber to the Multnomah County District Court in 1996.

Although female incumbents retained their seats and a few moved from district court to circuit court by means of election, during the 1990s, appointment was the only successful avenue to the Multnomah County bench for new female judges. As in the 1980s, just six new women judges came to the Multnomah County bench during the decade. By 1998, the district and circuit courts had merged. As the 1990s drew to a close, 40% of the Oregon State Bar's new admittees were women.

Susan Svetkey, a co-founder of the Juvenile Rights Project, became the first new female judge on the Multnomah County bench in this decade. She was named by Governor Kitzhaber in late October 1999 to take the seat of Judge Stephen Herrell, whose resignation from the bench was effective December 31. On

December 28, 2001, Governor Kitzhaber appointed Nan Waller, a longtime Multnomah County juvenile court referee, to the Multnomah County Circuit Court.

And then came the watershed year of 2002. For the first time in 20 years, two women ran in two separate races for seats on the Multnomah County bench against male candidates and won: Marilyn Litzenberger and Katherine Tennyson. That same year, Governor Kitzhaber appointed two women to the Multnomah County Circuit Court: Maureen McKnight and Alicia Fuchs. In 2002, 49.8% of those passing the Oregon State Bar exam were women.

On August 20, 2004, Kathleen Dailey became the first female appointment to the Multnomah County Circuit Court by Democratic Governor Ted Kulongoski. Her appointment was followed by that of Adrienne Nelson, who was sworn in on February 28, 2006. Adrienne Nelson's appointment was particularly noteworthy because she was only the second woman judge of color to serve on the Multnomah County bench. For the period after the death of Clifford Freeman on August 21, 2006, until Kenneth Walker took the oath of office on March 30, 2007, she was the state court's lone African American judge.

In August 2006, Youlee Yim You, an Oregon assistant attorney general, became Oregon's first female Asian American judge when she was appointed by Governor Kulongoski to the vacancy left by the retirement of Jan Wyers. Her residency was challenged by another aspirant to the bench, Leslie Roberts, who filed against her for the November election. Youlee You subsequently resigned from the bench and Leslie Roberts, the sole candidate on the ballot, won the election.

More remarkable in the history of women on the Multnomah County bench was the fact that in 2006 female candidates were in every open Multnomah County judicial race, and in the elections ultimately won by Cheryl Albrecht and Judith Matarazzo, the second-place finishers were also women. At the same time, Virginia Linder became the first woman to become an Oregon Supreme Court justice by means of election.

On February 28, 2007, Governor Kulongoski appointed Diana Stuart and reappointed Youlee You to the Multnomah County Circuit Court. There are now 19 male and 19 female full-time judges on the Multnomah County bench. Of the ten judges with the most seniority, half are

female. In the words of Kristena LaMar, "the 'show me' days are long gone." Women are clearly up to the task, and voters agree. Eighty years have passed since Mary Jane Spurlin, Multnomah County's first woman judge, left the bench in defeat. Her pioneering work and sacrifice, as well as that of the women judges and judicial candidates who followed, have forever changed the face of justice in Multnomah County.

*Diane Rynerson was the first executive director of OWLS. Hon. Julia Philbrook and Hon. Jill Tanner also conducted substantial research for this article.*

## Road to the Bench Handbook Available

In 2005, OWLS members wrote a handbook titled *Road to the Bench* for people interested in becoming judges. The handbook discusses preparing for a judicial career, obtaining relevant experience, deciding if you are ready, and preparing for interviews. It also includes insight and advice from members of the judiciary.

For a complimentary copy of the handbook as a PDF, send a message to Linda at [linda@oregonwomenlawyers.org](mailto:linda@oregonwomenlawyers.org). For a hard copy, please send \$5 to OWLS at P.O. Box 40393, Portland, OR 97240.



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# Why Men Join Oregon Women Lawyers

By Mark Johnson

Many of you have already heard this story—in fact, I suspect that the story itself may have played a role in my selection to write this article—but it's a good story, and it does relate to the topic at hand. Although a member of OWLS from its earliest days, I attended my first meeting as a member in 1996, when I was a candidate for election to the OSB Board of Governors. My good friend and colleague Ann Morgenstern volunteered to take me to Queen's Bench and introduce me to the members. Surprisingly anxious, I asked Ann as we walked to the meeting, "Will there be other men there?" She shot me a withering glance. "Mark, men only come to Queen's Bench when they're running for office!"

I'm glad to say that Ann's observation either wasn't true or it became outdated with the passing of time, because, although I was indeed the only man present that day, I have since attended many OWLS functions with other men in attendance. Today there are 45 OWLS members who identify themselves as male in the membership rolls.

Besides me (a former OSB president), the list includes current OSB President Albert Menashe as well as nine current or retired state court judges. Although this group might be characterized on some level as "running for office," I suspect that my experience is typical: I joined because I supported the group's mission, and I hope that my known support for the group's mission led OWLS members to support me, in turn, when I ran for office. It's also true that, as President Menashe observes, both of us benefited in our bar service from learning what OWLS members thought about bar-related issues.

Besides the power and glory, though, what other reasons do men give for joining OWLS? I was intrigued to discover that most of the men I spoke to focused on continuing education and networking opportunities, such as the contract lawyer lunches and the email listserve. My own motivations reflect, I suppose, my status as an "out" gay lawyer: I enjoy the social environment that I find at OWLS gatherings and the interchange that takes place among bar members who are

pursuing non-traditional roles in the legal profession. Andrew SkinnerLopata's comments reflect sentiments similar to mine: "I get to meet some of the most interesting and best practitioners in the state. As a father who actively participates in my children's care and upbringing, I benefit from many of the discussions on the OWLS listserve regarding balancing family responsibilities and my law career."



Mark Johnson

Among other questions, I asked the male members of OWLS whether the organization should be doing anything to attract more male members. It's fair to say that all the men I talked to felt that they personally benefited from their OWLS membership and participation. As to whether OWLS should do anything affirmative, though, opinion was considerably more divided. The general sentiment seems to be that the organization is visible enough and respected enough that it is already attracting those men who want to contribute to the organization's mission by becoming members.

Circuit Judge Philip Arnold remarked that "among its virtues, Oregon Women Lawyers does a good job of eliminating the vestiges of negative stereotypes," and related the following story: "When I enrolled at the University of Tennessee College of Law, there were two women students in the law school. When my daughter, Jackie, enrolled at the University of Oregon, women were more than 50 percent of her class. A couple of weeks ago when Jackie (now practicing in California) was talking to her five-year-old daughter Mathilde about our upcoming visit, Mathilde asked, 'Mommie, how do you get to be a judge?' Jackie told her that first one had to be a lawyer for a while and then maybe one could be a judge. Mathilde thought about it and exclaimed, 'Well, since all lawyers are girls, grandpa must be a girl!'"

If the long-term goal of an organization like OWLS is to outlive its usefulness, Mathilde's observation helps us see that we're well on our way.

**Mark Johnson** is a family law litigator at Johnson Renshaw & Lechman-Su PC.

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The 74th Legislative Assembly ended Thursday, June 28, one day before the deadline set by leadership at the beginning of session. Although the legislature focused state resources on education, it also passed budgets for the Oregon Judicial Department and indigent defense that were the best in years, putting a stop to erosion of state support since 2001. The 2007 session saw passage of a rainy day fund, landmark family equality legislation, referral of a land-use reform proposal (Measure 37), an updated bottle bill, energy regulation legislation, and a host of consumer bills to regulate the payday lending industry and identity theft, to name a few.

One of the bar's highest legislative priorities for 2007 was to adequately fund the judicial branch, including increasing salaries for judges. The Oregon State Bar developed a strategy and worked collaboratively with Chief Justice Paul De Muniz, Chief Judge David Brewer, interest groups within the legal and business communities, and the League of Women Voters, to educate the legislature about the importance of adequately funding the judicial branch, as well as the need to recruit and retain the best and brightest lawyers for the bench—which, in turn, requires adequate compensation. Judges' salaries had not been increased since 2002 and were the lowest in the nation.

As a result of the collaborative strategy and formation of broad-based partnerships, all state court judges will receive a 16% raise effective July 1, 2007, and an additional 3% on July 1, 2008. The Judicial Department also received additional resources, which demonstrated a commitment by the legislative leadership to reinvest in the judicial branch as well as the many other aspects of state government.

In addition, the legislature passed SB 700, creating a mechanism to provide regular and routine review of statewide elected officials' salaries, thereby eliminating the ad hoc approach to salary increases for most statewide public officials. The Public Officials Compensation Commission will recommend salary levels for all elected state officials, including legislators, judges, and statewide officials like the governor and the attorney general. Because the commission will



By Susan Evans Grabe

conduct its work outside the legislative process and because its recommendations must be included in the governor's budget, it is hoped that this mechanism will take the politics out of the process. The earliest that any of the commission's recommendations will become effective is July 1, 2009.

Another of the bar's top priorities for 2007 was an increase in the rates paid to lawyers providing indigent defense services, rates that had not been raised since 1991. Under the leadership of Rep. Chip Shields, chair of the Joint Ways and Means Public Safety Subcommittee, indigent defense services received increased funding, as well as additional resources to increase the hourly rate for lawyers from \$40 to \$45 per hour (from \$55 to \$60 for capital cases) and pay for juvenile dependency appeals. The Department of Justice also received additional resources to address juvenile dependency appeals.

Other legislation of importance to the bar included the creation of an interim legislative committee on court facilities to develop recommendations for the renovation, construction, and maintenance of court facilities; allocation of a one-time grant of \$700,000 for civil legal services for this biennium, as well as a funding mechanism for the future; funding for the Council on Court Procedures, to be hosted in the future at Lewis & Clark Law School; and a bill that broadens the authority of the chief justice to make rules regarding electronic filing and storage of documents, as the first step toward the development of an electronic document management and e-filing system in Oregon.

Thanks go not only to the governor and leadership in both chambers but, in particular, to Senator Kate Brown, who was instrumental in working out the details of the funding package for the

courts, indigent defense, and legal aid. Senator Brown, one of the few lawyers in the legislature, stepped down as Senate majority leader at the end of session and has indicated that she will not seek another term in the legislature. A stalwart supporter of the justice system, she will be sorely missed.



Susan Evans Grabe

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

Two of the busiest committees in the Capitol were the Senate and House Judiciary Committees, chaired, respectively, by Senator Ginny Burdick and Rep. Greg Macpherson, where over 500 bills were heard and 400 plus were voted out of committee to the House or Senate floor. Considering that there are only two lawyers on the House Judiciary Committee (Rep. Macpherson and Rep. Suzanne Bonamici) and one on the Senate Judiciary Committee (Senator Floyd Prozanski), where most of the legally related issues are discussed, these results are impressive. According to Rep. Macpherson, recruiting lawyers to run for the legislature is essential to the passage of well-crafted law improvement legislation.

Bills worthy of note include the following:

- SB 2 Prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation
- SB 284 Noncompete agreements
- SB 671 Attorney-client privilege/public records
- SB 484 Dispute resolution in contracts
- HB 2007 Domestic partnerships
- HB 2700 Contraceptive prescription parity
- HB 3086 Uninsured motorist coverage for family members

*For more information about the legislative session and the new laws, please visit the legislature's website, [www.leg.state.or.us](http://www.leg.state.or.us), or the bar's webpage, [www.osbar.org/pubaffairs](http://www.osbar.org/pubaffairs).*

# OWLS Chapters Offer Support and Companionship

By Bethany Graham

Talking to women in some of the ten OWLS chapters located around the state quickly yields a common theme. No matter how different the chapters' agendas, sizes, or structures, what binds them together is the support and companionship they offer to OWLS members.

The ten OWLS chapters provide local support and interaction for women lawyers in almost every part of the state. In the Portland area, Queen's Bench has been holding monthly meetings since its founding in 1948 by 25 pioneering women lawyers. Washington County Women Lawyers meets for monthly meetings and socials in Hillsboro. Down the valley, the Mary Leonard Law Society hosts regular meetings, speakers, and events for attorneys in the Salem area, and Lane County Women Lawyers does the same in Eugene. Linn-Benton Women Lawyers is the OWLS chapter in the Albany-Corvallis area.

The coast and southern part of the state are served by Coast Women Lawyers, Rogue Women Lawyers, and Josephine County Women Lawyers. East of the mountains, Cascade Women Lawyers meets regularly in Bend, and the Rebecca J. Bloom Chapter meets in the Pendleton-Hermiston area.

With some exceptions (such as the large Queen's Bench chapter), many of the chapters' primary activity is to hold informal lunches to give members a welcome and supportive place to talk about their practices, vent frustrations, and lend a supporting hand to others. And for many chapter members, that appears to be precisely what is needed.

Mary Bruington, coordinator of Washington County Women Lawyers, says that she worried at first about whether the group should host more speakers or CLEs. After a while, though, she realized that "we are what people want us to be." With already busy, "overloaded" members, the Washington County group has found that just hosting its once-a-month brown bag lunches provides the kind of support its members need. The members meet at the courthouse for lunch to "vent" some of the stress of practice. Mary says that one of the group's best features is that there's

no pressure to serve on committees or formally plan events.

Out in Pendleton, the same guiding principles apply to the Rebecca J. Bloom Chapter. Eastern Oregon's only OWLS chapter, it was named after a prominent and beloved attorney who practiced both in Pendleton and in Walla Walla, Washington. Rebecca died in a car accident in January 2003, and shortly thereafter, the chapter was named in her honor.



2007 Queen's Bench Board (left to right): Seated: Kristin Sterling, Hon. Traci Kirkpatrick, President Nicole DeFever, Sarah Krick, Marja Selmann; Standing: Courtney Muraski, Dana Forman, Barbara Smythe, Susan O'Toole, Camille Tourje, Hon. Julia Philbrook

The Rebecca J. Bloom Chapter meets about once a month, with 6 to 12 regular attendees, according to Kittee Custer, treasurer of the group and currently its organizer. Kittee moved to Pendleton after law school for the "heat, horses, and wide open spaces." When she first heard about the OWLS chapter, she was skeptical, wondering why an organization was needed. But after her first meeting, she was sold on the "wonderful, supportive" feel of the group. The women discuss their experiences and help each other with problems that arise across their diverse practices. A favorite annual tradition is the summer pool party—the meeting itself (including elections and reading of officers' reports) is held in a member's backyard pool.

Cascade Women Lawyers, which meets once every six weeks in a restaurant in Bend, is similarly relaxed. The group, which varies in size from 5 to 15 members, plays primarily a supportive role by allowing attorneys to get to know one another in a casual environment. With the Deschutes County Bar Association, the group also hosted U.S. Magistrate Judge Pat Sullivan (who founded the Rebecca J. Bloom Chapter with Pendleton attorney Eva Temple) when she came to Bend on May 10. (See story on page 4.)

Plain-old socializing is also key to Rogue Women Lawyers, which meets in Medford. Each month the group alter-

nates between a lunchtime meeting and a cocktail hour. Coordinator Stephanie Burke characterizes the group's members as "social butterflies." Cocktail hour aside, the group also regularly hosts speakers on issues relevant to the members' practice areas. Judges, paralegals, and specialists on drug and alcohol intervention through the courts have been recent speakers. Stephanie notes that with only about 50 women lawyers in the area, the OWLS

chapter is critical for providing companionship and the opportunity to commiserate regularly with other women lawyers.

Several OWLS chapters combine the general support offered by informal meetings with a more structured program schedule. The Mary Leonard Law Society in Salem, for example, hosted a CLE on the Oregon Constitution on

April 19. The CLE was held at the state law library in the Oregon Supreme Court Building and featured Chief Justice Paul De Muniz, Judge David Schuman, and Professor Emeritus Claudia Burton. (See story on page 5.) The chapter has a full slate of meetings scheduled for the coming months, with speakers including Oregon Supreme Court Justices Martha Walters and Virginia Linder in September.

Similarly, Queen's Bench has a full schedule of regular monthly meetings, each with a featured speaker or program. Queen's Bench has also undertaken several special projects, including the "adoption" of Multnomah CourtCare, which provides free, drop-in day care for litigants at the Multnomah County Courthouse, and the sponsorship of the Manche Langley Scholarship for promising female law students.

With diverse programs and members, OWLS chapters meet their members' needs by offering support, education, and companionship, and most important, as Mary Bruington explained, by being exactly what the members want them to be.

For more information about upcoming activities in your local OWLS chapter, visit [www.oregonwomenlawyers.org](http://www.oregonwomenlawyers.org).

**Bethany Graham** is an attorney at Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt in Bend and serves on the OWLS Board.

# Kathryn Eaton Will Be Missed

By Mary Overgaard



OWLS member Kathryn Eaton died unexpectedly of septic shock on May 26, at the age of 53. She had returned from a dream vacation in Italy with her mother, Betty Eaton, just a few days before she died.

Kathryn was an associate with Caroline Cantrell and Associates, specializing in bankruptcy law, elder law, and tax law. Before practicing law, she was a vice president in real estate banking with Chase Manhattan Bank and Dime Mortgage.

An ardent supporter of women's and gay and lesbian rights, Kathryn worked tirelessly for many pro bono clients. She was co-chair of the Oregon Gay and Lesbian Law Association, on the board of directors of the Multnomah County Department of Community Justice, and on the Citizen Budget Advisory Committee of the Multnomah County Office of Citizen Involvement.

Kathryn was known for her sense of humor and her willingness to share her knowledge and experience with other attorneys. She loved to crochet, and many friends and charities were beneficiaries of the colorful afghans she created.

Kathryn is survived by her mother, two brothers, and five sisters. Kathryn was a wonderful woman and will be missed.

*Mary Overgaard has been a Queen's Bench member since 1983.*

## Randall Visits Portland

By Mavel Morales

Vernellia Randall, a member of the founding OWLS Board of Directors, discussed her new book, *Dying While Black*, with friends and colleagues at the Governor Hotel in Portland on May 3. Professor Randall, of the University of Dayton Law School, opened up the room to conversation about her research and personal experiences with the health care system as an African American woman and a former nurse. The book fuses scholarly research with personal history to produce an insightful view into the role that racism plays in the American health care system.

*Mavel Morales is an attorney with the Oregon Law Center in Ontario.*

# Meet Judge Debra Vogt

By Kathleen Hansa Rastetter

What do you say when you get a call at home, while you are on maternity leave, from a circuit court judge asking you to come in for a meeting? You say yes, of course. That meeting led Debra Vogt to decide to run for an open seat on the Lane County Circuit Court. Lane County's Presiding Judge Mary Ann Bearden and several of her colleagues encouraged Vogt to run for the seat. Eleven judges endorsed her in the election campaign, including Chief Judge David Brewer of the Oregon Court of Appeals. After a "long year" in which she worked full-time as a deputy district attorney, was a mom to her three children, and campaigned, she won the hotly contested election. On January 2, she took her seat on the bench.

Judge Vogt grew up in Tangent, Oregon, near Albany. She majored in philosophy at Oregon State University, where her professors encouraged her to consider becoming a lawyer. She enjoyed the legal courses she took, so she attended Willamette University College of Law, graduating in 1994. She then worked as a clerk for Judge Maurice Merten, her first mentor. She quickly found that she enjoyed the courtroom and trial, and set herself the goal of becoming a judge.

After clerking, she worked for ten years in the Lane County district attorney's office. There she spent three years on the major-crimes team, prosecuting child sex-abuse cases and violent felony crimes. She credits her work as a law clerk and a trial lawyer for making her transition to the bench a smooth one.

In her spare time, Judge Vogt and her husband, Kevin Vogt, like to take their three children camping and boating.

Judge Vogt says that this advice is some of the best she's received:

1. Safeguard your reputation as a precious jewel. Your reputation includes the way you treat opposing counsel, the court, and your clients, as well as how you conduct yourself in your private life.

2. Be a good lawyer—not just when someone is watching, but all the time.

Judge Vogt believes that a lawyer who follows that advice will be successful in whatever goal she sets for herself.

Judge Vogt also encourages people to find a mentor. She credits Judge Merten and the late Joe Kosydar, of the district attorney's office, with teaching her not to be afraid to do the right thing. That

advice has served her well, since as a judge she must do the right thing and apply the law, even when the circumstances are sad. She strives to have everyone leave her courtroom with his or her dignity intact.



Judge Debra Vogt

Judge Vogt says that her membership in OWLS has been a great way to connect with other lawyers, including working moms, and to form networks and friendships that she otherwise would not have made. She also believes that her participation in OWLS and in the Lane County Bar Association helped her in the election.

Judge Vogt loves being a judge, even though she heard nearly 22 trials in her first five months on the bench. OWLS extends our warmest congratulations to Judge Debra Vogt.

*Kathleen Hansa Rastetter is an assistant county counsel for Clackamas County.*

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# Tips on Living Simply and According to Your Values

By Christine Uri

The OWLS May and June LEG-Up events addressed living according to your values and living simply.

At the May 10 LEG-Up, hosted by Foster Pepper in Portland, **Carol McKeag** encouraged OWLS members to think deeply about their lives, their values, and how the two connect.

Carol spent more than 30 years working in finance, as a certified public accountant, a controller, and a chief financial officer. Then, while looking for a way to deepen her spiritual connections, Carol came across a course titled "Transforming Your Life" at the Academy of Coach Training in Seattle. Through this course, Carol transformed her own life and started doing work she finds truly rewarding. Today, as a certified life coach, Carol provides life coaching to individuals and groups.

Carol offered the following advice (and much more) to audience members:

- When you live in accordance with your values, life works better. Unhappiness indicates that one or more of your values is not being honored.
- If you develop a simple statement of intention about how to live your life and repeat it to yourself, your life

will change to fit the intention.

- Use empowering language.
- Stop saying "I am sorry" so much. It diminishes you.

At the June 10 LEG-Up, hosted by Miller Nash in Portland, the featured speaker was longtime environmental educator, advocate, and leader **Jeanne Roy**. Jeanne and her husband, Dick Roy, founded the Northwest Earth Institute and the Center for Earth Leadership. As education director of the Northwest Earth Institute for 12 years, Jeanne has prepared "discussion courses," such as "Choices for Sustainable Living" and "Healthy Children—Healthy Planet." Her recent booklet is titled *Ten Stresses on the Planet*.

Jeanne started the LEG-Up discussion by telling us about her background. In the late 1960s, while living in Boston with her husband and children, Jeanne learned that the average East Indian used remarkably little of the Earth's resources over the course of his or her life as compared to the average American. After thinking about this fact, Jeanne and Dick decided that they wanted to live simply. For Jeanne, that means focusing on what is central to life while pruning unneces-

sary items away at the edges.

Jeanne explained how choosing to live simply can lead to a more sustainable lifestyle. To simplify, a person can reduce the amount of new consumer goods she purchases, live in a smaller space, and limit the use of cars and planes. Each of these actions will reduce the resources she consumes over the course of her life. After Jeanne offered suggestions about how to live in a more sustainable manner, OWLS members shared their own tips on topics ranging from junk mail to energy efficiency at home.

Thank you, Carol and Jeanne, for giving us so much to think about. Thanks also to our hosts, Foster Pepper and Miller Nash, for generously providing meeting space and refreshments.

*Christine Uri is an associate at Tonkon Torp in Portland.*



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## A LEG-Up on Financial Planning

By Colleen Clarke

The OWLS April 12 LEG-Up, hosted by Lane Powell in Portland, featured Adina Flynn, a former attorney and now a financial advisor at Ameriprise Financial Services in Portland. Adina talked about the importance of financial planning.

With the increasing costs of health care and higher education, a longer lifespan, fewer pensions, and concerns about the future of Social Security, it is more important than ever to save for the future. But the majority of Americans are undersaving. Women, on average, have less in savings than men and tend to be less confident about investing, and more conservative in their investments.

Adina discussed a process to determine the amount of savings you will need. The process requires three separate considerations—what you need, what you want for yourself, and what you want for others. The first includes basics such as food, shelter, and health care. "What you want for yourself" will be different

*Continued on page 13*

# Another Outstanding Rose Festival for the DragonFlies

By Cashauna Hill

For the ninth consecutive year, the OWLS dragon boat team, the Mighty Mighty DragonFlies, competed in the Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association Dragon Boat Races, a highlight of Portland's Rose Festival. The 19th annual PKSCA races were held on June 9 and 10. Guided by new coach Paul Daley and tiller Heather Van Meter, and with help from flag-catcher Becky Thiebes, the 'Flies kicked off their official race season with an impressive run to the semifinals in the top Women's Division. The 'Flies placed second in both of Saturday's exciting qualifying races. Saturday afternoon, the 'Flies posted the third-fastest women's time of the weekend (2:55.23), a remarkable feat even without mention of the pouring rain in which it was accomplished.

In Sunday morning's quarterfinal match, the DragonFlies again placed second in a race determined by a photo-finish, thus advancing to the semifinals. The semifinal race was full of strong teams, and three boats were neck and neck throughout the match, but the DragonFlies placed fourth and did not advance to the finals.

## Planning *continued from page 12*

for everyone and requires thoughtful consideration. Would you like to travel, belong to a health club, join a retirement community? "What you want for others" includes items such as college tuition, your partner's wishes, and philanthropy. After you undertake this analysis, a financial advisor can help you crunch the numbers and set goals, as well as recommend and manage your investments.

Failing to implement a plan to achieve your financial goals is a major roadblock to financial success. The earlier one begins to save, the better—the benefits of compounding over time are enormous.

Here are Adina's six tips to financial freedom: Have a plan; align your investments with your financial goals; control the risk of your investment portfolio; select the right retirement plan for you or your business; develop a strategy to lower income and estate taxes; and work with a financial advisor you like and whose advice you trust.

Many thanks to Adina Flynn for her insights, and to our host, Lane Powell.

**Colleen Clarke** practices business litigation with Ball Janik in Portland.

Every year, the 'Flies face competition that grows increasingly tougher. The 'Flies, unlike many teams, do not require tryouts to compete, but instead welcome anyone new who can commit to the hard work that dragon boat racing requires. The 'Flies maintain a fun, collegial atmosphere in a competitive team sport setting. Their Rose Festival roster included many new paddlers, competing in their first race that weekend.

In addition to Paul, Heather, and Becky, the DragonFlies' roster includes the following members: Ellen Addington, Beth Allen, Robyn Arden, Robin Bellanca, Nancy Bergeson, Marianne Brams, Heather Brann, Heide Cole, Laurie Daley, Nicole DeFever, Debbie Fong-Urbe, Ali Greene, Cashauna Hill, Amber Hollister, Lisa Hunt, Jaimie Kairis, Laura Manning, Holly Martin, Gwyn McAlpine, Sue-Del McCulloch, Susan O'Toole, Meghan Pedden, Meg Rowe, Kristin Sterling, Hon. Diana Stuart, Tracy Sullivan, Stephanie Tate, and Valerie Tomasi.

The DragonFlies are now accepting new paddlers, and any OWLS member is welcome to try it. The 'Flies practice at the RiverPlace Marina, east of the RiverPlace

Hotel, at 1510 SW Harbor Way in Portland. Interested paddlers should just show up at the flagpoles next to the RiverPlace Hotel 15 minutes before practice is scheduled to begin. No special equipment or skill level is required. For more information, please contact co-captains Heather Brann ([branns@earthlink.net](mailto:branns@earthlink.net)) or Kristin Sterling ([kristinsterling@gmail.com](mailto:kristinsterling@gmail.com)).

The DragonFlies are grateful for the exceptional generosity of their many sponsors: **GOLD MEDAL SPONSORS:** Cable Huston Benedict Haagensen & Lloyd; Farleigh Witt; Geffen Mesher & Company; Lewis & Clark Law School; Next Adventure; Perkins Coie; Red Dog Home Inspections; Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt; Stoel Rives; Yates, Matthews & Eaton. **SILVER MEDAL SPONSORS:** Felida Moorage; Kairis Court Reporting; Rizzo Mattingly Bosworth; Weber Gunn. **BRONZE MEDAL SPONSORS:** Allen2 Law; Healing Hands Massage; Paradigm Legal Nurse Consulting; Williams Kastner. The 'Flies also thank the OWLS membership for its continued support.

**Cashauna Hill**, a judicial clerk for Multnomah County Circuit Court Judge Ronald Cinniger, is on the OWLS Board.

**"A client asked if I would take a deposition at the McNeil Island penitentiary. It would entail an eerie 20-minute boat ride through the fog, walking the gauntlet past a line of inmates, and spending the day next to a guy who had murdered his wife with a baseball bat. To me the answer was easy.**

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# OWLS Members Find Satisfaction in Nonprofit Careers

By J. Nicole DeFever

**W**hat do jobs at the National Conference of Women's Bar Associations, Northwest Constitutional Rights Center, Lawyers' Campaign for Equal Justice, Child Centered Solutions, and Oregon Citizens for Safe Drinking Water have in common?

They are all nonprofit organizations where OWLS members are working in highly satisfying careers. In addition to finding their work meaningful, the five women interviewed for this article say that their jobs draw on many skills, not just their legal training, and offer greater flexibility than a traditional law job.

These are the women we interviewed:

**Pam Nicholson**, Executive Director, National Conference of Women's Bar Associations. The NCWBA is an organization of women's bar associations, for women's bar associations, representing about 35,000 women lawyers. It provides a national forum for exchanging ideas and information vital to organizational growth and success in today's profession.

**Shauna Curphey**, Loyola Law School Public Interest Fellow Attorney, Northwest Constitutional Rights Center. The NWCRC safeguards the rights of political activists, communities of color, and immigrants through public interest litigation, advocacy, and education. It holds the government accountable for unconstitutional actions, and works to create a just and equitable society. The NWCRC is a project of the National Lawyers Guild.

**Sandy Hansberger**, Executive Director, The Lawyers' Campaign for Equal Justice. The Campaign for Equal Justice works to support 91 legal

aid attorneys in 16 communities throughout Oregon. The Campaign champions access to justice for low-income Oregonians by educating the community about the work done by Oregon's legal services programs and by working to increase funding for legal aid.

**Leslie Abraham**, Executive Director, Child Centered Solutions. Child Centered Solutions focuses on the needs of children involved in the divorce process, especially those in high-conflict divorce proceedings with families that do not have the ability to obtain legal representation. CCS services are free to the children, families, and courts.

**Kimberly Kaminski**, Executive Director, Oregon Citizens for Safe Drinking Water. OCSDW's mission is to keep Oregon's drinking water free from fluoride compounds. OCSDW offers information to the public and policymakers about fluoridation chemicals, recent scientific research, and alternative ways to reduce dental decay.

The unanimous refrain from OWLS members in nonprofit careers is how much they enjoy their work. Sandy Hansberger of the Campaign for Equal Justice is typical in saying that she is "extremely fortunate in that I love my work and I am quite passionate about it." Pam Nicholson of NCWBA feels the same way, noting that "the pay is less, but it's very rewarding." Kim Kaminski also misses the money, but finds that "when I'm working on something I care deeply about, it doesn't seem like work."

Although nonprofit work is meaningful, it is not simple. All of these OWLS members work in positions that require

performing multiple roles. For example, Leslie Abraham works both as a senior attorney and the executive director at Child Centered Solutions. In addition to representing children in high-conflict divorce proceedings in Multnomah County Circuit Court, she is CCS's development director, office manager, and educational program developer. Similarly, Kim Kaminski's work as the executive director of OCSDW involves a dizzying array of tasks, from lobbying the legislature to membership development.

Multi-tasking is not limited to those holding executive positions. Shauna Curphey has a one-year fellowship at the NWCRC, and she also handles a broad range of responsibilities, including defending a civil case, assessing police misconduct allegations, analyzing the Portland Police Bureau's crowd control policies, and leading know-your-rights workshops for at-risk youth.

While these women are tackling an incredible range of tasks, each says that her job offers greater flexibility than traditional legal work. Flexibility, however, does not mean a low workload. The demands are great, even "unending," but the organizations respect the need for work/life balance. Pam Nicholson says "there is always more work to do," but her position allows her "to have a balance between work and family." Nonprofits also generally involve less politics and bureaucracy than other legal jobs.

If you are thinking about working for a nonprofit, consider Sandy Hansberger's advice: "Volunteer for nonprofits, be on boards, ask questions, take classes in nonprofit issues, and perhaps most importantly, pursue your passion." Leslie Abraham agrees that "you must be passionate about the cause." Pam Nicholson adds that fundraising and marketing experience are helpful. For prospective law students, Shauna Curphey's advice is to consider schools with a loan forgiveness program.

**J. Nicole DeFever**, an attorney in the Trial Division of the Oregon Department of Justice, is an OWLS Board member.



Leslie Abraham



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## Same Time, Next Year

In early June, a group that calls itself "Women Litigators of the '70s" gathers annually for dinner at Noble Rot (I hope there's no symbolism there!), a great wine bar and restaurant in southeast Portland. Organized by three stellar lawyers of that era—Janet Hoffman, Susan Hammer, and Chris Helmer—there are about 30 of us on the invitation list, ranging in age from mid-50s to early 70s.

We are the ones who went to law school in the 1970s, when women were just beginning to be more than a mere "blip on the screen" of law school admissions offices. What had been a small trickle up to 1972 suddenly became a consistent stream of applications from women who were the early products of the "feminist era." We were looking for ways to support ourselves, with or without a partner, and many of us were inspired by the Vietnam War era to make something of our lives by contributing to society—or, as some of us viewed it even more grandly, to save the world. It's almost as if we all thought at once, How about becoming a lawyer?

This year, due to conflicts, only about 15 of this "club" made it to the dinner. As always, after lots of hugs, a lovely buffet, and a glass or two of excellent wine, we went around the room to give updates on our lives. Without getting too personal, here's a sample of those who were present:

- ♦ A 73-year-old beauty who all of us were sure was lying about her age. She assured us that it was true and, in fact, she retired from a major firm about eight years ago. She takes care of three senior relatives in their 80s and 90s and offers volunteer services to women-owned businesses in her "spare" time.
- ♦ A bankruptcy judge who spends vacation time traveling the world

The ABA's Women in Law Leadership Academy takes place in Chicago on November 8 and 9, 2007. Presented by the ABA Commission on Women in the Profession and the ABA Young Lawyers Division, the event offers practical advice for women in the first ten years of their careers, as well as opportunities to interact with leading lawyers and judges from around the country. For more information, visit [www.abanet.org/women/will.html](http://www.abanet.org/women/will.html).

## THE JUDGES FORUM



By The Honorable Ellen Rosenblum  
Oregon Court of Appeals

training judges in developing countries and who presided eloquently over the church sex-abuse cases, some of the most contentious and difficult cases Oregon has seen.

- ♦ A brand-new trial judge who, after adding two more special needs children to her family this summer, will have adopted eight children from China.
- ♦ A recently retired state trial judge who is taking the year to get used to her new life and assess what she wants to do next (something in social services, no doubt) while having more time to pursue an ongoing handmade greeting card business.
- ♦ Two of the best, most seasoned criminal defense lawyers in Oregon—both of whom remain at the "top of their game" in both the juvenile and adult systems.
- ♦ A lawyer who just stepped down as president of the Portland City Club, close upon the heels of presiding over the board of Planned Parenthood. She is the quintessential mediator/lawyer and is bringing the International Academy of Mediators to Oregon for next year's major conference.
- ♦ Also: A longtime deputy city attorney for Portland; the chief criminal judge in Multnomah County; the deputy presiding judge of Multnomah County (yes, she will be the

first woman ever to serve as presiding judge of Multnomah County!); the senior women partners in three of Oregon's largest law firms, one of whom just returned from Sierra Leone, where she focused on hearing about women's issues—she will be going back and urged members of our group to consider going as well; and me. (I will be chairing the National Association of Women Judges Annual Conference in Portland in 2008—so stay tuned.)

So, have we "saved the world"? Definitely not! Have we contributed to society in a positive way? I think we all hope so. But what is most refreshing about this group is that no one appeared to be trying to prove anything or to be using the group to advance any personal agenda, other than perhaps a worthy cause in which she is involved. And nearly everyone seemed to find time for one or more such causes.

Although a few of us are just beginning new legal jobs at this stage of our lives, we all seem comfortable in the "legal skins" we have selected. And, while there is no question that our identities are wrapped up in being lawyers and judges, those who have moved on to retirement are discovering there is a whole world of being a "nonlawyer" that is actually quite exciting and satisfying. We love(d) our work as professionals serving clients and the public, but, thankfully, we do not seem to have to hang on forever for fear of losing that identity. In fact, when one person asked if anyone would want to go back and do it differently, all agreed on the answer—a resounding "No!"

There are lots of events in June—graduations, weddings, fun vacations, etc. But I'm not sure there's anything I look forward to more than this evening of camaraderie among women lawyers and judges. Rest assured—it will be on my calendar for the same time next year.

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## OWLS Officers, Board 2007-2008

(Left to right)

Seated: Concetta Schwesinger,  
Sally Anderson-Hansell, Bethany Graham,  
Hon. Katherine Tennyson,  
Christina Hayes (resigned after photo taken)

Standing: Julia Markley, Nancy Cook,  
Gwyn McAlpine, Jane Yates, Dana Forman,  
Kellie Johnson, Alice Bartelt, Leslie O'Leary,  
Heather Van Meter, Cashauna Hill,  
Nicole DeFever, Laura Caldera Taylor

Not pictured: Shari Gregory,  
Hon. Adrienne Nelson,  
Kathleen Hansa Rastetter, Cathey Susman



## OWLS Members Contribute to Campaign for Equal Justice

By Nancy B. Patton

The Campaign for Equal Justice is honored to receive incredible support from Oregon Women Lawyers, whose members contributed over \$120,000 to the 2006 Annual Campaign. This represents an increase of almost 10% over last year's contribution level. OWLS members have truly made a difference to the Campaign. Several OWLS members, including Trudy Allen and Bob Varitz, Norma Freitas, Sandy Hansberger, Lisa LeSage, Cecil Reniche-Smith, Rachel Wildflower-Williams, and Terry Wright, helped jump start the 2006 Campaign by pledging to meet the contributions of OWLS members up to \$5,000. Their support and their efforts to encourage participation by OWLS members are truly appreciated.

Women lawyers were an influential presence at the Campaign's annual luncheon, held on March 13. OWLS members Linda Love, a statewide Campaign co-chair, and Jessica Hamilton, co-chair of the Associates Committee, were on hand to thank Campaign volunteers. First Lady

of Oregon Mary Oberst delivered the keynote speech, detailing the many ways that all Oregon lawyers can support legal aid. A special presentation was made to the legacy of former OWLS member Barrie Herbold. The Barrie Herbold Endowment Fund has raised over \$70,000 in the five years since its inception.

Lisa LeSage, OWLS member and president of the Oregon Law Foundation (OLF), also spoke at the annual luncheon. She recognized the work of OLF's "Visionary Banks," which offer higher interest rates on lawyer trust accounts than other banks. The OLF distributes the interest to legal aid and other public interest law projects. For more information, visit [www.oregonlawfoundation.org](http://www.oregonlawfoundation.org).

The Campaign for Equal Justice supports civil legal aid programs in 16 Oregon communities. These programs serve low-income clients in the areas of family law (primarily related to domestic violence), housing, consumer law, individual rights, income maintenance, and a variety of other issues.

The Klamath Falls legal aid office, which was closed in 1996 due to funding cuts, reopened in May. Additional funds will be needed each year to keep this office open, to keep up with inflation, and to reopen legal aid offices on the north coast and in the gorge.

Even with the generous donations of OWLS members, only 20% of the legal needs of low-income Oregonians are currently being met. Because the need is still there, so is the Campaign. The 2007 Annual Campaign starts in September and will run through March 2008.

The Campaign board and staff, legal aid lawyers, and low-income Oregonians extend a heartfelt thank-you to Oregon Women Lawyers for your support and generosity. If you have any questions about the Campaign for Equal Justice, please contact OWLS member Sandy Hansberger at 503/295-8442 or [sandy@cej-oregon.org](mailto:sandy@cej-oregon.org).

**Nancy B. Patton** is the interim associate director at the Campaign for Equal Justice.



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