



MULTNOMAH LAWYER

June 2014
Volume 60, Number 6



Our MBA at Work

by Richard Vangelisti
MBA President

Our MBA is more than a noun. Our MBA is best described as a verb. We are lawyers in action and “associated for justice, service, professionalism, education and leadership for our members and the community.” The life-force of our association is the work of thousands of

lawyers who volunteer their time and energy to achieve our mission year after year.

As my term ends, I want to express my deep appreciation for all MBA members who have helped the MBA. Our profession and community have benefitted. While much work remains, we should highlight some of the recent accomplishments of our MBA committees and their leaders.

Alan Galloway and **Rima Ghandour** (Equality & Diversity Co-Chairs) and their team continued to work on pipeline efforts, including the Explore the Law Program at PSU. **Lissa Kaufman** (Board) and **Emily Teplin Fox** (E&D Member) secured LSAT preparation scholarships from the MBA for diverse college students who want to practice law in Oregon. We received 52 applications and awarded nine scholarships.

Heather Decker (E&D Former Chair) and **Ramón Pagán** (E&D) planned the first annual diversity summit and social with our diversity bar partners. We’ve adopted the name “Tillicum Gathering” on the great suggestion of **Bob Steringer** (Board). We also adopted **Akira Heshiki’s** (Board) idea that the MBA purchase tables at all of the annual events of our diversity bar partners.

Cedric Brown (Board) provided effective ideas on a new membership campaign based on information from our membership survey and strategic planning. Cedric also was the mastermind behind strengthening our committee charges to ensure that each MBA committee will “consider and implement action that promotes diversity within the MBA’s legal community.” The emphasis of course is on the requirement to “implement action.”

Maya Crawford (Board) took the laboring oar on revising our nomination and screening guidelines for the MBA Professionalism Award to ensure more diversity in award nominees and in the screening sub-committee. Thank you to **Ed Harnden** for chairing the sub-committee this year.

Brad Krupicka (Membership Chair) led the committee to host the second annual Battle of the Lawyer Bands and WinterSmash. My personal favorite event, of course, was bocce ball. This summer they will host an annual event at Perkins Coie featuring the diversity and specialty bars.

The MBA especially appreciates the growing relationships with our colleagues in the diversity bars, who of course have had outstanding leadership: OAPABA (**Simon Whang** and **Kim Sugawa-Fujinaga**), OC-NBA (**Tyler Anderson** and **Kellie Johnson**), OGALLA (**Trish Walsh** and **Kevin Clonts**), OHBA (**Ramón Pagán**), OMLA (**Todd Struble**, **Christopher Ling** and **Chase Morinaka**), and OWLS (**Kathleen Rastetter**).

Amber Hollister (Professionalism Chair) was instrumental in amending the MBA Professionalism Statement. The amendments recognize our commitment to access to justice and to treating all persons with fairness and respect, without regard to any distinguishing personal characteristic.

Elizabeth Knight (Board) worked extensively with our Professionalism Committee. Elizabeth also had the conscientious idea to honor the memory of former MBA Presidents Marc Blackman and Robert Neuberger at our annual dinner. Thank you to **Judge Anna Brown** for your tribute.

Eric Dahlin (Board) wrote a thorough column in the October 2013 *Multnomah Lawyer* covering how each of us can at least do a little to make a big difference in providing legal aid to Oregonians in need. Our MBA Professionalism Statement was recently updated to reflect this core MBA value: “We will work to ensure access to justice for all segments of society.”

MBA Board members **Helen Hierschbiel** (Finance & Operations Chair), **Bob Steringer**, and **Christopher Kayser** updated our financial policies and procedures, including when and how we provide financial support to other organizations that share our values. Helen also served as our Treasurer and provided strong oversight for our operations and budget process.

Todd Cleek (CLE Chair) led the committee to organize 36 MBA CLEs this year. We held four non-CLE professional development classes: two on financial planning, one on branding, and one on accounting literacy. 1,316 people attended at least one MBA or YLS CLE class this year. **Judge Youlee You** and **Heidee Stoller** of the CLE Committee organized a great CLE on voir dire in which participants were on their feet honing their skills. We very much appreciate all of our CLE speakers.

Darcy Norville (Board) and **David O’Brien** (Group Insurance Chair) helped guide the MBA through significant changes in federal law governing health insurance. The MBA remains committed to exploring ways to provide this important benefit to members.

Dan Duyck (Court Liaison Chair) has led monthly meetings with **Presiding Judge Nan Waller**. The Court Liaison Committee has provided strong support for the successful roll out of eCourt.

Bob Calo (Courthouse Chair) and **Elizabeth Wakefield** (Board Liaison) continued to build relationships with the leaders from the state, county and circuit court on our new Multnomah County Courthouse. Bob is coordinating with the county on a survey for MBA members to express our opinions on critical issues such as site selection, facility design and amenities.

Tyler Volm (Golf Committee Chair) has led the planning of five golf events. These events bring members together and raise thousands of dollars for the Volunteer Lawyers Project.

Bill Miner and **Katherine Heekin** (Judicial Screening Chair and Vice Chair respectively) led the Judicial Screening Committee, which screened numerous applicants for judicial vacancies. Bill Miner continued the tradition of a healthy dialogue between the MBA, on the one hand, and the governor’s office and presiding judge, on the other. The Judicial Screening Committee and MBA Board have been responsive to continual efforts to improve on our written screening process to ensure fairness for applicants and value to the governor and circuit court.

Traci Ray (MBA YLS President) led the YLS in a new program “Bullyproof,” which presents anti-bullying information to students in 5th and 6th grade in Oregon. The YLS under her leadership also won recognition for the Wills for Heroes program, which provides free essential legal documents for first responders.

Andrew Schpak (MBA delegate to ABA HOD) kept the Board informed about issues facing lawyers across the nation. Andrew soon will begin serving as the chair of the ABA Young Lawyers Division, and we are fortunate to welcome him to the MBA Board.

Judge Julie Frantz (MBF President) led the Foundation to another successful year. With its dedicated funds for Civic Education and CourtCare, the MBF furthered its mission - increase the public’s understanding of the legal system; promote civic education, public participation, and respect for the law; and improve the quality of the legal system. The MBF made a total of \$40,000 in grants to nonprofit organizations who share the MBF mission.

Greg Moawad (Immediate Past President) provided valuable institutional memory and judgment this year as he served out his MBA tour of duty on the Board and Executive Committee.

Armed with the recent MBA survey results, **Dana Sullivan** (MBA President Elect) has already begun our strategic planning process for next year and beyond. We are very fortunate to have Dana at the helm.

Continued on page 2

mba|CLE

To register for a CLE, please see page 3 or go to mbabar.org and log in as a member to register at the member rate.

JUNE

6.4 Wednesday Annual Probate Update & eCourt Presentation

Judge Andrew Erwin
Judge Robert Herndon
Judge Katherine Tennyson

6.26 Thursday How Jurors REALLY Think

Jeffrey Boyd

NOVEMBER

11.5 Wednesday Child Abuse Reporting

Amber Hollister
Joe O’Leary



Free Online CLE for Members

The CLE webcast
“Effective Use
of Time and Technology”
is available for free
in the Members Center
section of the
MBA website.

Members receive free
access to a
rotating schedule
of six different
CLE webcasts each year.

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FIRST THURSDAY SOCIAL WITH SPECIALTY BAR ASSOCIATIONS

June 5, 5-7 p.m.
at Perkins Coie
1120 NW Couch, 10th Floor

The MBA Membership Committee invites you to a social and celebration of the contributions of diversity and inclusion in the legal profession. Please join us for hosted food and drinks, then take a map of the nearby art galleries and hit the streets to enjoy First Thursday in the Pearl District!



Thank you Perkins Coie LLP for hosting the event.

Thank you Preg O'Donnell & Gillett PLLC for sponsoring the event.

Thank you By Design Legal Graphics, Inc. for sponsoring the wine at the event.

Space is limited, so RSVP to Shannon West, shannon@mbabar.org, to reserve a spot.

Our MBA at Work

Continued from page 1

The work of the MBA would not be possible without the support of the MBA staff - **Guy Walden, Kathy Modie, Carol Hawkins, Ryan Mosier, Pamela Hubbs and Shannon West.** We also appreciate the work of Kelly Palin who does bookkeeping for the MBA. We appreciate their

service and lasting contributions. Guy, Kathy and Carol are each marking 15 years of service to the MBA. We especially appreciate their loyalty and love of the MBA.

Although there is always work to be done, we are in good hands with the dedicated professional staff and all of the lawyer volunteers of the MBA family

Thank you.

Calendar

To add your organization or firm's annual events to the MBA online calendar, contact Carol Hawkins, carol@mbabar.org.

JUNE

6.5 Thursday
MBA 1st Thursday Social with Specialty Bars
Visit mbabar.org for details

6.13-15 Friday-Sunday
OAPABA Western Regional Conference
Visit oapaba.org for details

6.14 Saturday
SALC Race for Justice
Visit salcgroup.org for details

6.17 Tuesday
MBA Riverside Golf Event
Visit mbabar.org for details

6.20 Friday
MBA East County Social
See Announcements on p. 6 for details

6.25 Wednesday
YLS Summer Social
See p. 13 for details

6.26 Thursday
MBA Night at the Spa
Visit mbabar.org for details

7.18 Friday
MBA Family & Friends Golf Event
Visit mbabar.org for details

7.31 Thursday
OMLA Auction
Visit oregonminoritylawyer.org for details

AUGUST

8.18 Monday
Lawyers & Law Students Golf Event
Visit mbabar.org for details

SEPTEMBER

9.1 Monday
Labor Day Holiday

9.22 Monday
MBA Golf Championship to Benefit the VLP
Visit mbabar.org for details

9.20 Saturday
MBA Pro Bono Pedal
Visit mbabar.org for details

9.26 Friday
OWLS Fall CLE & 25th Anniversary Party
Visit oregonwomenlawyers.org for details

JULY

7.4 Friday
Independence Day Holiday

MBA Family & Friends Golf Event

Friday, July 18 at Edgefield

Bring clients, colleagues, family and friends for 9 holes of short par 3 golf. This fun, casual event is ideal for new golfers, non-golfers and children. All proceeds benefit the Volunteer Lawyers Project at LASO. Register at mbabar.org or call 503.222.3275.



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Seminars are worth 2 OSB credits unless otherwise noted; 2 Washington MCLE credits may be obtained independently. Registrants who miss the seminar may request the written materials. Substitutions are welcome. Registration fees are non-refundable.

Annual Probate Court Update and eCourt Presentation

Wednesday, June 4, 2014
2:30-5:00 p.m.

World Trade Center Auditorium
26 SW Salmon, Portland
Members \$55
Non-members \$85

Note: This class runs 2:30-5 p.m. and will be worth 2.5 hours of OSB MCLE credit.

The MBA presents the 2014 Annual Probate Update, featuring **Judge Katherine Tennyson**, Multnomah County; **Judge Andrew Erwin**, Washington County; and **Judge Robert Herndon**, Clackamas County. The judges and staff will discuss current practices and procedures in the metro area. This CLE is a must for all probate practitioners and/or their staff.

This class will also include a presentation on eFiling using Odyssey File and Serve by **Daniel Parr**, Office of the State Court Administrator. eCourt will go live in Multnomah County on May 12.

For more information:

Call Sarah Brown, Yates Matthews & Eaton PC at 503.224.7077. For registration questions, call the MBA at 503.222.3275.

How Jurors REALLY Think A Live Focus Group Evaluates a Premises Liability Case

Thursday, June 26, 2014
2:00-5:00 p.m.

World Trade Center Mezzanine Room
26 SW Salmon, Portland
Members \$80
Non-members \$125

Note: This class runs 2-5 p.m. and is worth 3 hours of practical skills credit.

This class will be a live demonstration of a focus group in a typical premises liability case. Due to the popularity of this class last year, we've asked Jeff to present for us again. There will be a new fact pattern and new materials regarding discovery.

Jeffrey Boyd, President of Boyd Trial Consulting, will present the evidence, arguments, and law to a group of "real" people – non-lawyers who could be jurors someday. The goal is to get the jurors' feedback on the many aspects of the case, so that the lawyers in attendance can see and hear how real people think about the issues in a typical case. This class will be useful to anyone who tries civil cases and will include a live demonstration of a highly interactive focus group. The jurors will be presented with the facts and law of a typical premises liability case. Hear and see how real people process and talk about the facts and the law. Even if you don't do a lot of these cases in your practice, they are a great learning tool because they illustrate so well how to overcome jury bias and get a winning verdict. This knowledge can be applied to almost any case you are working on.

Throughout the course of his career, Jeff has tried over 100 civil jury trials and has served as a trial consultant for over 15 years.

For more information:

Call Don Jacobs, Attorney at Law at 360.695.1624. For registration questions, call the MBA at 503.222.3275.

Child Abuse Reporting

Wednesday, November 5, 2014
12:00-1:00 p.m.

World Trade Center Auditorium
26 SW Salmon, Portland
Members \$35
Non-members \$55

Note: This class will be worth one hour of child abuse reporting credit.

The MBA presents its annual seminar on child abuse reporting requirements. This program is intended to help lawyers meet their legal responsibilities as mandatory reporters, while maintaining their ethical obligations to clients. Questions to be addressed include the following:

- What are the reporting requirements?
- How do I recognize reportable child abuse?
- What is it that I'm really supposed to do?
- What happens if I make a report of abuse?
- What happens if I don't report when I should have?

Amber Hollister, Deputy General Counsel of the OSB, and **Joe O'Leary**, Deputy Director of the Oregon Youth Authority will present a lively and practical discussion of the issues..

For more information:

Call the MBA at 503.222.3275.

Registration Form

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PHONE _____
OSB# _____

ACCOUNT NUMBER _____
EXPIRATION DATE AND SECURITY CODE _____
SIGNATURE _____
BILLING ADDRESS FOR CARD (if different) _____

Member Status:
 MBA Member
 Non-Member

Payment Options:
 Check VISA MasterCard
 American Express

Seminar Selection:

Please select the seminar(s) you wish to attend. Written materials for each class are included with registration. Pre-registration with payment is required to reserve a space; at-the-door registrations are accepted if space is available; an additional \$5 charge will apply.

6/4 Annual Probate Court Update and eCourt Presentation
Class Registration Online (\$50 Members/\$80 Non)
 Class Registration (\$55 Members/\$85 Non)\$ _____
 CD-ROM & Written Materials (\$55 Members/\$85 Non) ..\$ _____

6/26 How Jurors REALLY Think: A Live Focus Group
Class Registration Online (\$75 Members/\$120 Non)
 Class Registration (\$80 Members/\$125 Non)\$ _____
 CD-ROM & Written Materials (\$55 Members/\$85 Non) ..\$ _____

11/5 Child Abuse Reporting
Class Registration Online (\$30 Members/\$50 Non)
 Class Registration (\$35 Members/\$55 Non)\$ _____
 CD-ROM & Written Materials (\$35 Members/\$55 Non) ..\$ _____

Total due\$ _____

Receive a \$5 Discount when registering online at mbabar.org.

Photocopy registration and mail or fax with payment to:

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503.222.3275 ■ Fax to: 503.243.1881

Registration forms with payment must be received in the MBA office by 3:00 p.m. the day before the seminar, or the "at the door" registration fee will apply (see fees for each class and fill in the blank on registration form). Registration forms may be mailed or faxed to the address or number below. Accommodations available for persons with disabilities; please call in advance for arrangements.

Register online and order or download MBA self-study materials at www.mbabar.org.

Reduced fees for unemployed members are available and are assessed on a case-by-case basis. For details, call the MBA at 503.222.3275.

MBF Awards \$40,000 in Grants

by Pamela Hubbs
Office and Foundation Administrator

Since 2006, the MBF Civic Education Fund has awarded more than 50 grants totaling over \$280,000 to advance civic education and engagement and enhance public understanding of the justice system. Meet our 2014 recipients.

Bus Project Foundation was awarded \$7,000 to expand *PolitiCorps*, their summer leadership development training model, to include year-round civic engagement, professional development and organizing trainings for young leaders, and a pilot legislative program, focusing on the 2015 legislative session.

City Club of Portland was granted \$2,500 for its Civic Awards program to recognize excellence in individuals, student groups and nonprofits whose work promotes civic and political knowledge and skills, teaches civic values, presents an innovative approach to civic engagement and addresses the opportunity gap at the high school level.

Classroom Law Project received \$9,000 to recruit, train and support new elementary, middle and high school teachers for the *Mock Trial* and *We the People: The Citizen & the Constitution* programs and provide grants for teacher resources.

League of Women Voters of Oregon was granted \$3,500 to expand *Oregon Student Mock Elections*. Student ballots mirror current Oregon issues and candidates. This is a full civics curriculum that is adaptable for student ability and class time with the objective of preparing Oregon students to be critically thinking, fully engaged voting citizens.

League of Women Voters of Portland was granted \$4,000 to hold candidate and ballot measure forums prior to the

primary and general elections. These forums are often the only opportunities for voters to hear all candidates speak at the same event. Forums are open to the public, available online and broadcast on local cable access.

MBA YLS received \$2,000 for the YOUthFILM Project, a Law Day-themed student filmmaking contest that teaches K-12 students about civic involvement and the law. Volunteer attorney mentors are available to assist filmmakers in creating their short films. Winning films are screened for the public during Law Week and prizes are awarded (traditionally by the Chief Justice).

MetroEast Community Media was awarded \$4,000 to create a Spanish language short video and public service announcement, promoting civic engagement and volunteering. The goal is to encourage the growing Spanish-speaking community, one of the largest but most under-represented groups in the Portland metro area, to become actively involved in our democracy. The segments will be on public access, online and on demand, and distributed to targeted agencies locally, regionally and nationally.

Native American Youth and Family Center was granted \$2,500 for the *Native Vote*, to register, educate and engage voters to increase civic participation within the Native American community. Through culturally-specific outreach and engagement, the program will also create leaders in civic engagement and elevate the profile of Native American voters, a group that is currently underrepresented in the civic community.

Continued on p. 18

Pro Bono Opportunity to Change Lives Helping Juvenile Sex Offenders with Registration Relief



Gwen Griffith



Vicki Ballou

Here is a little known fact about Oregon that often leaves people in disbelief: Juveniles adjudicated for a felony sex crime are placed on our state's sex offender registry for life. There are currently more than 3,500 Oregonians who were placed on the registry for juvenile offenses, including youth as young as 11 years old when they committed the offense.

Given the stigma and difficulty in obtaining employment or housing when someone is labeled a sex offender, critics believe that permanent placement on the registry is overly-harsh punishment for juvenile offenders who have been rehabilitated and pose no threat to the public. Indeed, Oregon

is one of only a few states in the nation that imposes such an unyielding consequence.

There is a process to remove names of juvenile offenders from lifetime listing, but the procedure is complicated. Many young people who would be good candidates simply can't afford a lawyer to help them navigate the system. That's where the CLiF Project (Changing Lives Forever) comes in.

The three-year-old pro bono project began with Tonkon Torp business lawyers, Gwen Griffith, a tax attorney, and intellectual property lawyer Vicki Ballou. In collaboration with the juvenile law public interest law firm Youth, Rights & Justice (YRJ), they created a model to leverage the expertise of YRJ by matching it with the energy of practicing Oregon lawyers who want to help rehabilitated juvenile sex offenders get off the registry, if they qualify for relief.

"The stereotype of 'Once a sex offender, always a sex offender' is not supported by studies that have been done," says Ballou. "Sure, I believe in consequences; but I also believe in second chances. That's what the CLiF Project is all about."

Need for pro bono help exceeds current volunteer capacity

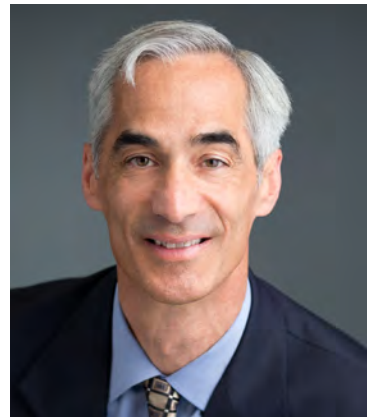
About two dozen lawyers from Tonkon Torp and other Oregon firms are providing pro bono legal representation to help deserving young people with registration relief applications. But more are needed. The number of individuals on the registry is increasing faster than the number of those who have successfully petitioned for relief. Griffith reports that in addition to 17 cases in process, another 25 are awaiting intake.

"You don't have to know criminal law or juvenile law to be a CLiF volunteer," Griffith says. "The Supreme Court has ruled that this work is 'regulatory,' simply a collateral consequence of a juvenile adjudication for a sex offense. Lawyers in any area of practice can take on a CLiF client, who has already been through a three-step screening process before being accepted as a pro bono client."

Ballou says CLiF provides the information and support that allows volunteers to feel confident in their ability to competently represent clients in this potentially life-changing process. Volunteers get a complete set of the necessary documents and forms and benefit from access to experienced volunteer CLiF lawyers to answer questions and provide guidance. The group holds monthly lunches to hear speakers on topics relevant to these cases and to share experiences and advice.

Environmental lawyer David Rabbino became interested in the CLiF project when he joined Tonkon Torp a year ago. He has handled two cases already, both 31-year-old males who were adjudicated as youngsters.

"One of my clients was 12 when the incident occurred," says Rabbino. "He has not reoffended in 18 years. He graduated from high school with a stellar record,



David Rabbino

attended college, and currently works for a good employer. But this listing is like a weight around his neck. He has to register every year and let law enforcement know any time he moves. Removing him from the life-long registry will remove this weight and allow him to be a more productive member of society."

Rabbino says his volunteer work as a CLiF attorney is both interesting and rewarding. In addition to good coaching, the program provides good templates from which to work. "The paperwork isn't particularly difficult. With the help of your client, you gather court and treatment records, you write the petition of between 5-10 pages, and help your client get ready for his or her hearing and polygraph test." Nor is the time commitment overwhelming. Rabbino noted that like all litigation, "the work comes in spurts over several months."

"CLiF clients are very appreciative of the time and effort we give," says Rabbino. "If we are successful, this makes an enormous difference in their lives. Some of our clients are now married and have kids of their own. Can you imagine them having to explain to their children that they can't attend school functions because they are registered juvenile sex offenders?"

Griffith echoes Rabbino about the reaction from clients who are successfully removed from the registry. "They call to say that they were finally able to rent an apartment or get a good job because of our work, or coach their son's football team. These young adults have come a long way since their adjudication at age 12 or 13. It's great to be able to make such a tangible difference in someone's life."

CLiF is recruiting for more attorney volunteers throughout the state. For more information about the program and how to get involved, contact Gwen Griffith at 503.802.2102, gwen.griffith@tonkon.com or Vicki Ballou at 503.802.2028, vicki.ballou@tonkon.com.



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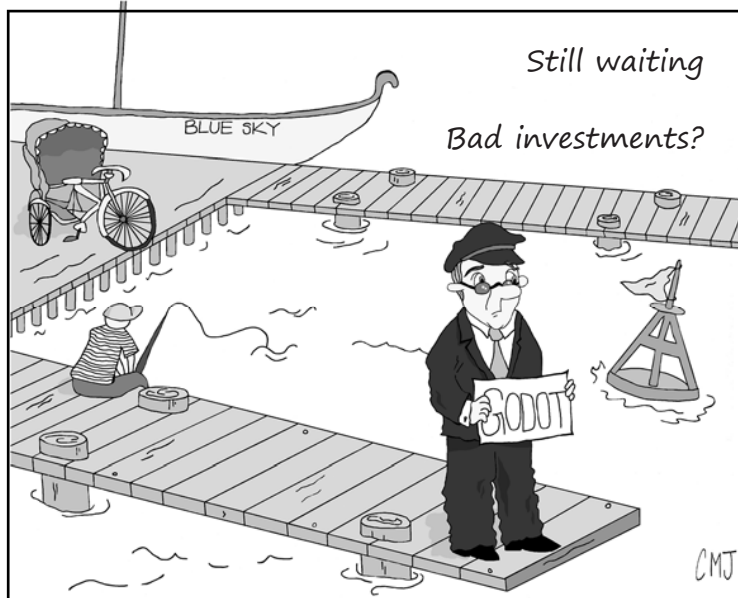
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mba | ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Free CLE Content for Members

The video webcast of the seminar entitled "Effective Use of Time and Technology" is now available in the Members Center at mbabar.org. The seminar is worth one hour of practice skills and one hour of personal management for two hours of total OSB MCLE credit. MBA members receive access to a rotating selection of six different CLE seminars each year – a \$300 value. The free webcast content is refreshed every two months, so stay tuned!

Statement of Diversity Principles Available to Sign

The MBA Equality & Diversity Committee invites you to sign the Statement of Diversity Principles. Read the statement at mbabar.org/about-us/diversity.html and demonstrate your commitment to diversity by signing the statement online at mbabar.org/AboutUs/DiversityPledge.html.

Race for Justice is June 14

St. Andrew Legal Clinic (SALC) presents its 14th Annual Race for Justice on Saturday, June 14, at the Madeleine Parish - 3213 NE 24th Ave in Portland.

Post-race events include a pizza party and awards ceremony. Participation costs below:

- \$60 from June 1 to race day
- \$35 Students and first-year associates
- \$10 Kids' Fun Run (ages 3-10, no T-shirt)
- Free to participants who raise \$100 or more in pledges.

For questions, contact Kenny Macdonald at kmacdonald@salcgroup.org or 503.281.1500 x321.

East County Social is June 20

East County lawyers are invited to a social at the Warren Allen firm on Friday, June 20. Watch your email for details.

Noon Bicycle Rides

Take a noon break for a short, fast ride with hills. Meet at SW Yamhill and Broadway between noon and 12:10 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays. Contact Ray Thomas at 503.228.5222 with questions, or just meet at the start.

Portland Regional Office of LASO Receives Grant

Legal Aid's Portland Regional Office received a \$30,000 grant from the Oregon Community Fund's Roscoe C. Nelson Jr. Fund for Pro Bono Legal Services to the Poor. Nelson practiced law in Portland for 52 years and helped the poor by providing free legal services throughout his career. His family members and friends established this fund to honor the tradition. The fund connects volunteer lawyers with low-income people in need of legal services in Multnomah County.

Oregon Law Meritorious Service Awards Presented

The University of Oregon School of Law presented its 2014 awards during May commencement exercises to the Honorable John Acosta and the late Dean Emeritus Eugene Scoles. The award is bestowed annually to individuals who have made significant contributions to the legal profession and legal education.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Acosta was appointed to the federal bench in 2008. His significant impact has been through his ongoing commitment to and involvement with the school, where he is currently a member of the Dean's Advisory Council. Dean Emeritus Scoles oversaw the transformation of Oregon Law into a modern law school. He retired as a distinguished law professor in 1982. He died in October, 2013 at the age of 92.

Oregon Paralegals Raise Money for CEJ

At the Oregon Paralegal Association's 35th Anniversary Soiree on April 28, \$5,000 was raised for the Campaign for Equal Justice.

DoD Conducts Military Justice System Review

The Department of Defense is conducting a comprehensive review of the military justice system and the MBA has been invited to participate. This review was ordered by the Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel and is being conducted by the Military Justice Review Group which was established by the DoD General Counsel. Comments and suggestions for improvements to the current military justice system would be most helpful if received by July 1 and should be sent to osd.ucmj@mail.mil.

The Corner Office PROFESSIONALISM

After more years of doing litigation and trials than I like to count, I've concluded that one of the easiest ways to adhere to our professionalism standards is to simply be nice. So this month's article is about the virtues of being nice.

First, let me say that being nice does not require that you put on a cardigan and turn into Mr. Rogers. Being nice does not mean that you become a doormat who can never say no. But if you think that our system of justice provides a necessary function in our society beyond giving us an interesting way to make a decent living, then being nice is a pretty good way to practice your commitment to professionalism.

What do I mean by "being nice?"

To begin with, our own "Commitment to Professionalism" commits us to "solv[ing] problems, not creat[ing] them; ... to supporting the effectiveness and efficiency of the legal system; ... to resolving matters with a minimum of legal expense;" and to "[not] tak[ing] positions that [lack] merit." Or to put it another way, we will not be jerks. We will be nice.

What does that actually mean in practice, and how exactly does being nice serve our clients' interests and the cause of justice? Some war stories might be

helpful in illustrating the virtues of being nice, and the cost of not.

First, a lay person I know recently sat on a jury. The jurors uniformly found the plaintiff's lawyer pleasant, polite, competent, but otherwise unremarkable. In her words, the lawyer was "nice." But they found the defense lawyer to be "rude ... nasty, and unpleasant." The juror reported that by the end of the trial, the jurors simply did not want to listen to the defense lawyer. Guess who won?

Another example: Here is the last email of a string of emails between two out-of-state lawyers about a settlement:

"M___, do me a favor and save me from reading your silly, petty, sniveling emails. I get tired of having to deal with your 'woe is me' comments. Thanks for reminding me about how I locked somebody in a room – I must have forgotten that part! I've sent an email to R___ and will let you know his answer. In the meantime, quit with the junior high emails. I've got better things to do than read your crap. S___"

Obviously, the last email did little to promote the professionalism goals I mentioned earlier. Furthermore, not only did the last email cement a bad relationship with the email's recipient, it did little to impress the judge who

ultimately saw it. As one would expect, the dispute did not end well for S___'s client.

A few years ago I tried a case with a lawyer with whom I have litigated for years. Both sides gave their all to the trial. In and out of the courtroom, the lawyers got along. We were nice. After the trial concluded, the judge asked the jurors if they had anything they wanted to say to us. A young juror stood up, and said "I never thought that I wanted to serve on a jury, because I thought that the system was rigged. But now I see that a person can have a fair trial, and justice can be done." Two nice lawyers got a fair result for their clients, and strengthened the commitment of a jury to our justice system. That's pretty nice.

The Corner Office is a recurring feature of the Multnomah Lawyer and is intended to promote the discussion of professionalism taking place among lawyers in our community and elsewhere. While The Corner Office cannot promise to answer every question submitted, its intent is to respond to questions that raise interesting professionalism concerns and issues. Please send your questions to mba@mbabar.org and indicate that you would like The Corner Office to answer our question. Questions may be submitted anonymously.



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Ethics Focus

When the Light Goes On Differences Between Disciplinary Proceedings & Other Litigation

by Mark Fucile
Fucile & Reising



This past fall, I argued a disciplinary case before the Oregon Supreme Court. As is customary at the Supreme Court, a red light comes on to let the advocates know when they have used their time. When the light flashes for the last time, the court takes the case under advisement and the parties typically don't hear from the court again until it issues a decision. In one sense, this is a time-tested ritual for cases generally. In another, however, it is quite different in the disciplinary context. For Oregon lawyers accustomed in other settings to seeing judges early and often as a typical case progresses, the one hour for oral argument at the Supreme Court is the first - and the last - time an accused lawyer will see a judge in a disciplinary case.

For many lawyers, this comes as a surprise. Although historical statistics compiled by the ABA suggest that Oregon lawyers have traditionally been formally prosecuted at per capita rates

exceeding their peers nationally, many lawyers don't have a good grasp of how the process works. It is a little bit like knowing that your local hospital probably has an oncology department, but you really don't want to know the details. One of the odd parts about representing lawyers in disciplinary matters is that I often end up having to explain how the system differs from Oregon court practice. As both ORS 9.529 states and the Supreme Court on many occasions has noted (see, e.g., *In re Harris*, 334 Or 353, 359, 49 P3d 778 (2002)), disciplinary proceedings in Oregon are "sui generis," which Black's defines as: "Of its own kind or class; unique or peculiar."

In this column, we'll look at the primary elements of the disciplinary process that I frequently have to explain: pleadings and pleadings motions; dispositive motions; and trials. I should emphasize at the outset that although procedures in disciplinary cases are *different*, the Supreme Court has held repeatedly that they are *constitutional*.

Pleadings and Pleadings Motions

Oregon lawyers are intimately familiar with two hallmarks of state civil practice: fact pleading and its twin, extensive pretrial motion practice under ORCP 21. Under Bar Rule of Procedure 4.1(c), however, a complaint

is only required to provide an accused lawyer with reasonable notice. The Supreme Court put it this way in *In re Devers*, 328 Or 230, 232, 974 P2d 191(1999): "The 'essential elements' of due process in the context of a lawyer discipline proceeding are notice and an opportunity to be heard[.]" Similarly, pretrial motion practice is severely constricted when compared to its civil counterpart, ORCP 21. The only motion against the pleadings permitted under BR 4.4(a) is a "motion to require a formal complaint to comply with BR 4.1(c) (reasonable notice)[.]"

Dispositive Motions

Oregon lawyers are equally familiar with the basic tool available in civil practice to either narrow the issues for trial or to preclude the necessity of trial altogether if there are no disputed issues of material fact: summary judgment under ORCP 47. The very short answer under the Bar Rules of Procedure is that summary judgment doesn't exist. Although there is authority from the analogous rule governing judicial discipline (see *State ex rel Kaino v. Oregon Com'n on Judicial Fitness and Disability*, 335 Or 633, 74 P3d 1080 (2003)) that at least motions to dismiss are permitted, the Bar Rules of Procedure don't actually mention them and I have handled cases where the bar has hotly disputed the right to dismissal short of trial. In sum, absent settlement, there is usually no procedural avenue available other than trial.

Trial

Trials in disciplinary proceedings vary in several key respects from their counterparts in other settings. To begin with, trials in

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Around the Bar



Molly (Allison) Washington

Ball Janik

Molly (Allison) Washington has joined the firm. She is a litigator with an emphasis in construction defect, practicing with the litigation and construction practice groups.

The Department of Defense honored the firm with a Patriot Award. Presented by the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve office to Managing Partner **Ed Harnden**, the award recognizes the firm's support of **Samuel Hernandez**, an associate who also serves as a Light Infantry Company Commander in the Oregon Army National Guard. Hernandez is preparing to complete a year-long tour of duty in Afghanistan. Harnden, representing the firm, was presented a Patriot Award in recognition of the firm's support of Hernandez and his family. The Patriot Award reflects efforts made to support citizen warriors through a wide-range of measures including flexible schedules, time off prior to and after deployment, caring for families and granting leaves of absence if needed.



Nelson Atkin



Ed Harnden



Samuel Hernandez

Barran Liebman

Nelson Atkin received the Portland Opera's Aubrey N. Morgan annual award for 2014. The award is its highest tribute, given for distinguished and extraordinary support and service to the company. Atkin provides pro bono representation to the Portland Opera, in addition to the Oregon Ballet Theater, the Oregon Symphony and the Oregon Children's Theater. His work for the opera dates back to 1985. During those 29 years, he has worked with the opera to organize its business goals, provided employment law advice, and represented the opera in negotiations with musicians, chorus and stage hands.



Bobby Schroeder

Dunn Carney

Bobby Schroeder has joined the firm as a real estate attorney. His practice will focus on real estate transactions, land use and agricultural law.



Kimberlee Stafford

Tonkon Torp

Kimberlee Stafford has been appointed to serve a two-year term on Multnomah County's Advisory Committee on Sustainability & Innovation.

Stafford is a member of the firm's real estate & land use practice group as well as the energy and environmental & natural resources practice groups. She chairs the firm's sustainability committee.

Tonkon Torp business lawyers have formed a practice group specializing in helping Oregon business owners obtain formal registration as a benefit company. The registration reflects a company's commitment to a triple bottom line of social responsibility, economic prosperity and environmental stewardship.

Benefit company corporate status comes with expanded fiduciary duties of directors, officers and managers, and requires specific documentation regarding the purpose, accountability and transparency of the organization. The firm's benefit company practice group counsels clients on what that means regarding how to operate a benefit company, and prepares and files appropriate registration documents with the State of Oregon.



Merril Keane

Miller Nash

Land use and real estate attorney **William Rasmussen** was recently elected to the board of directors of Morrison Child and Family Services. Morrison is a nonprofit organization, founded in 1947, that delivers specialized services to children and families coping with adversity and trauma.

Rasmussen focuses his practice in land use, real estate, and Oregon administrative law. He regularly represents public entities, businesses, and individual clients in land use planning, permitting, and development-related matters.

Business and tax attorney **Merril Keane** was recently elected to the board of directors of the Audubon Society of Portland. The society, founded in 1902, promotes the understanding, enjoyment and protection of native birds, other wildlife and their habitats.

Keane focuses her practice on general business transactions, international business and trade, tax and executive compensation.



Christian Hale

Fitzwater Meyer Hollis & Marmion

Christian Hale has joined the firm as an associate. His practice emphasizes probate, guardianship and conservatorship matters, including contested cases.

Cable Huston

Jan Kitchel has joined the firm as of counsel. He brings over 35 years of trial experience in a wide range of areas. Kitchel focuses his



Jan Kitchel

practice on catastrophic personal injury, wrongful death, will and trust contests and other estate litigation. He represents both plaintiffs and defendants, and individuals as well as businesses.



Bob Steringer

Harrang Long Gary Rudnick

Bob Steringer, firm shareholder and vice-president, was recently elected to The Fellows of the American Bar Foundation, which is dedicated to advancing justice through research in law, legal processes, and its impact on society. The Fellows is an honorary organization of

lawyers, judges and legal scholars whose careers have demonstrated outstanding dedication to the welfare of their communities and to the highest principles of the legal profession. Membership is limited to one-third of one% of the lawyers licensed to practice in each jurisdiction of the U.S.

Steringer serves on the MBA Board and also chairs the OSB Constitutional Law Section.

In his practice, Steringer represents private and public clients in matters at the intersection of law and public policy. Drawing on experience inside and outside government, he advises clients on matters including constitutional law, government regulation and licensing, political law and claims against government bodies. He also works with business clients to resolve disputes in a wide variety of matters, including ownership disputes, products liability, professional liability, and breaches of contracts.

The Around the Bar column reports on MBA members' moves, transitions, promotions and other honors within the profession. The submission deadline is the 10th of the month preceding publication or the prior Friday if that date falls on a weekend. All submissions are edited to fit column format and the information is used on a space-available basis in the order in which it was received. Submissions may be emailed to Carol Hawkins, carol@mbabar.org.

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Chernoff Vilhauer, LLP

is proud to announce that our partner

SUSAN PITCHFORD

has been awarded the prestigious

James M. Burns

Federal Practice Award.



The award recognizes Susan's efforts in organizing The Innovations in the Law: Science & Technology Conference with the Oregon Federal Bar Association and the Ninth Circuit Lawyer Representatives, which brought together a distinguished assembly of industry leaders from across the country to address improving the delivery of legal services, innovations in the courts, gaps in the law, and how the public's use of technology impacts law enforcement

Congratulations, Susan!

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Tips From the Bench

The Clip & Save Odyssey Guide

by Judge Cheryl Albrecht
Multnomah County Circuit Court

A friend on jury duty recently took the opportunity during a break to check out the OJIN public kiosk. What she saw shocked her. “I haven’t seen that glowing green font since my dad had one of those Radio Shack TRS models in the 80s.”

Fortunately, I was able to assure her Oregon courts were poised to leap into the 21st century. As you read this article, Multnomah County courts will have reached the three-week milestone in the implementation of eCourt, also known as the Oregon eCourt Case Information Network (OECI). As I *write* this article, the entire courthouse staff and a huge team of trainers are giving up their Saturday to prepare for the Odyssey program’s Go Live day on May 12. If you’ve been to court during that interim, you may have experienced a harried clerk or two updating their busy “Resource Schedule,” judges fumbling around their new electronic dockets in “Session Works,” and some confused staff looks as they navigate the foreign cyber terrain.

You will hear lots more from Presiding Judge Nan Waller and Trial Court Administer Doug Bray about all of the hard work and preparations, the successes and any possible foibles related to the launch, and of course, the inspirational Saturday morning performance by the band Mae and the Sametimes (local IT team members), of their unique rendition of Journey’s “Don’t Stop Believin’.”

For now, here is your handy clip and save list of what’s on your “eHorizon.”

1. Let **online resources** be your friend. Most everything is detailed online at the Multnomah County Courts website, <http://courts.oregon.gov/multnomah/Pages/index.aspx>. Look for the yellow eCourt Implementation box on the right, which includes the Oregon eCourt Summary link and Information for Attorneys, Government Agencies and Community Partners. Statewide information is available at <http://courts.oregon.gov/oregonecourt/Pages/index.aspx>, and on the OJD Online Services page at <http://www.courts.oregon.gov/OJD/OnlineServices/pages/index.aspx>.
2. For the time being, Multnomah County is still accepting paper filings. Judge Waller emphasizes, **NO STAPLES!** Until electronic filing begins, staff will be physically scanning



by Judge Cheryl Albrecht

all filed documents and judges and staff will view them as electronic files. After scanning, documents will be shredded. There will be no access to physical documents. Please make sure to use regular paper clips to group your documents.

3. Electronic filing, known as **eFile & Serve**, is already in place in 10 counties and begins in Multnomah County in **mid-July**. Make sure to read the implementing rules, set out in **UTCR Chapter 21 and SLR 24**. There is a comprehensive guide located online at <http://www.courts.oregon.gov/OJD/OnlineServices/OJDeFiling/Pages/index.aspx>. The “Start Now” link on that page takes you directly to a self-study online training program. That page also has links to a number of guides and FAQs. Training and registration prior to use is mandatory. Though training classes may be complete by the time you read this, you may access a schedule of in-person classes online by clicking the “Oregon eFile & Serve Orientation Dates” in the Multnomah County eCourt implementation box or checking the free web training sessions link on the eFile & Serve home page. There is no separate fee to use eFile & Serve, but the statutory filing fees still apply.
4. Though OJIN may be drifting off into the green font ether, **online access to court documents** lives on through **OJCIN** (pronounced Oh-Jason), the Oregon Judicial Court Information Network. Bar members can subscribe for a fee to the OJCIN service to access online documents in courts that have transferred to OECI, and can access case information, but not the documents themselves, in courts that are still operating with OJIN. You can submit an online application form at <http://courts.oregon.gov/OJD/OnlineServices/OJIN/pages/getstarted.aspx>. No formal training classes are available for OJCIN, but the Get Started page features an OECI Quick Reference Guide and Document Access FAQs.

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News from the Courthouse

by Peter Richter
Court Liaison Committee

Presiding Judge’s Report and Courthouse Update Judge Waller and Doug Bray eCourt Update

Judge Waller reminded the committee that OJIN would be locked down for Multnomah County and never updated again on Monday, May 5, at 5:30 p.m., ending a 25-year-run by the circuit court in that case management system.

Beginning May 5, all documents submitted to the clerk for filing were file-stamped and then scanned into the Odyssey system, and then the electronic image of the document was entered into the register as the official record of the circuit court. In addition, several hundred case files per day will be scanned into Odyssey when each case is set for hearing or trial on the calendar of the court. For new documents and full case files, once scanned into Odyssey, the paper documents will be recycled. She told the committee that on May 9 the data for two million OJIN cases was migrated into Odyssey. These are the “active” cases. The following weekend, May 16, the remaining eight million “inactive” cases were migrated from OJIN into Odyssey, concluding the implementation cycle. The public view of Multnomah County case information in OJIN will be removed on June 30.

There will be no public access to the case information in Odyssey until all 10 million cases are migrated and validated. Public views of the Multnomah County case information and documents was delayed to the end of May. The circuit court will be working in Odyssey from May 12, but the public views, the Oregon eCourt Case Information (OECI) system, has a delayed start date due to date validation exercises that

must be conducted. Judge Waller told the committee that Chief Justice Thomas Balmer activated access to documents for all OSB members who are subscribers to OJCIN effective on May 1; when access to Multnomah County data is available in OECI it will also include access to any documents that have been scanned or eFiled to the cases. She said that every attorney who practices in the circuit courts should take advantage of this document access.

Judge Waller said that there have been 35 sessions given on the OECI system - the public view of Odyssey. Now with implementation at hand, it is time to prepare attorneys and their staff for the next phase - the implementation of eFiling in the circuit court. Orientation sessions began in late May, and firms interested in having a presentation in-house may schedule these sessions. The information is on the circuit court’s website.

Finally, Judge Waller reminded the committee of the new SLRs that became effective in May. These rules are on the circuit court’s website. She said that one of the new rules provides that staples are prohibited for paper documents filed in the circuit court. All of the changes in the rules are important; attorneys and their staff should become familiar with the changes in the SLRs and also with UTCR Chapter 21, regarding eFiling. All of this content is on the court’s website.

New Multnomah County Courthouse

Judge Waller reported that the ball is moving forward on acquisition of a new Multnomah County Courthouse. The next major decision is selecting a site for the new facility. Due to legislation passed in 2013, the courthouse project may be a collaborative effort between the Board of Multnomah County Commissioners, the Oregon Department of Administrative Services, the Oregon Legislative

Assembly, and the Oregon Judicial Department. By way of background, Judge Waller explained that by legislation effective in 1983, administrative funding for operation expenses of the circuit courts, including court staff and all indigent defense costs, shifted to the State of Oregon, but the ownership and maintenance of the courthouse facilities in each county stayed with the county commissioners as a local expense. In 1983, the administrative operation of the 36 circuit courts was centralized under the authority of the chief justice with the assistance of the state court administrator. Now, the legislature has made a commitment to provide partial funding for courthouse construction or renovation under specific circumstances. If a county elects to use state bonds, then there is an expansion of the interests in such a project. The legislative, executive and judicial branches of the State of Oregon as well as the board of county commissioners all need to participate in decisions which may lead to the state funding up to 50% of the expense for the construction of the new courthouse. In 2013, the Oregon Legislature authorized a \$15 million sale of bonds for Multnomah County to match and then use in the first phase of the new Multnomah County courthouse project. The county is laying the groundwork for using the state bond funds, but has not yet made a formal application.

An executive team made up of representatives of the state’s branches of government and Multnomah County is being formed to consider issues and to make recommendations to the elected policy makers at every level. The next steps for the Multnomah County proposal for construction of the courthouse should occur by July, when a final program plan recommendation for the new courthouse, prepared by the National Center for the Courts, is received by the

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Judge Erin Lagesen Oregon Court of Appeals

by Peter Richter
Court Liaison Committee

Judge Lagesen is unique in several ways, but the one that stands out and is most relevant to her new status as Oregon Court of Appeals judge is the depth and breadth of her experience as a lawyer. After graduating summa cum laude (No. 1 in her class) from Willamette Law School, Lagesen began her legal career as a clerk for Judge Susan Graber on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. That clerkship was an “amazing experience” that gave Lagesen “an internal view of good appellate practice.” Lagesen states, “Judge Graber is one of the * * * best out there - a terrific role model for all of us.” After her clerkship, Lagesen was recruited by Stoel Rives, where she practiced general litigation and learned from an array of talented personalities and styles. She was “lucky enough” (“talented enough,” according to Stoel staff) to get a fair amount of court experience, particularly with motions practice, which she notes as not being as readily available in today’s legal environment, but necessary to become an effective advocate.

In 2004, Lagesen joined the appellate division of the Oregon Department of Justice and continued to get substantial experience in a broad range of legal issues. She was assigned a continuous flow of work and handled civil, criminal, administrative, environmental, and various tort cases.

Although the law was in her DNA (her father, Frank Lagesen, is one of the more senior lawyers at Cosgrave Vergeer Kester, and her younger brother, Riley, practices restaurant law with

Davis Wright Tremaine), her calling to the bar took a very circuitous route.

A Portland native and graduate of Wilson High School (1987), Lagesen attended Williams College, obtaining a degree in English and mathematics, with honors. She obtained her master’s degree in mathematics from the University of Oregon, and became a graduate teaching fellow there. She then decided to teach mathematics and attended Harvard Graduate School of Education. After graduating, she taught high school math in Milwaukie, Oregon, from 1994 to 1997. Although she loved teaching high school, she wanted a more varied career experience and attended Willamette Law School, graduating first in her class in 2000.

Judge Lagesen’s personal life is an extraordinary example of work ethic, accomplishments, and success, beginning with her debut as a thespian in the fourth grade, when she began acting in productions with Portland Civic Theatre’s Junior Civic Theatre (appearing as, among other roles, Cobweb in *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, Tweedledee in *Alice in Wonderland*, and Amy in *Little Women*). She graduated as valedictorian from Wilson High School, where she was the student-body treasurer, a cheerleader, and a member of the speech team, whose motto was “Don’t assume anything” - a phrase that she says will be put to frequent use in her appellate position.

Lagesen met her husband, Judge Stephen Bushong of the Multnomah County Circuit



Judge Erin Lagesen

Court while working at the Oregon Department of Justice, and they were married in 2002. She and Judge Bushong have two dogs. Despite a busy schedule, she is a doting aunt to her brother’s three children, and is a volunteer coach of the Franklin High School Constitution Law Team. She also enjoys distance running, and has run the Portland Marathon six times, as well as a number of half-marathons. She reads mystery novels and has an extensive and eclectic collection of movie DVDs and music CDs, and she follows the Portland Trail Blazers. Her favorite player is Wesley Matthews, because of his leadership qualities, although she appreciates the entire current roster because of its ability to function so well as a team - as well as Coach Stotts, who appears to be an impressive strategist.

Inside sources tell us that her dream job would actually be commissioner of the NBA, or a drummer in a rock ‘n’ roll band (if her youngest brother Sean had not inherited all of the family’s musical talent).

Lagesen notes that she has gained invaluable experience from all her personal and law-related activities and urges lawyers appearing before her to “tell your story in the briefs, be straight with the facts, and use oral argument to focus on key points.”

Oregon eCourt eFiling on File & Serve Getting Prepared

Many of you are already using File & Serve to file documents in the other Oregon circuit courts that have preceded Multnomah County, and will be ready to begin eFiling in the 4th Judicial District when it becomes available in July. For the rest of you, if your practice includes representing parties in the circuit courts, here are some things upon which you, or your staff, should take action.

1. If you don’t have access to OEI to view documents in the courts that have migrated from OJIN to Odyssey, you should get it. Document access to cases will compliment the use of the File & Serve system for the filing of documents. It is recommended and it is a very good value. Here is the link to subscribe: <http://cms-courts.oregon.gov/OJD/OnlineServices/OJIN/Pages/index.aspx>

2. Download a copy of UTCR Chapter 21, eFiling and Service by Electronic Means. Here is the link: <http://courts.oregon.gov/OJD/programs/utcr/pages/utcrules.aspx>.

These are the only rules permitted by the chief justice to address eFiling. Local court rules on this subject are not permitted. The intent is that eFiling will be uniform statewide. There is, however, some work to be done in this regard around local discretion to “reject” a filing. This is a work in progress, and policymakers are aware that such local variances are causing frustration for eFilers.

3. Go to the Tyler Technologies website and download the help material there and take advantage of the online training and interactive webinars offered at that site. Here is the link to the site: <https://oregon.tylerhost.net>. The training materials are at the bottom of the page.

- a. The “Learn” components are written documentation and reference guides. There is a lot of printed content here.

- b. The “Train” section consists of scheduled live instructional webinars, or alternatively, self-study guided Power Point sessions with narration. The self-study is a good place to begin.
- c. The “Contact” section is for assistance if you are using Odyssey File & Serve and need assistance in a particular situation.

4. Be aware that the eFiling of proposed orders and judgments is now or soon will be available following a successful test in Clatsop County Circuit Court. It is possible using Odyssey File & Serve to first circulate a proposed order or judgment to all of the parties or some of the parties (you decide with whom you wish to share a draft using electronic delivery) and then to also submit the final document to the court as a proposed order.

5. All use of Odyssey File & Serve is without any “user fee.” The 2013 legislature created a temporary funding source for these system costs, and the 2014 legislature made that a permanent source of funding. The only required payment when using Odyssey File & Serve is to pay statutory filing fees required with the filing of documents and credit card fees for those charges.

Odyssey File & Serve is a hosted service operated by Tyler Technologies, the costs to the users are covered, as just mentioned, and it is presently available in 10 circuit courts (and 11 with Multnomah County added in July). **In 2016, it will be the key to filing in all 36 Oregon circuit courts.**

That Odyssey File & Serve is not ECF from the federal courts, and not Appellate eFile, from Oregon’s appellate courts, is now old News. That Odyssey File & Serve will be the most used eFiling system in the State of Oregon when fully installed is the new News. It is time to learn it, learn it well, and make it a strategic tool you use in your service delivery for clients with actions filed in Oregon’s circuit courts.

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News From the Courthouse

Continued from page 10

board of county commissioners. With that program plan, the work on finding a location for the new facility may begin. The site acquisition phase of the project has a time table to have a site selected, approved and acquired by the first quarter of 2015. Concurrent with this work, the county chair must submit a nonbinding estimate of state bonds necessary for the courthouse project for the 2015-17 biennium. This estimate will be included in the governor’s budget for the State of Oregon, and in the chief justice’s budget for the Oregon Judicial Department. The board of county commissioners still must formally decide to participate in the state bonds program by filing an application with the Oregon Judicial Department to

participate in the Courthouse Capital Construction & Improvement Fund. All of this is proceeding, with a goal of a new courthouse being occupied in the first quarter of 2020.

Judge Waller recognized that the MBA is currently and always has been a strong proponent for a new courthouse. She said that this participation by the MBA over the years and in the current planning is invaluable.



Young Lawyers Section

Community Law Week Events at Central Library

by Cindi Gaddis, Co-Chair
YLS Service to the Public Committee

Community Law Week is our committee's annual effort to raise awareness in the local community about our unique and complex legal system. We expand on National Law Day, for which the ABA provides a different theme each year. This year's theme was "American Democracy and the Rule of Law: Why Every Vote Matters." National Law Day was Thursday, May 1, so the Service to the Public Committee kicked off Community Law Week on Friday, April 25.

Two of the Community Law Week events were combined this year and held at Multnomah County's Central Library. Committee members Tracy Hooper and Chris Stubblefield set up a legal information booth for visitors to the library to access information about legal resources. A team of volunteers including Jackie Alarcon, Meghan Erickson, Tyler Bellis, and Paul Thompson staffed the booth, passed out materials from Legal Aid Services of Oregon, the OSB, ABA, and other organizations and answered general questions about using the courts.

Judge Beth Allen from the Multnomah County Circuit Court and Judge John Mercer from the Washington County Circuit Court fielded more specific questions in the annual "Tell it to the Judge" event. The judges engaged in conversations with members of the public on current legal issues, such as how federal and state laws treat marijuana. The Central Library

provided a calm, open forum for interested citizens to casually stop by and talk with the judges. Committee members Kelvin Adkins-Heljeson and Lauren Cullop coordinated the event and volunteer Damien Munsinger assisted the judges.

Community Law Week concluded on May 1 with the 8th annual YOUTHFILM Project screening and award ceremony. (See the companion article by committee Co-Chair Mary Tollefson on p. 20 in this issue.) Parents of the student filmmakers commented on what a special opportunity the project is for spawning creativity in the students and inspiring them to do extra work outside of school hours, often collaborating with classmates beyond their intimate circle of friends.

Please set aside the first Thursday of May 2015, when the committee will host the 9th Annual YOUTHFILM Project screening!

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The Oregon Law Foundation Top Five Countdown

by Judith Baker, OLF Director & Traci Ray, YLS President & OLF Board Member

On June 4, the Oregon Law Foundation (OLF) and MBA are joining forces to host a Leadership Bank Reception to thank our Leadership Bank representatives and to support "Where You Bank Matters." We sat down with Katharine West, OLF Board Chair, to ask her about the Foundation and what top five things every lawyer should know about the OLF.

Judith & Traci: What is the Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts (IOLTA) Program?

Katharine: The IOLTA program is an innovative way to supply a public good. Client funds that are too small in amount or held for too short of a time to earn interest for the client are placed in a pooled interest-bearing trust account. The interest from these accounts is remitted by the banks to the Oregon Law Foundation (OLF). The IOLTA program is mandatory for all lawyers who hold client money that meets the above criteria.

Judith & Traci: How does the Oregon Law Foundation use the interest?

Katharine: The existence of the IOLTA program has allowed the OLF to fund programs that provide civil legal services to people of lesser means helping to create greater access to justice in Oregon. Approximately 75% of the available funding goes to legal aid programs each year. IOLTA revenue is also a critical funding source for programs that specialize in legal areas such as juvenile rights, immigration, employment and people with disabilities.

Judith & Traci: How have record low interest rates affected the IOLTA revenue received by the OLF?

Katharine: Because interest rates are at record lows, IOLTA revenues have plummeted in recent years from a high of \$3.6 million to \$850,000 expected in 2014. This is more than a 75% drop in annual revenue which has a huge impact on our ability to fund our grantees. Unfortunately, the Federal Reserve has signaled that interest rates are not expected to rebound until the end of 2015. The ongoing loss of IOLTA revenue has resulted in an annual decrease in funding to legal aid of over \$1 million.

Judith & Traci: How has the need for legal services increased since the recession?

Katharine: Between 2000 and 2011, those eligible for free civil legal services in Oregon (125% of the federal poverty level) increased by 61.5%, the eighth highest rate in the nation. More than one of every five Oregonians qualifies for free legal aid services, but there is funding to address only 15% of the need. Legal aid programs provide services to about 22,000 poor and elderly Oregonians each year who have nowhere else to turn for legal help.

Judith & Traci: What are Leadership Banks?

Katharine: Banks play a significant role in the success of the IOLTA program. The amount of funding generated through IOLTA each year is dependent upon several factors, including the amount of the IOLTA deposits and interest rates. You can help



Katharine West

the OLF by establishing your IOLTA account at (or moving your IOLTA account to) a bank that is committed to maximizing the rate of return on IOLTA accounts. The OLF's "Leadership Banks" have shown such a commitment and can be found on the OLF's website at oregonlawfoundation.org

Judith & Traci: Why is it important for a lawyer or law firm to open and maintain their IOLTA account at a Leadership Bank?

Katharine: There is a significant difference between the IOLTA interest rates offered by banks. Rates range from 0.01% to 1%. The rate of interest a bank pays on its IOLTA deposits has a very large impact on the revenue generated for access to justice. For instance, when U.S. Bank decided to lower its IOLTA interest rate at the beginning of 2014 from 0.7% to .10%, the OLF lost \$160,000 or 20% of its annual IOLTA revenue. Making a conscious decision to use a Leadership Bank shows a commitment to funding programs that provide Oregon's most vulnerable citizens access to the justice system that is cost free to you. Remember, "Where You Bank Matters!"

We welcome you to join us at the Leadership Bank Reception on June 4 from 4:30-6 p.m. at Barran Liebman LLP. To RSVP, please email Traci at tray@barran.com.

Darin Sands Pro Bono Spotlight

by Corrinne Hill
YLS Pro Bono Committee

Meet Darin Sands. Darin is a shareholder at Lane Powell practicing complex commercial litigation. He is also a coach of the Lincoln High School constitution team. Most recently, Darin served as lead plaintiffs' attorney, pro bono, in a civil rights matter brought in the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon, *Harper v. Scappoose School District*. Earlier in his career, and also pro bono, Darin assisted in a case before the Washington Supreme Court challenging a state law that denied former prisoners who could not pay certain outstanding financial obligations the right to vote. That case is *Madison v. Washington*.

With respect to the *Harper* matter, on December 16, 2013, Darin, together with his colleagues Anthony Stark

and Whitney Button, both of Lane Powell, and the ACLU of Oregon filed a complaint on behalf of Marissa Harper, a high school junior, and her mother. The complaint alleged that the Scappoose High School dance team's speech policy unconstitutionally restricted students' and parents' first amendment rights of speech and expression. Marissa Harper was unable to try out for and participate in the dance team at Scappoose High School because she and her mother refused to sign the school speech policy. Darin was quoted in a December 18, 2013, article in *The Oregonian* entitled *Dance Team Rules Stifle Free Speech, Suit Says*, saying "This is just an overly broad, vague speech policy that's meant to take jurisdiction over every aspect of a student's



Darin Sands

communication on social media and in person." The relief sought in the *Harper* matter included a request to enjoin permanently the Scappoose School District from maintaining and enforcing the school speech policy. The case has since settled and the Scappoose School District has retracted the policy.

Darin believes that pro bono work is more than just an obligation an attorney has to his or her state bar. It is also an opportunity to assist individuals in understanding

Continued on page 15

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LEOS Finds Oasis in the Desert

by Shannon Beutel
YLS PDE Committee



A 2007 admittee to the California Bar moved to Oregon in 2010. That year he passed the Oregon State Bar, and three years later filed a lawsuit praying for \$700,000. A 2011 OSB admittee has successfully persuaded judges in the majority of motions she has argued in federal court. A third lawyer practices criminal defense and landlord-tenant cases, and whether you measure success financially or by victories, he comes out on top.

These lawyers are finding success in the hardest legal market in generations. And what these folks have in common - besides success - is past or present membership in small groups called LEOS.

LEOS is a candid, non-critical forum to talk openly - less about our profession and more about the business of our profession. LEOS stands for Legal Entrepreneurs of Oregon, Solo & Small Firms. A group is composed of 8-12 attorney-entrepreneurs. During a monthly two-hour meet up, members mentor each other, exchange information, and share resources. They also give feedback, provide accountability, and extend social support for business development of members' firms. Benefits such as networking and referrals, while not an explicit goal, happen as a natural consequence of the group.

Genesis

LEOS started in 2011 with the same vision and attitude it has today. My brainstorm for LEOS came when I saw business clients, myself, and fellow lawyers in solo practice all struggle with the same business issues. Achieving success in business requires huge effort, and I intuitively understood that hanging with like-minded folks would help tremendously. It would inspire, motivate, and clarify goals.

At our first meeting, four solo practitioners were invited; double that number attended; and we talked for hours. We've been meeting in members' offices and local bars since. United by the drive to develop our businesses, we came together and stayed together.

Why LEOS?

We new lawyers need to learn how to be businesspeople.

Our handicap, bigger than our loan payments, is our lack of knowledge on, and fluctuating uncertainty around, business. And because we dislike admitting to a lack of perfect competence, the solution requires a space to both save face and overcome our handicap. That's what LEOS does.

LEOS groups meet to have a great time and learn the ropes. This is a team of folks who truly understand what one goes through. Fellow LEOS understand, for example, that starting a business means facing the fear that comes up from wanting to control a situation one cannot control.

We inspire each other while we learn from each others' mistakes; at this stage, those mistakes can be costly. I've seen a LEOS meeting function like a coupon, where two other members will offer solutions to one's problem that cost hundreds (or tens) rather than thousands of dollars. We work through it and learn from each others' flashes of business genius and natural skills. And we learn what's normal.

The underpinning philosophy is a joy: Frans de Waal called it alliance-building; John MacBeath called it critical friendship. Educator-philosopher MacBeath defined "critical friend," saying "Friends bring a high degree of unconditional positive regard. Critics are, at first sight at least, conditional, negative and intolerant of failure. Perhaps the critical friend comes closest to what might be regarded as 'true friendship' - a successful marrying of unconditional support and unconditional critique."

As LEOS members talk shop and have a great time at a summer barbecue, businesspeople and solos outside the group get turned under. Forbes reports 55% of law grads in 2011 worked in the legal field nine months after graduation. In comparison, 90% of LEOS members maintain work in the legal field during the 18 month syllabus.

How does a group work?

A group can be any comfortable size as long as it's more than a few and less than a dozen. Between four and 12 people meet up to chat - the size allows for laughter and gives air time to each individual. Missing a meeting is missing opportunity for growth, but it does happen when networking and clients keep us away.

Timing and agenda are key. Meet once every four or six weeks for a couple hours. The group either pays an organizer or volunteers its labor to organize itself, meaning members organize meetings. A meeting

has three agenda items: a few minutes of group business, an hour for discussion, and a second hour for members to discuss present and future goals for their business.

Discussion occurs among the group or features a guest speaker. Judges, business consultants, and accountants have addressed the group. Each month's agenda focuses on one business topic: hard skills such as accounting or marketing, or soft skills such as making the ask or relationship-building with clients (do you send holiday cards, yes or no?).

The second half of the meeting, we go around the room and give updates on how stuff is going (past goals) and future projects (future goals). Goals set a challenge to work toward. Saying it out loud makes each individual accountable to the group. The folks in the room know your story and your situation and want you to do well.

The following principles are vital to each group. (1) It's important that all folks have the opportunity to get to know each other. Contact in and outside of meetings builds strength. (2) It's important that each person get air time at a meeting. It builds trust and allows others to witness one's progress. And (3) it's important that participants be willing and actively involved.

What cannot be conveyed, what cannot be put into a pill, is the particular *glee* that one gets from this group. Some call it accountability; I call it inspiration. It puts the fire to your business' feet, in the best way.

Conclusion

The first LEOS group met for a year and a half, a natural life cycle. The run allowed the core group to establish connections and skills, and at the end it no longer needed the formal structure. The second group, a mix of non-legal businesses, operated with a slightly different structure for a year. The third LEOS group is at nine months and counting.

Our networks are our safety nets - so we make them strong.

To learn more about LEOS or to start a group, contact Shannon Beutel, shannon.m.beutel@ojd.state.or.us.

Ask the Associate

Dear Awesome Associate,

I am still in my first year of practice and am working on a case where I have to deal extensively with opposing counsel, who is more senior than I am, and because of that, I feel bullied in our interactions. How do I deal with opposing counsel's behavior?

Scared & Annoyed Associate

Dear Scared & Annoyed:

While we are fortunate to practice in a legal community that values professionalism, alas, there will always be a few bad apples among the mix. Don't despair. All of us have encountered those experiences, one way or another. Our jobs as lawyers require us to argue and advocate our client's position. But sometimes advocacy can turn into something ugly.

Don't despair or engage in the same behavior. Instead, here are a few tips:

1. Stay calm and collected. If it's appropriate, let opposing counsel know that you don't appreciate the behavior. If you remain calm and reasonable, sometimes the other lawyer will decide to accommodate rather than continue the tactics. Don't take the bait.

2. Know the rules and know your case. Many times opposing counsel's unprofessional behavior is an attempt to unnerve you from advocating on behalf of your client to the best of your ability. But if you stay prepared and know what you are entitled to under the rules, it often takes the wind out of opposing counsel's tactics. So stand your ground and ignore those tactics. Nothing speaks louder than pushing your case forward, undeterred. It will demonstrate to opposing counsel that their bullying tactics are not working on you. Be that lawyer who is always prepared, allowing nothing to rattle you, or to

distract you from advocating on your client's behalf.

3. If necessary, get everything in writing. If telephone calls have proven unfruitful, avoid them and put future correspondence with opposing counsel in writing. Keep the correspondence simple, to the point, and professional.

4. Seek guidance from others. Just as you are doing here, talk with other, trusted attorneys about your experiences. As I mentioned before, all attorneys have dealt with difficult opposing counsel at some time in their career and might be able to offer specific ways that effectively worked for them. Just make sure to keep your comments about opposing counsel professional; no personal insults please.

5. Put it in perspective. It's hard, but definitely better if you can put things in perspective to make opposing counsel's tactics seem less personal. Maybe he or she is dealing with an extremely demanding client. If possible (and depending on how long this has been occurring), it might be worth your effort to try and get to know counsel - after all, we're just humans inside. This might improve your working relationship.

6. Don't be afraid to include the court if it comes down to that. When opposing counsel's conduct goes beyond mere attempts at disruption or intimidation, you might want to consult the ethical rules (requiring that lawyers conduct their practice in a courteous, fair, and respectful manner).

So press on, and maybe take opposing counsel's behavior as a compliment that you are a force to be reckoned with.

Send your questions to Awesome Associate at mba@mbabar.org.



FOURTH ANNUAL

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Ethics Focus

Continued from page 7

disciplinary cases are conducted by panels of two lawyers and one non-lawyer who have volunteered for service under BR 2.4 rather than either an elected judge or private citizens who have been summoned randomly for jury service. Although in the analogous area of legal malpractice claimants must generally present expert testimony that a lawyer failed to meet the standard of care (see *Vandermay v. Clayton*, 328 Or 646, 655, 984 P2d 272 (1999)), experts are generally prohibited in disciplinary cases on the issue of whether the accused lawyer failed to meet the requirements of the Rules of Professional

Conduct (see *In re Leonard*, 308 Or 560, 570, 784 P2d 95 (1990)). Finally, the evidence rules do not apply (see *In re Barber*, 322 Or 194, 206, 904 P2d 620 (1995)) and an error in improperly admitting evidence is considered “harmless” under BR 5.1(b) unless it denies the accused lawyer of a fair hearing altogether.

Summing Up

Review at the Supreme Court is de novo under BR 10.6 and includes a full briefing schedule under BR 10.5(c). But, for lawyers whose reputations or livelihoods are on the line, the one hour before the red light goes on stands in stark contrast to the way they handle cases every day in Oregon courts.

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Network Today, Prosper Tomorrow

An Interview with Walt Karnstein

by Traci Ray & Ayla Geller
Barran Liebman LLP

Paddy's, the scene of Walt Karnstein's first MBA YLS event in 1991, is where we currently sit sipping some of Portland's finest craft ales and talking about the importance of getting involved. Walt's story is one of a naturally shy man who recognized the power and importance of putting himself out there, and did just that, becoming a long-term leader and visionary for the MBA and the ABA.

Currently in-house counsel for Hewlett Packard, Walt recognized early on that building the career he hoped for would require not only hard work, but also learning how to market himself and build professional contacts. A self-proclaimed introvert, he knew he would have to "learn to communicate or die," and learn to communicate he did. After studying abroad in Germany, (without knowing a word of German), Walt graduated from Northwestern University a different person, a person ready to build the relationships it would take to fulfill his goals. Well-seasoned after his time in Europe and ready for his next adventure, Walt applied to Willamette Law School, heeding the timeless call of the Wild West and ready to start a new chapter in Oregon.

After law school, Walt turned down offers in many of America's top cities to remain in his adopted home, taking a position with Kolisch Hartwell, where he would remain for the

next 20 years. It didn't take him long to recognize the importance of self-marketing in the legal profession. He attended his first MBA YLS meeting in 1991, less than a year after graduating from law school, and from then on his commitment to the organization was unwavering. In 1992, Walt joined the YLS Board, resulting in an opportunity to attend an ABA meeting the following year. He was immediately hooked, sharing ideas, meeting new people, making contacts on a national level. The once-shy guy became a regular at ABA meetings. It wasn't long before his commitments had expanded and he was chairing the New Lawyers Division of the OSB.

Through his various leadership roles, Walt attended a national meeting regarding the future of the practice of law. It was attended by law firm leaders, many of whom encouraged Walt to set his sights on a similar position within his own firm. Walt did just that, and soon took management responsibility for the finances of his firm. Sticking with what had worked in the past, Walt joined the Law Practice Management (LPM) section of the ABA. He became chair of the LPM section in 2008, and after serving as LPM Chair, took on the role of LPM Finance Officer, which he has held for the past five years. In 2009, Walt, who was a partner at Kolisch Hartwell, came face-to-face with one of the greatest challenges of

law firm management. A lack of work due to the recession meant that his firm would have to retract in size, so he had to have hard conversations with many at his firm. While he otherwise loved the management role, he found that aspect to be quite stressful and began to consider his next move.

Walt made the move in-house, joining Hewlett Packard. He quickly found ample opportunities for leadership and management, while enjoying opportunities to travel and work with people all over the world. His experiences and the skills he had developed in his various roles with the ABA, OSB, and MBA made him ideally suited to building the lasting relationships HP desired. Walt describes HP as a meritocracy, with clear, measurable goals and less conflict than practicing in a firm setting.

Walt's work with the ABA has taken him to 40 states, and on his own time he has managed to check off the other 10. When asked for his advice for young lawyers, he said, "have a plan for your entire career ... and then be willing to change it based on circumstances." A combination of flexibility, vision, and a steady emphasis on building and maintaining networks has helped Walt reach his goals. He credits the bar with providing ample opportunity to build a network for the future, not just tomorrow, and he remains open to what's yet to come.

Traci Ray is the MBA YLS President and Executive Director at Barran Liebman LLP. Ayla Geller is a 3L at Northeastern School of Law in Boston, MA, and currently interning with Barran Liebman LLP.

Pro Bono Spotlight

Continued from page 12

their constitutional rights and, if those rights have been violated, obtaining available remedies. Darin's depth of constitutional law knowledge has impacted not only the lives of the individuals involved in the cases on which he has worked, but also on the lives of students. As a coach to the Lincoln High School constitution team, Darin spends hundreds of hours during the academic year and summer months, teaching students about constitutional law and preparing them for state and national level competitions. In fact, this year, Darin helped lead the Lincoln High School team to victory in the national "We the People" competition! The way in which Darin Sands has donated his legal expertise and time to his community is exemplary and, as such, deserving of the spotlight.

Free Event Publicity

When the MBA's most recent website launched, it included a unique feature: the ability for law-related organizations and nonprofits to add their social events to the MBA online calendar.

The idea behind the MBA offering other organizations the ability to access our online calendar was to create **one** site where all law-related events could be listed to help prevent conflicts.

Please consider adding your social events to the MBA online calendar at the following link: mbabar.org/Calendar/SubmitAnEvent.html. Or, you may contact the MBA by emailing us at mba@mbabar.org to add your item to our online calendar.



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Downtown Portland

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Positions

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Martin Bischoff et al

A mid-size AV-rated downtown Portland law firm is looking for a litigation associate with two or more years of experience, excellent writing skills, and outstanding academic credentials (top 25% of law class). Oregon Bar membership required. Washington Bar membership a plus. Please submit a cover letter, resume and writing sample to Office Manager, Martin, Bischoff, Templeton, Langslet & Hoffman, LLP, 888 SW 5th Ave. Ste. 900, Portland OR 97204 or email to adarling@martinbischoff.com.

Tips From the Bench

Continued from page 10

- The sign-up process is not immediate. Administrators will send a request for information and a Terms of Use agreement form which must be completed and returned. Lawyers in a particular case can access documents for that case for a period of time through eFile & Serve, but will need to subscribe to OJCIN for ongoing online access. Public terminals are available at the courthouse.
- By now, you might be wondering about the **privacy** implications. Online access to documents is restricted in confidential case types such as juvenile dependency and delinquency, civil commitment, and cases subject to the federal Violence Against Women Act. Documents sealed or designated as confidential are also restricted. To gain access to restricted documents, you will need to submit a request for access and a completed OJCIN Restricted Access Agreement to OJD and receive approval. Additionally, confidential case types will not be viewable in the public calendars, but attorneys with restricted access can view them on OJCIN.

- This is the dawning of the Age of Odyssey, and there are lots of new details in tow. There's a **new case numbering** system. The two-letter case type will be in the number, but the numbers themselves are just assigned chronologically statewide without following any scheme. There are **no more paper files**. The electronic files are the official court record. Judges are signing paper orders now, but in the future, will sign orders electronically. The court will now send **electronic notices ONLY** to the email address listed in the OSB directory, so make sure your contact information remains updated. If you want others in your office to see electronic notices, you will need to set your email to forward them.
- Here's a big change - **no more combined motions and orders**. All motions and orders need to be submitted separately. Also, **no more confirmation cards** as that rule has been repealed. However, **courtesy copies are still required**. Deliver paper copies to the judge, or by email attachment with advance approval from the judge.
With a little training and preparation, not only will we keep believing, we will embark on our Odyssey Journey "Any Way We Want It," "Faithfully," and with "Open Arms." Bon voyage.



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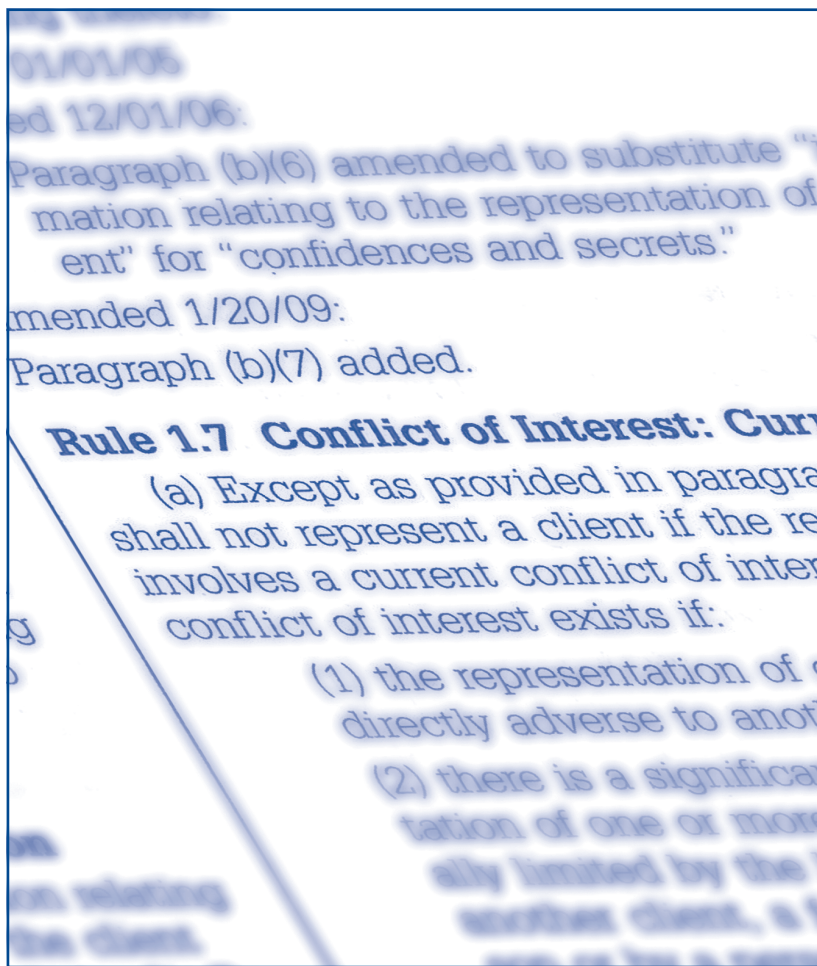
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MBF Grants

Continued from page 4

Red Lodge Legal Services Program received \$500 to fund the civic engagement session in a speaker series pilot project for women incarcerated in Coffee Creek Correctional Facility. The goals of the civic engagement session is to have women, primarily Native American women, voting upon release, civically engaged with a voice in their communities and involved in decision-making conversations.

Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees was granted \$5,000 for its *Voter Education Project*, to promote full immigrant integration, civic participation and voter engagement through monthly classes to newly naturalized citizens. Participants learn about the voting system and receive help registering to vote. MBF funding will also be used to expand and update the curriculum.



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Project, and Changing Lives Forever Project. To learn more about pro bono opportunities in Multnomah County, go to www.mbabar.org and click on "About Us" and "Pro Bono."

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YOUthFILM Project's 8th Annual Filmmaking Competition

by Mary Tollefson

YLS Service to the Public Committee Co-Chair

On May 1, an excited group of student filmmakers along with their teachers and families gathered at the Hollywood Theatre in Portland for the culmination of this year's YOUthFILM Project.

The YOUthFILM Project is an annual student filmmaking contest presented by the YLS Service to the Public Committee as part of Community Law Week. The YOUthFILM Project provides K-12 students with the opportunity to learn about important civic issues while having fun and being creative.

This year's theme was "American Democracy and the Rule of Law: Why Every Vote Matters."

Students from Marysville School submitted the top film, *Influential Events in Voting History*. They explored important events such as the passage of the 15th and 19th Amendments and the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Home-schooled students submitted the second place film, which discussed the women's suffrage movement and students from Self Enhancement Inc. submitted the third place film, in which students

interviewed parents, teachers, and other students about their views on issues surrounding the right to vote.

Oregon Supreme Court Chief Justice Thomas Balmer, and the executive director of City Club of Portland, Sam Adams, both attended as special guests and handed out awards to the filmmakers.

After the screening, everyone enjoyed a social at Columbia River Brewing Company and the students had a chance to talk about their films and celebrate their achievements.

This year's YOUthFILM Project was a great success and we look forward to continued success next year. Please go to theyouthfilmproject.org to see pictures of this year's event.



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