



RESERVE YOUR SPOT NOW!

The WCBA Annual Holiday Party is scheduled for Thursday, December 9, 2010 at 6 p.m. See page 3 for details!



Join the WCBA for a CLE and dinner at The Spaghetti Factory after the board meeting on Wednesday, January 12, from 5:15-6:15 p.m.

The CLE topic is ***Criminal and Civil Strategies in Mortgage Foreclosures in Oregon*** Presented by *Jonathon Groux from the Oregon Department of Justice, Kevin Luby and Elizabeth Lemoine*

The dinner speaker is Judge Kirsten Thompson, whose topic is ***The State of the Courts.***

February's CLE topic is Consumer Law

See page 2 for details on CLE and dinner registration.

WCBA Contacts

President: Sharon Brown, sbrown@oregonlawcenter.org

Treasurer: Brett Knewton, bknewton@yahoo.com

Secretary: Becky Mehringer, becky.mehringer@co.washington.or.us

Immediate Past President: Elizabeth Lemoine, elizlemoine@yahoo.com

Directors:

Arthur Saito, arthur@stahancyk.com

Shelley Fuller, shelley@shelleyfullerlaw.com

Janelle Wipper, janelle.f.wipper@doj.state.or.us

Alex Libmann, alexander.libmann@libertymutual.com

Kevin Luby, kevin@luby.com

Nicholas Heydenrych, nick@shelleyfullerlaw.com

Erik Bucher, erik@buchergreenspan.com

Julie Viner, Administrative Assistant,

wcba.association@frontier.com

Carol Hawkins, Newsletter Editor, wcbaneews@comcast.net

WCBA Newsletter

Washington County Bar Association

PO Box 912

Hillsboro, Oregon 97124

Phone: 503.648.0300

Fax: 503.693.9304

December 2010, Page 1 of 5

Published monthly

Deadline: 20th of preceding month

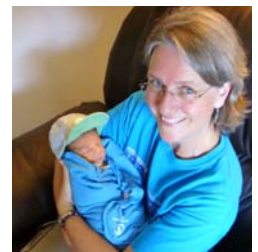
Spotlight on Judge Kirsten E. Thompson Washington County Circuit Court's Newest Presiding Judge!

by Sharon Brown, WCBA President

Effective January 1, 2011, Judge Kirsten E. Thompson will be taking over the role as Presiding Judge. I interviewed her recently in anticipation of this move in her new chambers at 301C (after going on auto-pilot to 108C, and finding to my surprise Judge Erwin's name on the door). From my appearances before her in her court, I knew Judge Thompson to be a disciplined jurist with high expectations for the counsel - and litigants- who appear before her. I feel I know her a little better after our interview, and believe she will be an effective and thoughtful presiding judge for the court. Here are the highlights of our conversation:

Judge Thompson appeared genuinely enthused to be taking on her new role. She told me her decision to seek the Presiding position seemed a natural one when Judge Kohl indicated he would be taking on a new role as president of the Oregon Circuit Court Judges Association. She feels she has a good series of role models for the Presiding position, from Judge Marco Hernandez to Judge Gayle Nachtigal, and most recently Judge Thomas Kohl. She indicated she volunteered when Judge Kohl announced he was stepping down, and no one disagreed with her. She stated her goal during her term will be to make sure the work of the court gets done and everyone stays relatively happy.

One of the most difficult challenges that the court will face during her tenure as presiding will revolve around the recession and budget difficulties that touch every part of her position. With the budget of the courts continually in jeopardy, the courts are being asked to do more with less. She feels this creates a real tension when making decisions. She noted that projections she has heard put the budget deficits continuing for the next decade while the economy recovers, so there won't be an immediate fix to the issue. She also indicated that the record growth of the population in Washington County has not been matched by an increase in the number of judges, making the decisions on how to use the current judicial resources even more difficult.



Continued on page 4

The WCBA uses email to promote its programs and services to members only and does not share its email list with third parties. If you would like to be removed from our email list, please reply to this message with the word "remove" in the subject line.

Classroom Law Project Seeks Volunteer Judges



Be a judge for a day!
Sit behind the bench,
rule on objections, and make a ruling. Sound good?

If so, be a volunteer judge at Classroom Law Project's 25th annual high school mock trial competition. Schools will compete right here in the Washington County Courthouse on **Saturday, February 26**. There are three separate rounds (morning, late morning, early afternoon) so no excuses!

The case is a criminal one - the deceased is locked in a restaurant's cooler and freezes to death. Her partner is accused with the murder. But wait. Could it be the loan shark instead? There was, after all, a gambling problem.

This case will be fun. The students are awesome.

We need volunteer judges in three roles: presiding (trial experience required), observing attorneys (trial experience not required), and observing witnesses (legal experience not required). So you can do this no matter what your trial experience may be.

Contact Elizabeth Lemoine at 503.620.3342 or elizlemoine@yahoo.com for more information or to sign up to be a judge.

Thanks!



Classified advertising rates:

\$20 for the first 50 or fewer words, and \$.50 per word thereafter. Classified ads must be prepaid. To obtain a quote, send the proposed text to wcbanews@comcast.net.

Display advertising rates:

Business card size (2" x 3.5") \$30
1/4 page \$50
1/2 page \$90

Please submit your ad in JPEG format to wcbanews@comcast.net

WCBA Newsletter, page 2 of 5

Have you paid your 2011 WCBA dues? September, 2010 began the new year. The WCBA membership year runs through August, 2011. Dues for 2011 are \$75, and may be paid by contacting Julie Viner, Administrative Assistant, at 503.648.0300.

THE WCBA JANUARY CLE & DINNER MEETING WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2011

CLE 5:15-6:15 p.m.

Criminal and Civil Strategies in Mortgage Foreclosures in Oregon

Presented by Jonathon Groux from the Oregon Department of Justice, Kevin Luby and Elizabeth Lemoine

Cocktails at 6:15 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

The State of the Courts

Presented by Presiding Judge Kirsten Thompson

**Place: The Old Spaghetti Factory
18925 NW Tanasbourne Drive
Hillsboro, Oregon 97124**

Please send your pre-registration form to: Julie Viner, PO Box 912, Hillsboro OR 97123; phone 503.648.0300; fax number 503.693.9304; or via email to wcba.association@frontier.com. Please register by January 7, 2011, so that we will be able to guarantee space.

DINNER COST \$15 (PLEASE CHOOSE AN ITEM)

Dinner Reservation:

Your name: _____

Spaghetti Sampler _____
Spaghetti with Meat Sauce _____
Spaghetti with Marinara _____
Spaghetti with Mazithra Cheese _____
Fettuccini Alfredo _____
Baked Chicken with steamed broccoli _____

CLE Reservation:

Your name: _____

Yes, I will attend the January CLE

Number of attendees: _____
\$15 for members, \$25 for non-members.



Washington County Bar Association 2010 Holiday Dinner

Thursday, December 9, 2010

Appetizers and Cocktails at 6 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Location

Glenn and Viola Walters Cultural Arts Center

527 E Main Street, Hillsboro OR 97123

Catered by Claeys Catering

Dinner includes dessert, coffee and non-alcoholic beverage

All for \$35 per person (includes gratuity!)

Bring that special guest! We'll have presents!

Menu

Roast Tri-Tip of Beef and Roast Turkey Breast Carved to Order

Horseradish and Cranberry Orange Relish on the side

Spinach and Romaine Salad with Cranberries

Crisp Won Ton Strips and Raspberry Vinaigrette dressing

Basket of Rustic Breads and Butter

Yukon Gold Mashed Potatoes with Turkey Gravy

Chocolate Brownie Mousse Cake and Apple Strudel with Fresh Whipped Cream

PLEASE CONTACT JULIE VINER TO RSVP

Please send your reservation and prepayment by

Friday, December 3, 2010 to:

Julie Viner, WCBA, PO Box 912, Hillsboro OR 97123

Phone 503.648.0300 or fax 503.693.9304

Please make checks payable to WCBA

Also you can now pay online through our PAYPAL account at www.wcbabar.org

The eCourt project is a high priority for Judge Thompson, in that she believes the system will be more cost-effective and efficient and bring the courts in line with what is now normal business practice involving the use of Internet resources. The system will involve a change in focus for the courts, from a 'case' focus to a 'person' focus for indexing and maintaining records. She noted that pilot projects were implemented for landlord/tenant and small claims cases in Yamhill County last year, and now exist in four other Oregon Counties - Jefferson, Crook, Jackson and Multnomah Counties. If eCourt progresses as planned it should be fully operational in Oregon within the next five years, and will provide benefits including better communication to self-represented litigants, allow fines and fees to be paid on-line, and eventually electronic filing. She noted that the current OJIN system can generate email notices to attorneys and officers but not to self-represented litigants even though email communication may be more effective than mailing to addresses that may no longer be current.

Judge Thompson also mentioned that the Oregon court system has lost significant resources in the last few years, including staff devoted to creation and maintenance of state court forms. Other court services, such as the Washington County Conciliation Services, are vulnerable to restructuring of court filing fees and the court's ability to waive or defer filing fees in appropriate cases. We discussed how these difficulties affect many facets of the presiding role - administration, budget and finance, human resources, and the like. Judge Thompson was clear in a theme that unified her points - that the courts are in the 'justice' business, and all of the many duties of judges and the courts should be viewed through that lens. In her view, the courts are not in existence to make money or lose money, a balance which requires deliberate planning. Part of her new role will include membership on more committees, including budget committee meetings in Salem, where she will speak for the needs and resources of the Washington County Courts. It's clear this is a duty Judge Thompson views seriously.

Courts are in the *justice* business

Judge Thompson grew up in rural Northern Idaho close to Sandpoint. She is the youngest of seven children, raised primarily by her mother Helen Thompson after her dad, James, passed away when Thompson was two. Judge Thompson's parents were part of the "greatest generation." Her dad served in the Army in WWII, and was a teacher and principal in his work life. He died from a service-related heart condition. Thompson's mother began to work for the US Forest Service after she was widowed, and then worked at the local ski area for a number of years after retiring from the forest service. Her parents instilled in Thompson her life-long passions for horses, skiing, reading, travel, music and family ... not necessarily in that order.

Judge Thompson is the proud parent of four children - a daughter, a son, and two stepsons. She is married to Tom Collins, who shares her passions, except for the horse thing, which he tolerates with good humor. They are both very much enjoying their recent promotion to grand-parenthood, courtesy of grandson Mason.

Judge Thompson attended Whitworth College in Spokane, Washington for her undergraduate degrees in Political Science and Spanish. She moved to Portland after graduation from college and worked for Portland Community College. She considered graduate school in education, but took the law school admissions test instead and ended up attending law school at Lewis & Clark Law School in Portland, graduating in 1984. She reports she was fortunate to serve a year-long law clerkship after graduation with the firm of Kulongoski, Durham, Drummonds & Colombo, a decision which influenced her career path in later years. From there, she worked as a staff attorney with then-Oregon Legal Services in Clackamas County, using her Spanish skills in working with low income clients with civil legal needs, and then worked with Clackamas County Social Services as an emergency services coordinator for migrant and seasonal farm workers. She followed with 11 years in primarily solo private practice, providing family law, personal injury, wills and estates services to clients in English and Spanish. She helped create the Spanish Language Legal Network Directory for Oregon during this time, an enormously helpful guide in this area.

She began serving as a judge pro tempore in Washington County Circuit Courts in July of 2000, handling hearings in landlord/tenant court, small claims, and juvenile court preliminary proceedings. In February of 2002, Governor Kitzhaber appointed her to the Washington County Circuit Court bench to replace retiring Judge Alan Bonebrake. She was elected to the position in 2002, and reelected in 2008. She served in the area of general trial, and the family court team from 2002 through June of 2003, when she moved to juvenile court where she remained until rejoining the family court team in September of 2006. She has served on multiple bench and bar committees, including the Uniform Trial Rules Committee and Juvenile Court Improvement Project. She received awards, including a Blue Ribbon Award from the Citizen's Review Board, a Partner in Education award from the Northwest Regional Education Service District in 2005 for partnering with Northwest Regional ESD's Attendance Officers to help at-risk students successfully re-enter school, the Chief Justice's Juvenile Court Champion award in 2005, and was honored by the Oregon Juvenile Department Director's Association in 2006. She traded Family Law for "Position One" with Judge Erwin in July 2010 to prepare for the move to presiding, including more criminal and administrative matters. Position One includes DUII Diversion, probation violations, traffic matters and jury trials.

I asked Judge Thompson how she thought we as a bar association could assist her in her new role. She indicated that she would like to keep the lines of communication open on issues that are important to the court and members of the bar. She warned that her rule would be "first do no harm," and many problems require consideration and input from all sides. She will be presenting her State of the Court address, an annual event, to the Washington County Bar Association on January 12, 2011 at the monthly meeting.

I appreciated my time with Judge Thompson. Her theme for her new role, for the courts and for us as lawyers by extension, can be stated succinctly - we are all in the justice business together. I look forward to working with her toward that goal.



WASHINGTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION 2011 DUES

The WCBA is a local association of lawyers, serving Washington County practitioners. It provides a forum for the exchange of ideas and for local bar members to voice their views on matters of importance to their everyday practice. Consider the benefits of low-cost membership:

You will receive the *WCBA Newsletter*, which keeps you informed (and sometimes entertained) on updated information from Washington County Judges, various bar committees, monthly CLE Programs, social dinners & activities, the law library, etc. The newsletter is also an excellent and inexpensive place for advertising and classifieds.

- Discount on monthly CLE programs and materials.
- Discount on monthly dinner meetings with speakers or opportunities to express your views and become informed directly from local practitioners.
- Events and committees for relaxation, networking and socializing with your colleagues.
- Leadership opportunities and community service.

Membership Dues: \$75 per year (September 2010 to August 2011)
(Note: new members have this fee waived for the first year!)

Payable to: **Washington County Bar Association**
 PO Box 912
 Hillsboro OR 97124
 Phone: 503.648.0300, Fax:503.693.9304
 *You can also pay by credit card with our new
 PayPal account by visiting our website at www.wcbabar.org

Name: _____ OSB #: _____

Firm: _____

Address: _____

Phone/Fax/Email: _____

One application per attorney, please.

Please return this form* with your payment to the above address and indicate:

_____ New Member Referred by: _____

Renewing Member: _____