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WCBA Newsletter

Washington County Bar Association
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President's Note

by Sharon Brown, WCBA President

Welcome to spring! I hope my saying it will make it evident. Great things are happening, and you will find many of them noted in our newsletter. Our April CLE will teach you everything you want to know about child support guidelines, and our Staff Appreciation Dinner is on April 13 as well - please plan on bringing your staff to dinner for a special treat! You will see we are forming a judicial screening committee to respond to Governor Kitzhaber's request for input in his process to appoint a new circuit judge to Washington County. We will switch up our schedule for this special time, and use our May CLE slot for a time when our bar members can meet and greet the brave souls who put themselves forward as candidates. I wish you all the best that spring can bring!

Join the WCBA for a CLE and the annual Staff Appreciation Dinner at

The Spaghetti Factory after the board meeting on Wednesday, April 13, starting at 5:15 p.m.

The CLE topic is

Child Support Guidelines

Presented by Jean Fogarty of the Oregon Child Support Program

See page 3 for details on CLE and dinner registration.



Washington County Bar Association Asked to Provide Input for Governor Kitzhaber in Circuit Court Appointment

by Sharon Brown, WCBA President

Governor Kitzhaber and his general counsel, Liani Reeves, contacted the Washington County Bar Association in February to request our participation in the selection of Judge Marco Hernandez's replacement and appointment to the Washington County Circuit Court Bench. As the president for 2010-11, I spoke with Ms. Reeves and consulted the board of directors of the bar association at our recent meetings.

Governor Kitzhaber, through Ms. Reeves, let me know that the following would be most helpful to them:

Local involvement can provide valuable information to the Governor in the judicial appointment process. We do not find bar polls or rankings particularly helpful. However, we would find very helpful a thorough review of applicants that includes interviews with each applicant (the Governor's office staff would be happy to sit in on these if invited) and contact with people in the community who are familiar with the qualifications of the candidate, the needs of the court, the needs of the community and

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the needs of the particular bench. Contacts could include references from the application/interest form, current and formal colleagues, leaders of the local bar, and other community members or others that would assist in the review. We would appreciate a summary of qualitative information.

Some of you in the local bar know that I have had both personal and professional experience in this area. I practiced law in Washington State since 1981 before moving to Oregon in 2005. I worked in the juvenile court even before going to law school, and met and admired many of the judges I have worked with over the years. Like most other attorneys, I considered a judicial career, believing that I had talents and patience that would make me a good judge. I served as a judge pro tempore in Washington State for over 20 years on virtually every kind of case and in every Washington trial court that had a branch in the counties I practiced in, was well-liked by the bench and bar, etc. In Washington, both sides must stipulate to a pro tem judge, and I was used frequently by the local court administrator in civil and criminal cases because he knew I was the most likely to be stipulated. I had reputation as fair, had worked in both prosecution and defense, and when two Superior Court judicial vacancies came up I decided it was time to put my name in. I was rated very highly by all processes and came out very well in the local bar poll. I interviewed with Gary Locke (then Washington's Governor and now-Ambassador to China for the Obama administration), was complimented on the interviews ... and came in second. Twice. Sometimes, you just decide it's not meant to be.

So, when you add that to many years of being on committees which screen other applicants and being interested in the process of how we as lawyers help make sure that influence judicial appointments in a positive way, I decided to step up. These are not my proudest moments and I'm only sharing the experience because I think it makes sense that I share my thoughts on the process from the inside and outside, from the applicant and from the outcome. I'm glad I am serving as your president this year in order to accomplish this task, as well.

Your Board of Directors agree with the sense that there are many in our local bar who will want to apply for this appointment, and indeed several of our board members will be putting their own names forward. I've also been monitoring and supportive of prior efforts to encourage applications from across our membership over the past year, by those who have traditionally offered to assist others - John Tyner, Larry Brisbee and Laura Schantz, just to name a few, as we waited and hoped for Judge Hernandez to be confirmed. The board approved the following structure for the committee at our March 9 meeting - the formation of a judicial screening committee with members of the WCBA Board of Directors and

other Washington County attorneys, to reflect a cross-section of the demographics of our bar and a representation of as many of our members in an optimal number of participants. The committee would be formed as soon as possible, and develop a plan to provide an objectively-based and transparent method for rating and comparing the candidates who will bravely put their names forward and provide a report to the Governor to assist him in making the appointment. We know what we do will influence other county bar associations, and we hope it will positively impact the judicial selection process used by Governor Kitzhaber in the future. I believe Washington County doesn't always get the recognition it deserves, and the WCBA has untapped potential waiting to be recognized. I think we have a unique opportunity to raise the reputation and presence of our bar association - and a chance to integrate integrity and transparency in a process that the public views skeptically.

The committee's first meeting was Monday, March 21, and many logistical and scheduling decisions need to be made. I was gratified that all of the suggested members of our committee agreed to serve, with only one exception, who declined for other reasons but was very supportive of our concepts effort. We plan to keep everyone updated on a periodic basis, through our newsletter and otherwise. It will be an intense next few months. The Governor's deadline for applicants was the end of March. My hope is we will consult our local bench and bar for their views, identify and review the criteria for the best judicial appointment for Washington County at this time, and then review candidates on those criteria and make our recommendations to the Governor. If we do that with integrity, transparency and communicate it well, I will be satisfied.



WCBA BOARD NEWS

The Washington County Bar Association Board of Directors is looking for new board members! The Board meets on the second Wednesday at 4 p.m. each month and performs various functions for the Washington County Bar Association, including but not limited to monthly dinner meetings and CLEs, as well as monthly newsletters and maintenance of a website. If you are interested in participating, please contact current WCBA President Sharon Brown at sbrown@oregonlawcenter.org, or any of our current board members (contact information provided on page 1 of the newsletter).

* * *

The Washington County High School Mock Trial Competition was held on February 28 at the Washington County Courthouse. Ten teams from seven area high schools and over 25 local attorney and community member judges participated in the event, as well as several of the Washington County Circuit Court judges. The event was a huge success and we appreciate all who volunteered and participated in it. Teams from Catlin Gabel, Oregon Episcopal School and Sunset High School were the top three teams who went on to compete on behalf of Washington County at the state competition. Congratulations!

* * *

Is there a lawyer in Washington County whom you believe personifies professionalism? Please consider nominating that person for the Washington County Bar Association Professionalism Award, given in June at our annual picnic at Rood Bridge Park. You will receive a separate email stating the criteria and telling you how to nominate that person in the near future.



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

Not a WCBA member? Join us!

**For more information call
Julie Viner at 503.648.0300.**

THE WCBA APRIL CLE & DINNER MEETING

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2011
CLE 5:15 p.m.

CHILD SUPPORT GUIDELINES

Presented by Jean Fogarty
Director of the Oregon Child Support Program

Cocktails at 6 p.m.
Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

**This is the annual staff appreciation dinner;
plan to bring your staff!**

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 April 11 so that we will be able to
guarantee space.

DINNER COST \$15 (PLEASE CHOOSE AN ITEM)

Dinner Reservation

Your name: _____

Dinner food choices:

- Spaghetti Sampler _____
(Mizithra cheese, meat, clam & tomato sauces)
- Spaghetti with Meat Sauce _____
- Spaghetti with Marinara _____
- Spaghetti with Mizithra Cheese _____
- Fettuccini Alfredo _____
- Baked Chicken with steamed broccoli _____

CLE Reservation

Your name: _____

Yes, I will attend the April CLE

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



SAVE THE DATE!

NOVEMBER 4, 2011

CONVOCATION ON EQUALITY

From Diversity to Inclusion: Successes and Next Steps

Nearly 10 years ago, the legal community of Oregon took a leap forward in its efforts to bolster diversity by holding the first Convocation on Equality. The Convocation was sponsored by the Oregon State Bar (OSB), Oregon Women Lawyers (OWLS) and the Multnomah Bar Association (MBA). That collaboration brought together more than one hundred people who wanted to create an environment that fully reflected the diversity of Oregon.

The first Convocation on Equality led to the creation of the OSB Diversity Section; strengthened the support for OSB Affirmative Action strategy, including recruiting and mentoring minority law students; identified best practices to advance law firm diversity; and inspired lawyers to begin working on creating a legal community that represents and supports the community it serves.

As we approach the 10-year anniversary of the first Convocation, it is time to reflect on our accomplishments and to chart the course for the road ahead.

To that end, the Convocation on Equality 2011, *From Diversity to Inclusion: Successes and Next Steps*, is November 4. The day-long event will offer a number of engaging programs and events:

- A keynote address by Starbucks' General Counsel Paula Boggs;
- Programs, panels and other MCLE-accredited opportunities;
- A networking and mentoring event led by Court of Appeals Judge Darleen Ortega;
- A work session for legal employers to develop a "diversity toolkit," a best practices manual to be published after the Convocation;
- An investigative video report addressing important current diversity topics and responding to changes in the legal community;
- A ceremony to recognize community members who have contributed to the advancement of diversity and inclusion efforts in Oregon;
- A forum for diverse legal and community organizations to promote their programs and events.

These programs will be instrumental to the Convocation on Equality in meeting its goal - to engage legal employers, lawyers and law students in discussions that will:

- 1) advance diversity principles in the practice of law;
- 2) promote diverse hiring practices; and
- 3) create a culture of inclusiveness within Oregon's legal community.

The Convocation can be most successful if it addresses the variety of diversity needs that are present throughout the state. We are seeking ideas and input to meet this goal and hope you are able to join in planning and preparations for this landmark event. And of course, we look forward to seeing you on November 4th to help renew Oregon's commitment to diversity in the legal community.

To volunteer or learn more, you can contact diane.sykes@doj.state.or.us.

Additional information can be found at:

<http://convocationonequality.blogspot.com/>

<http://osbdiversity.homestead.com/Events.html>

Find us on Facebook under "Convocation on Equality" to meet fellow attendees and to get updates and announcements.



**Wednesday, May 11, the
WCBA will present a judicial
candidate forum.**

**June 8 is the final meeting
and BBQ.**

**Watch the website and see
the May newsletter for more
details.**