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Celebrating Two 50th Anniversaries in One: Judge Jean Lewis, First Woman Circuit Court Judge in Oregon, and Women Judges in Multnomah County, Dept. 12

By Trudy Allen



Judge Jean Lewis in 1962

April 5, 2011, was the 50th anniversary of the swearing-in of Judge Jean Lewis to the Multnomah County Circuit Court, when she became the first woman circuit court judge in Oregon. What makes this anniversary doubly significant is that Department 12, to which she was appointed, has been filled by women judges continuously for these past 50 years. Judge Lewis was succeeded by Judges Elizabeth Welch, Kathleen Nachtigal, and Janice Wilson. We might call this milestone the "50, 50 Celebration"!

Over the course of her distinguished career, Judge Lewis was a "first" in many capacities: first in her graduating class at Northwestern School of Law in 1938 (and the only woman in

her class) and the first woman member of the Oregon Legislature's Joint Ways and Means Committee and of the Emergency Board. But beyond being a "first," she set a high standard by the grace and dignity with which she approached her work, and she gained the high respect of her fellow lawyers, legislators, and judges. And not only did she achieve these career highlights, she made many varied, valuable contributions to the field of family law, to judicial service, and to the community.

Judge Lewis was a pioneer in juvenile and family law. She developed a reputation as an eloquent crusader for the rights of the young and brought new understanding to the bitter arena of divorce court. In hopes of getting couples back together through counseling, she established a conciliation court for Multnomah County and expanded the role of the court's family services division in problems concerning the custody of children in divorce cases. She served in the family and juvenile court for 17 years, until she retired on July 1, 1978.

Judge Lewis was a member of the Greenleigh Committee, which drafted the law requiring that

Continued on page 13

OWLS Fall Conference on October 14 Diverse Perspectives: Bringing the Legal Profession into the 21st Century

Join Oregon Women Lawyers on Friday, October 14, at 1:30 p.m. for our 2011 Fall CLE, "Diverse Perspectives: Bringing the Legal Profession into the 21st Century." *You won't want to miss this afternoon* with keynote speaker and panelist Professor Anita Hill.

The CLE will take place at the Governor Hotel in downtown Portland and will be followed by a reception and book signing with Professor Hill. Serving on the CLE panel with Professor Hill will be the Honorable Adrienne Nelson, Multnomah County Circuit Court, and Diane Schwartz Sykes, head of the Oregon Department of Justice Civil Rights Unit.

Register for the CLE online at www.oregonwomenlawyers.org. The registration fee is \$65 for OWLS members, \$90 for nonmembers, and \$15

Continued on page 4



Professor Anita Hill

President's Message



Heather L. Weigler

Former OWLS President Norma S. Freitas recently posted on the OWLS listserve an article about white feminist privilege. The article described the phenomenon of white

feminist organizations failing to account for the perspectives of women of color and then wondering why their organizations aren't more diverse. As many members pointed out during the ensuing discussion, the phenomenon is not limited to race. Privilege has as many forms as oppression, and even diversity advocates sometimes have difficulty thinking about how different types of oppression intersect, acknowledging that someone who suffers from oppression in one context can be an oppressor in another, and stepping outside their own perspectives.

The problem is one that, left unchecked, undermines the work of organizations such as OWLS. As Judge Darleen Ortega so eloquently explained when receiving the 2011 Judge Mercedes Deiz Award, that work can't be accomplished unless we are willing to examine—and embrace—our differences in a meaningful way. Diversity has to be more than a buzzword used by law firm recruiters; it has to be a true value reflected in the way we treat our colleagues and practice law.

As I embark on my year as OWLS president, my top goal is for OWLS to continue to work toward finding ways to genuinely value diversity—starting with working to understand what it really means. We'll have an opportunity to explore that at the 2011 Fall CLE, "Diverse Perspectives: Bringing the Legal Profession into the 21st Century," featuring keynote speaker Professor Anita Hill and panelists Multnomah County Circuit Court Judge Adrienne Nelson and Diane Schwartz Sykes, head of the Oregon DOJ's Civil Rights Unit. The CLE will address women in the profession in terms of their personal characteristics, age, race, sexual orientation, marital

status, and parenting status and consider how we can successfully incorporate the different perspectives these attorneys bring to the practice of law to improve our profession and better serve consumers of legal services.

Over the course of the year, OWLS committees, staffed by many dedicated OWLS volunteers, will continue to work on issues that matter to our membership and foster an environment in which diverse perspectives can flourish. An OWLS ad hoc task force is pursuing an amendment to the Oregon Rules of Professional Conduct to prohibit harassment, intimidation, and discrimination based on gender, race, sexual orientation, sex, ethnicity, disability, or other protected class. The OWLS judicial work group is busy working to equip and encourage women and minorities to seek judicial positions. The membership committee is striving to find ways to help OWLS better serve members and women and minority attorneys outside the state's metro areas and to increase law student involvement. Although these are just a few of our many efforts, they are examples of how OWLS is actively working to fulfill its mission to advance justice and equality by transforming the practice of law.

Of course, none of this is possible without the help of the diverse perspectives of OWLS members. OWLS depends on its members to staff committees to shape its programs and events. No matter what issue we're working on, without the ideas and opinions of our volunteer members, we are at risk of failing to look at problems from all possible angles to arrive at the best solution. Diverse perspectives aren't only necessary to bring the practice of law into the 21st century, they're necessary to keep OWLS a vibrant organization that effectively serves its members and its mission. I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve that mission as OWLS president, and I hope that each of you will take the opportunity to help OWLS accomplish it by joining an OWLS committee or becoming involved in your local chapter this year.

Heather L. Weigler
President, Oregon Women Lawyers

Celebrate the Life of Justice Betty Roberts on July 28

Justice Betty Roberts, the first woman to serve on the Oregon Court of Appeals and also the first woman to serve on the



Oregon Supreme Court, died on June 25. We will miss her greatly.

Justice Roberts was an ardent and inspiring leader, OWLS member, and mentor. We'll include a profile of her in our next issue. Join us in celebrating her life on July 28 at 4 p.m. at the Smith Memorial Student Union, Portland State University, 1825 SW Broadway, Portland.

OWLS Members Meet Tom Perez

OWLS, the US Attorney's Office, the Federal Bar Association, and the Oregon Hispanic Bar Association co-sponsored a brown bag lunch at the federal courthouse in Portland on June 8. The guest of honor, Tom Perez, is the assistant attorney general for civil rights at the US Department of Justice.

A diverse group of 150 people from the legal, civil rights, and activist communities filled the room. US Attorney for Oregon Dwight Holton introduced Mr. Perez after a warm welcome by Chief Judge Ann Aiken of the US District Court for the District of Oregon.

Mr. Perez noted that we still need a Civil Rights Division in the US DOJ because "we continue to see hate crimes in unspeakable depths across this country." Division lawyers are prosecuting cases involving violence against Muslims, people of color, people in GLBT communities, and immigrants. They also prosecute fair housing discrimination cases.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Perez announced that his division is looking into whether Portland police have used excessive force against people with mental illness.

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

OWLS Welcomes New Officers and Directors

At its annual retreat in May, the OWLS board selected new officers, who will serve from May 2011 to April 2012.

The board president is Heather Weigler, an assistant attorney general with the Charitable Activities Section of the Oregon Department of Justice in Portland. Heather previously served as OWLS' vice president and secretary. OWLS' vice president/president-elect is Megan Livermore, who has served as OWLS' treasurer for two years. Megan is an associate with Gaydos, Churnside & Balthrop in Eugene.

Cashauna Hill continues on the executive committee as secretary. Cashauna is the fair housing staff attorney at the Oregon Law Center. Kathleen Hansa Rastetter will serve as treasurer, having served as historian for three years. Kathi is senior Clackamas County counsel in Oregon City. Kendra Matthews joins the executive committee as historian. She is a partner at Ransom Blackman in Portland. All OWLS officers are also members of the board.

The newly elected and re-elected OWLS board members are Megan Burgess (Bend), Bonnie Cafferky Carter (Lake



The OWLS Board of Directors (left to right): Front row: Hon. Youlee You, Kathleen Hansa Rastetter, Hon. Frances Burge, Bonnie Carter, Hon. Jill Tanner, Cass SkinnerLopata, OWLS Executive Director Linda Tomassi, Heather Walloch. Back row: Heather Weigler, Kendra Matthews, Laura Craska Cooper, Hon. Julia Philbrook, Dana Forman, Megan Livermore, Shannon Reel, Megan Burgess, Cashauna Hill, Amber Hollister. Not pictured: Elizabeth Tedesco Milesnick, Sally Anderson-Hansell, Gina Hagedorn, Gloria Trainor.

Oswego), Laura Craska Cooper (Bend), Hon. Jill Tanner (Salem), Gloria Trainor (Eugene), and Heather Walloch (Eugene). Amber Hollister (Portland) was appointed by the OWLS board on May 7 to fill a recently vacated position.

Board members continuing their service are Sally Anderson-Hansell (Hermiston), Hon. Frances Burge (Roseburg), Dana Forman (Portland), Gina Hagedorn

(Portland), Elizabeth Tedesco Milesnick (Portland), Hon. Julia Philbrook (Beaverton), Cassandra SkinnerLopata (Eugene), Shannon Reel (Salem), and Hon. Youlee You (Portland).

OWLS extends gratitude to outgoing board members Concetta Schwesinger (Lake Oswego), Hon. Katherine Tennyson (Portland), Linda Meng (Portland), and Heather Hepburn (Bend).

Federal Courthouse Connection on June 6



Norma S. Freitas (left) and Judge Ancer Haggerty at the luncheon

Federal judges welcomed and provided lunch to over 100 lawyers, students, judges, interns, and externs at the annual Federal Courthouse Connection in Portland on June 6. Chief Judge Ann Aiken, who described the building as the people's courthouse, invited attendees to network, socialize, and save room for Eugene's best ice cream. Federal Judges Hernandez, Haggerty, King, Watt, and Papak also attended.

Thank you, Jolie Russo and Chief Judge Aiken, for another wonderful event.

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OWLS Mentoring Circles Educate Members

By Kathy Proctor

Thanks to local mentors who are generously donating their time, experience, and talent, OWLS currently has two mentoring circles underway—a family law circle and a rainmaking circle.

The family law mentoring circle has been available to OWLS members for an amazing five years, all hosted at Gevurtz Menashe in Portland. Each class meets for one hour once a month. This year, classes began in January and will run through November, with a break over the summer. No class will be held in October, to encourage attendance at the Oregon State Bar Family Law Section CLE at Salishan.

For the first time this year, the firm took the extra step of co-sponsoring the classes with OWLS, so that participants could receive free CLE credits for attending the classes. Also new this year, members of the Oregon Asian Pacific American Bar Association (OAPABA) were invited to participate.

Co-mentors Julia Hagan and Robin Wright of Gevurtz Menashe have substantial experience with complex family

This year's family law mentoring circle, sponsored by Gevurtz Menashe and OWLS



law matters. This is Julia's second year as co-mentor of the circle. Over the course of the year, participants learn about such topics as professional ethics, spousal support, property division, child support, orders, judgments, and alternative dispute resolution. Mentors also share tips and discuss best practices. While it can sometimes feel difficult to maintain a professional attitude in this often emotionally charged area of law, Julia and Robin serve as excellent mentors and role models for professionalism in a family law practice.

In addition to the family law mentoring circle, OWLS, in cooperation with OAPABA, is sponsoring a rainmaking circle. Dave Markowitz's office hosted the

kickoff reception for all the participants on May 2 at Markowitz, Herbold, Glade & Mehlhaf in Portland. In addition to Dave, mentors graciously donating their time and wealth of experience include Dana Sullivan and Courtney Angeli of Buchanan Angeli Altschul & Sullivan, and Carol McCoog of K & L Gates. Following the kickoff reception, participants were divided into smaller groups and assigned to one mentor. The individual groups have met at least once so far, and participants are looking forward to learning more from these experienced and inspiring mentors. Classes are expected to conclude in late June.

Kathy Proctor is a partner at Proctor & Popia in Beaverton.

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Are you the first in your family to go to college? Get a professional degree? Be a lawyer? Would it be helpful to talk with others with the same life experience?

Please join Judges You, Lopez, Walker, and Tennyson on August 19 for that conversation. Bring your lunch to Judge Tennyson's jury room, no. 304, at noon for a very informal get-together in the Multnomah County Courthouse. We plan to meet for lunch on a monthly basis to see where this conversation takes us. If you'd like to join us, please email Judge Tennyson by Thursday, August 18, at Katherine.Tennyson@ojd.state.or.us.

OWLS Fall Conference on Oct. 14 *continued from page 1*

for law students. To sponsor the CLE for \$250, send email to linda@oregon-womenlawyers.org or go to the CLE registration link on OWLS' home page. For those who cannot travel to Portland, information regarding live streaming of the conference (for the first time) will be available soon, sponsored courtesy of Naegeli Court Reporting. Contact Linda Tomassi at the OWLS office for more information.

Professor Hill wrote *Speaking Truth to Power* in 1997, to recount in her own words the Thomas-Hill hearings in 1991 that culminated in the Senate confirmation of Clarence Thomas to a seat on the United States Supreme Court 20 years ago. During those hearings, Professor

Hill testified that she had been sexually harassed when she was 25 years old by her supervisor, Clarence Thomas. She is properly credited with making the sexual harassment issue real and visible, in this country and internationally.

Hill is a professor of social policy, law, and women's studies at Brandeis University. Her new book, *Reimagining Equality: Stories of Gender, Race, and Finding Home*, will be published this October. Copies will be sold at the reception following our Fall CLE. At that reception, OWLS will also present our annual Workplace Leader Award. All OWLS members and friends are encouraged to attend the reception at no charge.

Register today for the OWLS Fall CLE!

OWLS Leadership Forum: Starting Your Family, Keeping Your Career

By Katie Riggs

Many lawyers struggle with keeping their careers on the right path while raising a family. On April 22, the OWLS Leadership Forum, in conjunction with the Multnomah Bar Association Young Lawyers Section, held a three-part seminar in Portland to discuss how attorneys can continue their careers while also becoming parents.

The first part of the seminar addressed the planning a lawyer should undergo after deciding to have a child. Kirsten Snowden and Annie Shoen from the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office explained the benefits and drawbacks of job sharing. Both emphasized the importance of flexibility and having a job-sharing partner one can count on. John Russell, partner and founder of Alleman Hall McCoy Russell & Tuttle, discussed the creation of his law firm and the shared goal that his partners had of being better able to cope with team-member absence due to family leave. They set out to meet that goal by creating systems in which responsibilities are shared to the extent possible.

Kim Griffith discussed her experiences raising twins while maintaining a full-time civil defense practice, and why the birth of her third child rendered her return to full-time practice unsustainable. She explained the professional and financial considerations that led to her decision to take a break, emphasizing the importance of maintaining connections in the legal community.

The second part of the seminar featured Professor Keith Cunningham-Parmeter of Willamette University College of Law, who discussed how firms can develop better leave policies for their employees. He emphasized the disparities between the number of men and women who use their firm's leave policy. Professor Cunningham-Parmeter pointed out that firms can use policies to attract and retain talented attorneys, which will preserve a law firm's bottom line. He recommended the book *Solving the Part-Time Puzzle: The Law Firm's Guide to Balanced Hours*, by Joan C. Williams and Cynthia Thomas Calvert.

The last part of the seminar addressed the problems associated with a lawyer's transition back to work after taking leave. Carol Bernick, partner-in-charge at Davis



At the seminar, left to right: Kirsten Snowden, Annie Shoen, Katie Riggs

Wright Tremaine, offered the perspective of someone who worked part time and is now a managing partner. She emphasized that it is important to approach the firm about your impending leave and to discuss what the firm expects of you and what kind of leave you want to take. She also suggested returning to work for one or two days the week before your leave is over to prepare yourself to return full time.

Brien Flanagan, partner at Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt, discussed his experience as a man taking leave and making partner while working part time. He said that early planning and clear communica-

tion were the keys to his success. Jenna Moody, partner at Davis Wright Tremaine, noted the importance of choosing how long a leave to take, figuring out which days you want off if you're working part time, and communicating with your clients and co-workers. She explained that no one will remember what days you have off, so you need to be flexible in responding to work requests on those days. All three panelists emphasized that while an attorney's life changes after having children, firm expectations do not.

Katie Riggs is an associate at Schneider Law Offices in Portland. Her practice focuses on Social Security disability law.

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Elizabeth Harchenko: An OWLS Founding Mother

By Cashauna Hill

OWLS founding mother Elizabeth Harchenko had been a member of the Oregon State Bar for 13 years when she heard about a group of women lawyers who were meeting to form an organization focused on improving the treatment of women and minorities in the legal profession.

At the time, Elizabeth was the attorney-in-charge of the Tax Section at the Oregon Department of Justice (DOJ). Although she enjoyed a supportive environment and success at DOJ, Elizabeth and the other OWLS founders connected over shared experiences as women lawyers working in a male-dominated field.

Elizabeth served on OWLS' founding board for four years and worked with Agnes Sowle on drafting OWLS' articles of incorporation and bylaws. Looking back on that time, Elizabeth remembers how inspired she was by Katherine O'Neil, Vernelia Randall, and the other women who presented their idea for forming a statewide organization dedicated to addressing the concerns of women and minority lawyers. Elizabeth could not have known then what OWLS would become,

but her background had prepared her to seize opportunities when they arose.

A California native who entered law school at Willamette in 1973, Elizabeth credits her mother with encouraging her to pursue her dreams. Elizabeth's mother had enlisted in the Army and served in Europe during World War II. After returning to the States, she married a fellow WWII veteran and settled in California. According to Elizabeth, her mother was a "creative and unconventional woman" who "always looked for ways to support people in their dreams and goals." It was with this strong support system that Elizabeth decided to go to law school, a year after she graduated from Willamette with a bachelor's degree in science and mathematics.

After law school and a yearlong clerkship with the Oregon Tax Court, Elizabeth spent two years working as deputy legislative counsel with the Oregon Legislative Assembly. She then went to work at the Oregon Department of Justice, where she would have a successful 18-year career that included stints as special counsel to Attorneys General Ted Kulongoski

and Hardy Myers. Elizabeth credits then-Attorney General Kulongoski (who later served as Oregon's governor) with believing in her abilities even when she did not. In addition to the encouragement she received from Kulongoski, Elizabeth also benefited from the support and mentorship of Ted deLooze, her first boss at DOJ, who would end up becoming her father-in-law.

The experiences that Elizabeth gained at DOJ prepared her for the job from which she retired in March of this year: director of the Oregon Department of Revenue, a position she filled for almost 14 years.

Throughout her career, Elizabeth made it a point to honor her values, nurture key professional relationships, and look for ways to contribute to her community. She encourages young women and minority lawyers to do the same. In fact, in 1999, Elizabeth was the seventh recipient of the OWLS Justice Betty Roberts Award for her work in promoting women in the legal profession.

Elizabeth and the late Kathryn Ricciardelli started the mentoring program at Willamette's law school, and Elizabeth has mentored law students ever since. She plans on mentoring in her retirement, as well as reading, quilting, traveling, and rejoining the local Rotary Club.

Asked to elaborate on what she recalls from the days when she and other women lawyers were working to create and support OWLS, Elizabeth noted that she cherished having had the opportunity to work closely with "outstanding women." She also mentioned that OWLS' founders hoped that the organization wouldn't always be necessary—that there would come a day when the practice of law was truly welcoming to the needs of women and minorities. If and when that day comes, Elizabeth Harchenko will have played a vital role in establishing the new reality.

Cashauna Hill is OWLS' secretary and the fair housing staff attorney at the Oregon Law Center in Portland.



Elizabeth Harchenko

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We are pleased to announce that **Kathryn Smith Root** has joined our firm as Partner in Charge of our Portland office.

Kathy Root is a 26-year veteran family law attorney, founding member of Oregon Women Lawyers, and Advisory Board member for OWLS Foundation.

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Meet US District Judge Marco A. Hernández

By Teresa Statler

Judge Marco A. Hernández took a seat on the US District Court for the District of Oregon in February. He had moved to the federal bench from the Washington County Circuit Court, on which he had served since 1995. Judge Hernández kindly took time out of his busy schedule to speak with the *AdvanceSheet* about his recent judicial appointment and his legal and personal background.

Judge Hernández was born in Arizona but grew up in Reseda, California, where he graduated from high school. He came to Oregon in 1975 and graduated from Western Oregon University in Monmouth in 1983. He received his law degree from the University of Washington School of Law in 1986 and became a member of the Oregon bar the same year.

Judge Hernández's first legal job was as a staff attorney (along with Lisa LeSage) at Oregon Legal Services, representing migrant farm workers in housing matters, wage claims, and other matters under the Agricultural Worker Protection Act. In 1989, he became a deputy district attorney in Washington County. He was appointed to the Washington County Circuit Court by former Governor Barbara Roberts in January 1995 and served on that court until this year.

Judge Hernández says that he loves being a trial judge and that he found all the cases he heard in Washington County to be interesting. "I love watching lawyers do their job . . . I like the rules of evidence and procedure and love the substantive law." He also enjoys the challenge of complicated cases.

While presiding judge in Washington County, Judge Hernández came up with the idea for its mental health court, which continues under the direction of Judge Nachtigal. The mental health court was developed to help defendants on probation who are severely mentally ill. The goal is to ensure that they are compliant with the terms of their probation, are taking their medication, and are receiving mental health services and treatment. Judge Hernández explains that developing the mental health court was a true community effort by the court, the defense bar, the district attorney's office, the probation department, mental health providers in Washington County, and Pacific University student volunteers.

Judge Hernández expects that his initial caseload in federal court will consist of Social Security cases, foreclosures, and criminal matters concerning illegal re-entry after deportation. He notes that the Federal Rules of Evidence and voir dire differ from those used in Oregon courts. At the time of this interview in mid-May, Judge Hernández was scheduled for more training, and he hoped to begin

hearing cases sometime this summer.

Married and the father of two, Judge Hernández enjoys downhill skiing, fly fishing, and reading. He recently read *Judge Marco Hernández The Nine*, by Jeffrey Toobin, about the Rehnquist Supreme Court. Judge Hernández joined OWLS several years ago at the suggestion of Multnomah County Circuit Judge Katherine Tennyson.

For OWLS members interested in serving as a judge, Judge Hernández suggests talking with judges one-on-one to get pointers and advice. For new lawyers, he suggests networking with other lawyers who "do the work you want to do."

OWLS wishes Judge Hernández the very best in his service on the federal bench.

Teresa Statler has a solo immigration law practice in Portland.



Save the Date!

November 4

The OSB Diversity Section will host a Convocation on Equality, to include CLEs and networking, on Friday, November 4, at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland. The goal is to reinvigorate the legal community's interest in achieving diversity in the Oregon State Bar.

We encourage OWLS members to attend. See you there!

OWLS extends our gratitude to Judge Cheryl Albrecht for sharing this space with Judge Darleen Ortega since 2008. We thank both judges for taking the time to offer their observations and insights.

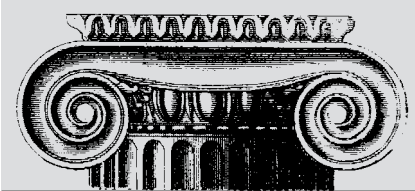
The Judges' Forum will take on a new format beginning in this issue, with guest judges taking turns writing the forum. We are fortunate that Judge Ortega has graciously agreed to write one column each year.

In My Opinion¹

My mother used to say, "If you want something done, ask a busy person to do it." Of course, there are all types of busy. There is efficient busy, which is what my mother assumed when she said that (she always accentuated the positive). There is crazy busy, which is generally self-inflicted and completely unhealthy. There are people who are busy like Winnie-the-Pooh once described Rabbit: always being busy with no one else knowing what they are being busy about. And then, of course, there is the slightly misleading "don't bother me" busy, best described in Lady Gaga's "Telephone" song: "Sorry, I cannot hear you/ I'm kinda busy."

I am all those kinds of busy, sometimes in the same day.

THE JUDGES' FORUM



By Judge Katherine Tennyson
Multnomah County Circuit Court

It seems to me that the degree to which a lawyer can provide quality representation to a client is directly proportional to the lawyer's ability to be effectively busy. Let's face it, there is always more to do. Part of growing into the job of a lawyer is to learn not only how to prioritize, but also when to quit. Quit preparing, quit arguing, quit objecting, quit calling witnesses, or sometimes, quit saying yes when you should say no. I am happiest when I am effectively busy because that means I am dealing with a rational number of things at the same time. Those things include both work and play, at work and at home. It is the essence of balance.

Crazy busy happens when I am not paying attention or when I do not know enough to know how to prioritize. As a lawyer in private practice, there were days

when the number of phone calls I made, received, or missed was simply overwhelming. Never mind all the other things I was expected to do in a day. Working early, late, and on the weekends was a common occurrence, with the usual and expected result of declining productivity on my part.

Crazy busy leads to the "Rabbit" kind of busy. If you had to actually articulate a rational reason for why you are doing what you are doing, you could not. As I gained experience as a lawyer, I began to put some boundaries in place to clearly define my focus. These boundaries helped me work efficiently through the casework and be effectively busy. They also helped me turn off the phone when I was on vacation.

So often, though, we talk only about work intruding on the personal. Rarely do we reverse the inquiry to examine how our personal lives keep us from working at our best. Certainly there are times when our personal lives will, understandably, affect our work. For me, one example was the several months immediately after my mom died. During that time, I simply needed to work through the rawness of my grief to become efficiently busy again. At other times, however, I have taken on too much personally to really be present at work. A healthier choice would have been to plan a day off to attend to whatever personal event was occupying my attention.

One thing I believe absolutely is that each of us must make a commitment to gain insight into our own kinds of busy. Once you reach an understanding with yourself about it, you can take the time you need to balance your life. Then you too can honestly join Lady Gaga and me in singing:

Sometimes I feel like
I live in Grand Central Station
Tonight I'm not takin' no calls
'Cause I'll be dancin'

1. See *The Good Wife* on CBS. Judge Tennyson serves on the Multnomah County Circuit Court. In her spare time, she obviously watches TV and listens to pop music, among other things.



Judge Tennyson



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US District Court of Oregon Mediation
Multnomah County Circuit Court Civil Mediation

During Oregon's first "annual" legislative session, which ended on June 30, lawmakers reformed education and health care, while budgeting to maintain critical services for Oregonians. For lawyers, the action happened in the areas of filing fees, eCourt, and court funding. The Oregon State Bar's priorities—funding courts, public safety, and legal services—were passed by the legislature, as were 17 of the OSB's 19 law improvement proposals, dealing with business, estate planning, family, real estate, and other laws.

The legislative session started with a power-sharing agreement in an evenly divided House. The Senate was composed of 16 Democrats and 14 Republicans. Peter Courtney served as Senate president. Governor Kitzhaber led the legislature through issues such as education, health care reform, and legislative redistricting at both the state and congressional levels. The legislature also updated the bottle bill and balanced the budget.

OJD Budget. The public safety budget, including the Department of Corrections, courts, and indigent defense budgets, was held up in battles over sentencing reform, guns, and other policies. The courts and indigent defense were funded at a level that will allow continuation of critical services. Cuts were minimized in relation to the rest of state government. The Oregon Judicial Department (OJD) reductions are approximately 10%. However, constitutionally mandated payments, such as judicial salaries and jury payments, mean that less money is available from the court's operating budget for other purposes. Thus, trial court services lost approximately 15% of its allocation in the last budget cycle, while appellate courts incurred a 20% reduction. Up to 100 jobs will be cut.

OJD eCourt. The OJD eCourt project is proceeding despite legislative concerns. A budget note spells out an agreement between Chief Justice De Muniz and the Ways and Means co-chairs on funding in the 2012 session, with timeframes and deliverables. The goal of eCourt is to create a statewide web-based courthouse, open to anyone, anywhere, anytime. The legislature, however, will subject it to a high level of scrutiny due to problems encountered in other high-tech projects.

Filing Fees and Violation Fines. The legislature enacted the court fees bill, HB 2710, and the violation fines bill, HB 2712. The goal is to simplify, clarify, and equalize filing fees and violation fines throughout Oregon.



By Susan Evans Grabe

HB 2710 C takes effect October 1. The bill eliminates multiparty fees and the \$10 fee for orders and judgments. Small claims jurisdiction is raised to \$10,000. Fees in civil actions and accounting fees in probate will still be graduated based on case size.

HB 2710 also changes the way that revenue from civil filing fees is distributed. Previously, money was added to the base filing fee for programs such as conciliation and mediation. The bill incorporates the former add-on fees into the statutory filing fee and distributes money to each program. Some filing fee money will go into the general fund, while a portion will backfill court operations.

HB 2710 C also establishes a Legal Aid Account of \$11.9 million to ensure access to the courts. The bill maintains the current system of funding legal aid programs from a dedicated account rather than the general fund. While the legislature maintains control of state revenue to legal aid, it is critical that legal aid funding not become politicized, as it has been in other states. Separating legal aid funds from the general fund ensures this objective.

Both fee bills include an assessment for courthouses. A companion bill, HB 352 B, creates the Courthouse Capital Improvement Trust Fund and funds it with 10% of punitive damages collected, taken from the plaintiff's 40%.

HB 2712 C maintains the criminal surcharges in HB 2287 (2009) until January 1,

2012, then creates a fine structure for crimes and violations, which simplifies fines, expands court discretion to reduce fines for violations, and requires OJD to develop a statewide violations bureau. The bill prioritizes the Criminal Fine and Assessment Account for systems-critical elements of the public safety system, including essential safety services to crime victims. The effect that increased judicial discretion and fines will have on revenue raised is unclear.

OLC and CCP. SB 5508 includes general fund dollars for the Oregon Law Commission and the Council on Court Procedures. The council's amendments to Oregon Rules of Civil Procedure 9, 21, 36, 38, 43, 54, 69, and 71 take effect January 1, 2012. The bill also allocates money to OJD to support OJD and eCourt programs.

Conclusion. During the 2011 session, legislators searched for common ground. Everything that passed required bipartisan support. The state budget, political power sharing, and redistricting dominated the discussions, as did health care and public safety. No political party enacted a strongly partisan agenda. Now preparations are underway for the "short session" in February 2012, which will be limited to 35 days.

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

Senators Diane Rosenbaum and Peter Courtney introduced Senate Concurrent Resolution 19 in honor of former Supreme Court Justice Betty Roberts, who died on June 25. She was admired for many accomplishments, including being an original sponsor of the first bottle bill. The resolution noted "her unflagging commitment to equality and justice and . . . her leadership in promoting the role of women in the law and in politics." Alas, the session ended before the resolution reached the Senate floor.



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Schools Recognize Outstanding Mentors

By Kathleen Rastetter

Oregon law schools recently recognized the outstanding mentoring work done by OWLS members Donna Maddux and Judge Claudia Burton.

On April 6, Donna Maddux, a 2002 graduate of Lewis & Clark Law School, received its 2011 Andrea Swanner Redding Outstanding Mentor Award. Donna, who works for the Oregon Department of Justice, is pictured at right with her mentee, Hoshi Kondo.



Lena Forrester (left) and Judge Burton

On April 7, Willamette University College of Law named Judge Claudia Burton as its 2010–2011 Mentor of the Year. Judge Burton, who serves on the Marion County Circuit Court, was nominated by



Hoshi Kondo (left) and Donna Maddux third-year student Lena Forrester.

This is the Willamette mentoring program's 20th year, and special recognition was given at its awards ceremony to OWLS members Elizabeth Harchenko and the late Kathryn Ricciardelli for their work to create the program. Kathryn also started the mentoring programs at the Lewis & Clark and University of Oregon law schools.

OWLS salutes the award recipients, and we thank all OWLS members who serve as mentors for your invaluable service. We encourage others to volunteer.

Kathleen Rastetter is senior Clackamas County counsel and OWLS' treasurer.

OWLS, OAAP Host Wellness Retreat

By Meloney Crawford

OWLS and the Oregon Attorney Assistance Program (OAAP) co-sponsored our fourth annual Women's Wellness Retreat on April 8 and 9 at the Oregon Garden in Silverton. Participants explored the theme "Creating Connections," starting with lunch and a welcome by Shari Gregory and Meloney Crawford of OAAP. Nancy Stek of the New Jersey Lawyer Assistance Program conducted a networking icebreaker, and Nina Meierding presented on "The Impact of Gender on Communication and Negotiation," which qualified for one CLE credit. The discussion of communication styles and experiences continued in the evening, which concluded with relaxation exercises led by Zan Tewksbury.

On Saturday, Zan led a Nia class, and Dr. Virginia Terhaar provided insights on creating meaningful relationships. Susan Hammond then discussed the importance of a spiritual connection. After lunch and a break, Meloney Crawford presented the final session, which encouraged nurturing the creative self.

Join us for next spring's retreat!

OSB to Consider Rule on Harassment, Discrimination

By Bonnie Cafferky Carter

A significant discussion took place on the OWLS listserve in early summer 2010 regarding alleged lawyer-on-lawyer sexual harassment at a law firm party. OWLS members expressed concern that the OSB Client Assistance Office initially dismissed the complaint at the first level of review, stating that such conduct could not be pursued absent a criminal conviction. The bar later reinstated the case and pursued an investigation.

The OWLS board created an ad hoc task force to investigate and address these concerns, as well as to evaluate what policies and procedures ideally should apply to that type of situation.

The committee researched the current state of the law in Oregon as well as language in effect in other jurisdictions and found that a number of states do have a rule or combination of rules in effect that address intimidation and harassment.

OWLS President Concetta Schwesinger, acting on behalf of the OWLS board, then sent an open letter to the OSB Board of Governors (BOG) asking the BOG to refer the issue to the OSB legal ethics committee (LEC) to evaluate what, if anything, can be done to strengthen and/or clarify the Oregon Rules of Professional Conduct (RPC) or other policies or rules for investigating complaints regarding harassment, discrimination, and/or intimidation, whether regarding sex, race, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, or other protected class. The letter contained language from rules in other jurisdictions and was also signed by members of the Oregon Chapter of the National Bar Association, the Oregon Minority Lawyers Association, and the Oregon Asian Pacific American Bar Association.

The OWLS board is pleased to report that after receiving the letter from OWLS, the BOG did ask the LEC to consider whether the RPC should be amended to address harassment, discrimination, and intimidation. The LEC has recently formed a subcommittee/task force for that purpose, with meetings to begin in mid-summer. I chaired the OWLS ad hoc committee and will represent OWLS on the LEC task force. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Bonnie Cafferky Carter, an OWLS board member, practices law in Lake Oswego.



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US District Judge Helen Jackson Frye Was Trailblazer

By Diane Rynerson

Federal District Judge Helen Jackson Frye, who died on April 21 at age 80, will be remembered as a true trailblazer among women in the legal profession. As the first female circuit court judge in Lane County and the first woman on Oregon's federal bench, she paved the way for the full participation of women in Oregon's justice system. Yet because she was a very private person, her legacy isn't fully understood by those who were not privileged to know her well.

Helen Jackson, the great-great-granddaughter of Oregon Trail pioneers, was born in Klamath Falls on December 10, 1930, to Earl and Elizabeth Kirkpatrick Jackson. Shortly after the death of her father when she was three years old, her mother and brother contracted tuberculosis. During the six years of their recovery in a sanitarium, Helen was cared for by her maternal grandparents. Helen's grandmother had a profound influence on her development, providing her with loving support and an appreciation of English language and literature that would last a lifetime. Her years on the family farm helped to instill in her a strong work ethic but left her with the certain knowledge that she wanted more than the life of a farmer's wife. When Helen was nine, she left the farm to live with her mother, who had remarried.

Helen excelled in high school, then worked her way through the University of Oregon, supporting herself by babysitting, waitressing, and working in a bookstore and as a hat-check girl in a dance hall. Eugene trial attorney Art Johnson, who would remain a life-long friend, was an upperclassman when he met Helen, then a freshman. He recalls that she was an excellent student and was very well liked. As a sophomore, she was elected class president.

In September 1952, during her junior year, she married fellow student Bill Frye, who in later years served as Lane County district attorney and as a state senator. She ran unsuccessfully for senior class president. The student-run *Daily Emerald*, while noting that her qualifications were superior to those of her male opponent, nonetheless deemed him to be the "more practical choice." She was one of the "senior six brain trusters," elected to Phi Beta Kappa in her senior year.

In 1953 she graduated with a bachelor's degree in English and went to work as a junior high and high school teacher in

the Eugene School District. When her pregnancy with her first child became apparent, she could no longer teach, as it was against district policy for visibly pregnant women to be in the classroom. When she attempted to return to teaching after her child was born, she was told that it was also against district policy to employ mothers of young children. Helen was eventually able to return to teaching and, in 1961, as a mother of three, earned a master's degree in education from the University of Oregon.

According to a 1989 *Oregonian* profile, it was Helen's interest in politics that led her to law school. Helen graduated as one of just three women in the University of Oregon School of Law's class of 1966 and was admitted to the Oregon State Bar that same year. For five years Helen balanced her family life with a primarily transactional private law practice in two Eugene law firms, including Husband, Johnson & Frye, founded after Bill Frye had completed his service as Lane County district attorney. She worked on a number of appellate cases and argued several before the Oregon Supreme Court.

When a new position on the Lane County Circuit Court opened, she decided to apply, reasoning that the worst thing that could happen would be that she would not get the appointment and would stay where she was. Her bid was successful, and in July 1971, she was named by Governor Tom McCall as Lane County's first female judge, making her one of just three women trial judges in the state. (Ten years previously, Jean Lewis had become Oregon's first female circuit court judge, assigned to the domestic relations division of Multnomah County, and Mercedes Deiz was then serving as a Multnomah County District Court judge.)

Soon Judge Frye had to campaign to retain her position, meeting voters in supermarket parking lots, service clubs, and wherever the community gathered. She won election in 1972 and again in 1978.

The years on the Lane County Circuit Court bench were some of the happiest in Helen Frye's career. At that time, when the district and circuit courts were still separate, the other circuit court judges were Edward Leavy, who now serves on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals; Doug Spencer, now a senior judge; Roland "Rokie" Rodman, and Edwin Allen, both now deceased. They proved to be a col-

legial and supportive group and frequently went out to lunch together in downtown Eugene.

Judge Ellen Rosenblum, who in May took senior judge status from the Oregon Court of Appeals, described Judge Frye as "a critical role model for the very small group of women litigators in Eugene in the 1970s. There was something so reassuring in having a woman circuit court judge (the higher level of the trial bench, before consolidation of the circuit and district courts) on the bench when women lawyers were just entering the courtroom as litigators for the first time. Just by being herself, she instilled in us a sense that we could be good trial lawyers—and even judges—and we wouldn't have to be just like the guys to be successful."



Judge Helen Frye

Continued on page 12



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Judge Helen Jackson Frye

When Judge William McAllister resigned from the Oregon Supreme Court on December 31, 1976, Helen Frye was on the short list of candidates to succeed him. She was flattered by the support but doubted that being an appellate judge would be to her liking. Ultimately, Hans Linde was selected by Governor Robert Straub for the appointment.

Another possibility was appointment to one of the newly created positions on the Oregon Court of Appeals. Governor Straub had announced that he would appoint a woman. Judge Frye was widely considered the strongest contender but took herself out of consideration, and Betty Roberts was appointed to the position in September 1977.

Not long afterwards, another opportunity presented itself. The 1978 Omnibus Judgeship Act led to an expansion of the federal judiciary, including two new positions on the US District Court for the District of Oregon.

Meanwhile, the feminist movement was in full flower and there was strong pressure to appoint a woman to Oregon's federal bench. The Oregon Women's Political Caucus and the Women Lawyers Caucus had endorsed Helen Frye for the

federal district court bench, noting that there were only 13 women serving in 537 federal judgeships. Senators Hatfield and Packwood agreed that she should be considered for the next vacancy.

In September 1979, District Judge Otto Skopil Jr. was appointed by President Carter to a newly created position on the Ninth Circuit, thereby making a third opening on the district court bench. Owen Panner was appointed to the seat vacated by Judge Skopil, and James Redden and Helen Frye were appointed to the newly created positions.

Like many female appointees at the time, Helen Frye did not get a favorable evaluation from the American Bar Association. In fact, only 29.7% of Carter's female judicial appointees were deemed "qualified" or "well qualified" by the ABA. In February 1980, the US Senate confirmed the nominations, and on Monday, March 24, 1980, Helen Frye became Oregon's first female federal judge.

That same year marked a turning point in her personal life. She and Bill Frye had divorced in 1975, and on July 10, 1980, she married Perry Holloman, the owner of a Cottage Grove Ford dealership. She was assigned to hear cases in Portland, and so theirs was a commuter marriage, and they maintained homes in both Eugene and Portland. Separation from her Eugene-based support system in mid-life made her experience as the only woman on Oregon's federal bench a particularly lonely one. In 1982 Judge Frye adopted her four-year-old granddaughter, echoing her own childhood experience of being raised by a beloved grandmother and bringing her the pleasure and the responsibility of a young child's company.

Clerking in the court in 1980 and watching the federal appointment process unfold was Ann Aiken, now chief judge of the US District Court of Oregon, who in 1993 would become Lane County's second female circuit court judge. Ann was then pregnant with her first child, and Judge Frye, who took time to encourage Ann, was very pleased that she strove to have a balanced life. Judge Frye's door was always open, and Ann Aiken was able to observe the workings of a truly collegial and effective court.

Judge Frye's door was open again 18 years later when Ann Aiken became the second woman judge of the US District Court of Oregon. Judge Frye was on the telephone during her swearing-in ceremony and offered help with her case-

continued from page 11



Judge Jean Lewis (left) and Judge Helen Frye in 1982

load. During their years together on the federal bench, Judge Frye was unfailingly supportive of the circuit court law clerk who had come full circle to follow her as a judge on the Lane County Circuit Court and the US District Court of Oregon.

Although Judge Frye will be remembered for significant cases regarding the environment, sex discrimination in the Oregon university system, and the disincorporation of the town of Rajneeshpuram, one of her legacies is the care and attention she took with complex administrative proceedings and lesser-known cases. She didn't postpone writing opinions in the sometimes tedious Social Security appeals, saying, "These people deserve an immediate answer." Also notable was her correspondence with inmates whom she had sent to prison. Unless an inmate's letter was threatening, she would write back with words of encouragement, urging inmates to take control of their lives, mentor fellow inmates, and learn from their experiences.

In the words of OWLS' founding president, Katherine H. O'Neil, "As a judge she was infinitely patient and took great pains to insure that each side was heard on all its points. She had an extensive collection of porcelain figurines in her chambers, something to stare at to keep your focus. And, in fact, this collection made me realize that Judge Frye had many sides to her personality and a range of interests that went beyond the world of law. And that, I suppose, was one of the lessons that was also given during those hours of arguments in her chambers: we all need that range of interests and a broad perspective as we go through our careers."

Diane Ryner is the executive director of the National Conference of Women's Bar Associations.

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Judge Jean Lewis

all services involving children be under the umbrella of the Children's Services Division. She worked with the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. At the time of her retirement, she was treasurer of the National Council of Juvenile Court Judges. She was a former president of the Oregon Juvenile Judges Association.

Throughout her career, Judge Lewis was active in and very supportive of Queen's Bench (before it became the first OWLS chapter), and in 1989, she served as a panelist for OWLS' first spring conference. She received honors from many organizations, including the Multnomah Bar Association, for meritorious service. She died on July 12, 1991, a few days short of her 77th birthday.

Judge Elizabeth ("Betsy") Welch was appointed to succeed Judge Lewis when she retired. Judge Welch's tenure in Department 12 was short-lived, however. In a contest that was particularly unusual for its time, two women competed for the position in the fall election of 1978. Kathleen Nachtigal won the election. Nonetheless, Judge Welch had another turn at serving in Multnomah County. She was appointed to its district court in November 1988 and later moved on to its circuit court (Department 18). She served as chief family law judge for over ten years, before retiring on January 1, 2007.

Judge Kathleen Nachtigal began her legal career while raising her children. At the age of 36, she graduated second in her class from Northwestern School of Law in 1968. After eight years in private practice, she took the position of executive director of the Juvenile Law Center in Multnomah County, where she advocated for juvenile justice. While on the bench, she established the mediation program for parents to gain insight into how their divorce affects their children. Among the many community organizations she served were the Oregon Juvenile Justice Committee and the Wage and Hour Commission. She was an active member of the American Judges Association and served as president of the American Judges Foundation. She retired on December 31, 1993, after serving in Department 12 for 15 years. She died on March 20, 2008.

Judge Janice Wilson, Governor Roberts's first judicial appointment, was appointed to the Multnomah County District Court in March 1991. She was appointed to Department 12 effective January 3,

1994, when Judge Nachtigal retired, and she has served in this position for over 17 years. She graduated first in her class from Willamette University College of Law in 1979 and was a judicial clerk for the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals before becoming a litigator in private practice.

During her time on the bench, Judge Wilson has been very active in community service. Highlights include serving as chair of the statewide Judicial Education Committee, vice chair of the Chief Justice's Access to Justice Committee, co-chair of the Multnomah County Court Care Advisory Board (after being instrumental in founding this child care service for children of litigants and witnesses), and a member of the Oregon Supreme Court Task Force on Gender Fairness. She is a recipient of the Oregon State Bar Affirmative Action Award and its Membership Service Award—and of the Multnomah Bar Association Award of Merit. She has been active in OWLS from the beginning and was the 1999 recipient of the Judge Mercedes Deiz Award.

In an interview after her retirement, Judge Lewis acknowledged being aware that she was under scrutiny, as a woman, on the bench. "There was always the feeling, if I goof, it isn't only Jean Lewis who gets criticism, it's all women. I hoped other women would come behind and

The OWLS Foundation has established a category of giving in memory of Judge Jean Lewis, at \$500, and a category of giving in memory of Justice Betty Roberts, at \$1,000. Any gift of these or any other amounts is greatly appreciated and can be sent in memory of Judge Lewis and/or Justice Roberts at any time to Libby Davis, Treasurer, OWLS Foundation, P.O. Box 82522, Portland, Oregon 97282.

The OWLS Foundation, a 501(c)3 corporation, is working hard to grow its endowment, which will fund future grants in line with its mission to advance justice for women and minorities. Judge Jean Lewis and Justice Betty Roberts personified this mission, and it is especially fitting to celebrate and honor their memory.

continued from page 1

I'd leave a trail that would be helpful." Not only did she succeed in her goal of earning respect for what a woman could achieve, she was a role model for many women. As the Honorable Betty Roberts, who served on the Oregon Supreme Court, stated: "She was a wonderful person. She was an outstanding judge and a really wonderful role model for myself and many other women lawyers, as a lawyer and as a judge—both professionally and personally."

Judge Lewis was a pioneer, blazing a trail that others have been proud to follow, not the least of whom have been Judges Welch, Nachtigal, and Wilson, her direct successors in Department 12. But in addition to the "50, 50 Celebration," for more than a year there has been a "more than 50" cause for celebration: more than 50 percent of the judges in Multnomah County have been women. So maybe we should call this the "50, 50 and >50 Celebration." Judge Lewis would have been proud of her successors and of all three reasons to celebrate!

Trudy Allen, historian of the Oregon Women Lawyers Foundation, is general counsel of US Bancorp Equipment Finance, Inc., in Tigard.

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Around Oregon

By Hon. Jill Tanner

Cascade Women Lawyers. The chapter holds networking lunches on the second Wednesday of every other month; the next is in September. Chapter contact: Lorie Hancock, lorie@harrishancock.com.

Clackamas Women Lawyers. On Jan. 26, the chapter, with the Clackamas County Law Library, sponsored its second annual book event; renowned author Ann Rule came to Oregon City to talk about her illustrious career as a true-crime writer. Over 65 people attended. On Feb. 23, the chapter sponsored a one-hour CLE presented by Donald Spillane of Designing Financial Solutions, Inc. and Donna Anderson of Professional Strategies Group entitled "Long-Term Care: How Best to Serve Your Clients." On June 22, the chapter sponsored a one-hour CLE on recent changes in bankruptcy law, presented by Todd Wilkinson of Oliveros & O'Brien. Chapter contact: Sue Lain, sue@hohbachlawfirm.com.

Josephine County Women Lawyers. Lynn and Meredith Myrick hosted a get-together for the chapter at their home on March 5. The chapter sponsored a writ-

ing contest for middle school and high school students in honor of John Adams and Law Day. Unfortunately, no entries were submitted. The chapter meets the first Thursday of each month at lunch. Chapter contact: Victory Walker, victory@grants.sopd.net.

Lane County Women Lawyers. The chapter was pleased to co-host its third annual Dress for Success event in Eugene with the University of Oregon Women's Law Forum on April 20 at Davis Restaurant. Donated this year were 33 suits, eight pairs of shoes, and 125 professional garments, such as blouses, slacks, skirts, and vests. The donated items were received by St. Vincent DePaul's Ruby Tuesday program, in which women entering or re-entering the workforce receive professional clothing and fashion advice as well as interviewing tips and resume assistance. Chapter contact: Kamala Shugar, kamala.h.shugar@doj.state.or.us.

Linn-Benton Women Lawyers. LBWL meets every other month for dinner at Sybaris Restaurant in Albany. Chapter contact: Fay Stetz-Waters, 971.570.8598 or faystetzwaters@gmail.com.

Mary Leonard Law Society. At the MLLS monthly meeting on May 17, Liani Reeves, counsel to Governor Kitzhaber, discussed the responsibilities of her position, including the screening process for judicial appointments. She said that a willingness to learn and the ability to bring together different perspectives are key to being successful in her new job. On May 19, MLLS co-sponsored its third annual Soiree Against Hunger [see story on back page].

This spring MLLS hosted two CLEs focused on diversity issues. The first was presented on Feb. 15 by OWLS member Beth Allen, one of Portland's finest LGBT family law practitioners, and a founding member of Basic Rights Oregon. Beth gave a fascinating presentation on current developments in marriage equality

law. The second CLE was presented on April 12 by Keith Cunningham-Parmeter, a law professor at Willamette who was also a Skadden Fellow with the Oregon Law Center Farmworker Program. Professor Cunningham-Parmeter focused on the disparate treatment of immigrants across the nation, as a patchwork of state immigration laws have developed. Chapter contact: Allison Boomer, allison.r.boomer@ojd.state.or.us.

Queen's Bench. Queen's Bench luncheons are held the second Tuesday of each month at Trees Restaurant in downtown Portland, starting at 11:45 a.m. In April, Lisa LeSage spoke on "Incorporating Small Steps into Big Career Opportunities: An International Experience." In May, Alisa Blum of Alisa Blum and Associates spoke about inter-generational communications. In June, Judge Cheryl Albrecht talked about de-stressing your life.

Queen's Bench members take walks every Wednesday starting at 12:05 p.m. at the Salmon Street Fountain in Portland and looping over the Willamette and along the East Side Promenade. Chapter contact: Christine Coers-Mitchell, 503.719.6795, coers@comcast.net.

Rebecca J. Bloom Chapter (Morrow and Umatilla Counties). The chapter holds a monthly luncheon at El Charrito in Pendleton on the monthly bankruptcy court date. Two chapter members, Eva Temple and Lynn Hampton, were recently appointed to judicial positions in the Sixth District. Chapter contact: Sally Anderson-Hansell, sally@andersonhansell.com.

Rogue Women Lawyers. Chapter contact: Jamie L. Hazlett, at jamiehazlett@esq@gmail.com.

Washington County Women Lawyers. The chapter is on hiatus. If you'd like to help with events, please contact OWLS.

Hon. Jill Tanner, an OWLS board member, is the presiding magistrate of the Oregon Tax Court.

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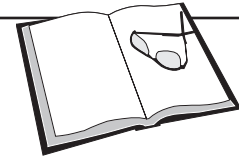
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Remembering the Power of Words: The Life of an Oregon Activist, Legislator, and Community Leader

By Avel Louise Gordly with Patricia A. Schechter (Oregon State University Press, 2011)

Book Review by Teresa Statler



“When the heart is full, it comes out through the mouth.” With these words, Avel Gordly concludes her memoir, about her life; her work in Portland’s black community organizations, the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) and other groups; and her service as a member of the Oregon legislature. As the title suggests, Gordly’s life has revolved around words—words said to her that she found hurtful and racist, and words she has said that have inspired others and helped improve the lives of Oregonians.

Gordly, born in 1947, was raised in the black community centered in North Portland in the 1950s and 1960s. She grew up in a home on North Williams Avenue, which she and her siblings still own. Gordly describes a beautiful and loving mother and a doting but very strict father. Early on, she learned the negative power of words, and she tells of various racist comments and incidents that happened to her in school and elsewhere.

For example, she sadly relates that “I have a whole world of terrible stories around seeing the dentist as an adult compounded by early neglect of my teeth. One time, a white male dentist said hurtful racist things to me while I was sitting in the chair and unable to move. I was frozen to the spot and literally had no voice.”

In high school, she recalls being steered away from the “Business Machines” course by a guidance counselor, since “there wouldn’t be any job opportunities for colored girls with those skills after graduation.” These and other incidents traumatized her, and she says that it was only later that she “had the tools to figure it all out.” What she figured out was that the association between speech and power was strong.

Gordly pulls no punches in recounting a teenage pregnancy, and as a result, an early and soon-failing first marriage. Before these upheavals in her young life, she suffered sexual abuse at the hands of a family member and a suicide attempt as a teenager. She struggled with, and continues to struggle with, depression.

After the birth of her son, Gordly found a job with Pacific Northwest Bell, where she worked for several years before attending Portland State University. Gordly

recounts the campus world of the late 1960s and early 1970s and the development of black studies at PSU. She tells of her growing activism and developing interest in Africa. She went to Nigeria on student cultural exchange, and later, through her work at the AFSC, worked on anti-apartheid issues in South Africa. She found herself a changed, less materialistic woman after returning from Nigeria.

Gordly believes that often “a black woman’s speech is not her own; her voice can be coerced or silenced by just about everyone. . . . Reclaiming my voice, my true authentic voice—the right to speak or not speak as I see fit—has thus been a struggle.”

While she was in the legislature, Avel Gordly was my state senator, and I wish now that I had known more about her then. Gordly’s slim memoir has a conversational and informal tone that makes it easy to read. I was happy to learn more about her life, her achievements, and her struggles. Her recounting of her work

with the Urban League, the Black United Front, and other groups, however, was chronologically confusing.

Gordly was appointed to the Oregon House in 1991 by the Multnomah County Commission to fill a vacancy, and she was elected to the position in 1992. Later elected to the Oregon Senate, she is proud of her reputation at the time as “the conscience of the legislature.” That came about, she believes, due to her focus on representing the people, not on dealing with lobbyists or legislative business through the caucus mechanism. Several times in her memoir, she notes the importance of being a good listener, a practice that obviously served her well.

Avel Gordly’s memoir is part of the series *Women and Politics in the Pacific Northwest*, edited by Dr. Melody Rose of PSU. All Oregon women should read this book, and it would be a good choice for book groups.

Teresa Statler has a solo immigration law practice in Portland.

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Take Your Kids to Work Day

Multnomah County Circuit Court Judges and OWLS hosted 150 children for Take Your Kids to Work Day on April 28. The law firm Tonkon Torp organized dozens of children to attend, and two schools also sent kids. Judge Wilson welcomed the five- to ten-year-olds by saying, "This courtroom belongs to everyone in the state of Oregon, but I get to work here."

The children, organized by age, conducted mock trials, with judges and lawyers on hand to prompt them. During the orientation, trial, and debriefing, judges stressed the critical role the jury plays during a trial. Kids wandered the hall afterwards, with their gavel pencils, exclaiming things like, "That was awesome!" OWLS thanks Judge Julie Frantz for coordinating this annual effort with her colleagues.

OWLS Foundation Board 2011–2012



The OWLS Foundation Board of Directors (left to right): Front row: Laurie Craghead, Phylis Myles, Aruna Masih (president), Jill Brittle (president-elect). Sitting: Diane Rynerson, Jeannette Vaccaro, Yumi O'Neil (secretary), Suzanne Lacampagne. Back row (standing): Anne Senters, Trudy Allen, Kristin Larson, Kim Sugawa-Fujinaga, Nanci Klinger, Melissa Chureau, Terri Kraemer, Libby Davis (treasurer), Cristina Sanz.

MLLS Soiree Against Hunger Sets Record

By Katharine M. Lozano

Partnering with the Willamette Valley American Inn of Court and the Marion County Bar Association, this year the Mary Leonard Law Society (MLLS) hosted its third annual benefit for the Marion-Polk Food Share on May 19 at the Mission Mill Museum in Salem.

The event raised a record \$6,567 for the Food Share with a winning combination of a food and cash drive, the benefit's popular silent auction, and a friendly competition among attendees for the coveted Golden Can fundraising awards. Attorney Kathryn E. Jackson from Portland won the First Place Golden Can and the second-place winner was the law firm Heltzel Williams Yandell Roth Smith Petersen & Lush, of Salem.

Guests were inspired by the keynote

speaker, Secretary of State Kate Brown, who commended food banks for meeting the needs of an increased number of Oregonians in these difficult economic times. She also encouraged attendees to actively promote a more just society, both inside and outside the courtroom.

Guests enjoyed refreshments and the classic rock stylings of the Nordyke & Nordyke duet (Vanessa Nordyke, MLLS outgoing president and attorney for the Oregon Department of Justice [DOJ], on vocals, with her dad, attorney Robert Nordyke, on the piano), while guests inspected and bid on a remarkable array of items from over 60 donors. A highlight was the live auction of one-of-a-kind plates decorated by DOJ attorney Jose Klein, depicting some of the nation's most



Vanessa Nordyke (left) and her father, Robert Nordyke, at the Soiree

famous First Amendment cases.

To donate to Food Share, please visit www.marionpolkfoodshare.org.

Katharine M. Lozano is a DOJ attorney and the MLLS secretary.