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President's Note

Veterans' Day Volunteers

Recently some of you may have seen an email calling for lawyers and staff to volunteer their services on November 11, Veteran's Day, at the Washington County Courthouse to file paperwork in civil and domestic relations cases. The response to the call for volunteers was immediate and impressive. Within minutes we had the maximum number of volunteers Judge Raines could handle all at once. Ultimately forty-two people offered to help. Among those willing to pitch in were lawyers, a retired lawyer, staff, law students, and paralegals. One office volunteered six people to come down and work. It was an amazing response to the call for help.

Judge Raines supervised and trained the volunteers and I can safely say we did our best to put a dent in the work load. I have a new respect for the staff at the courthouse for all they do. After working we gathered at the Venetian where Judge Raines was kind enough to personally treat us all to lunch. When



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WCBA Newsletter

Washington County Bar Association

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December 2011, Page 1 of 6

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Deadline: 20th of preceding month

I asked Judge Raines how he ended up in charge of the volunteers, he said he saw a problem and thought this was a way to help fix it. Washington County already uses numerous volunteer pro tem judges who hear landlord tenant cases, small claims and some contested restraining order cases.

I believe all of us have a responsibility to do our part to protect access to justice. If that means we volunteer to file paperwork on occasion, then that's what we will do. Before Veteran's Day, I already felt privileged to be a member of the Washington County Bar Association. Now, after seeing how many people were willing to give their time to help our court system I am hopeful too.

Thanks go to Lindsey Widmer, Leslea Smith, Rebecca Guptill, Amy Velazquez, Michael Fearl, Ruth Peckelder, April Schopmann and Helen Dillon who all showed up to file papers. Thank you also to those who offered to come in and volunteer, Tina Izen, Robert M. (Kim) Lusk, Pam Webster, Debbie A. Fuller, Marie Wolf Marr, Joanna (Joanie) L. Scott, Alicia M. Montoya, V. Elizabeth McCampbell, Ann Fisher, Kathy Hall, Benjamin Evans, Kirsten Stensland, Cecelia Nguyen, Edward McGlone, Matthew McKean, Jayme Chunard, George Gilbert, Don Whittemore, Katrina Ling, Ken McNeill, Amy Roffman, Teri Powers, Glen Mark, Samantha Hazel, Adam Thayne, Shawn Kollie, Jennie Fremont (Dick Ginsberg's office), Mary Harris (ret.), Lynn Sabatini, Sara Hortenstine and Janet Vandyke (Brisbee Stockton), Cindy Armony, and Erin Fitzgerald. Please forgive me if I inadvertently left anyone out. Once we nine were done with the work we signed up to do, Judge Raines headed back to the courthouse to work some more.

Holiday Dinner

The Washington County Bar Association Holiday Dinner is December 14, at the Glen and Viola Walters Cultural Arts Center. See the enclosed flier for more information. This is the same place we had the dinner last year. While last year was the first time I attended the holiday dinner, I have heard stories of a past holiday dinner that was in a freezing cold location. As someone who hates to be cold, I assure anyone considering attending that this location is very comfortable with lots of parking. See page 3 for more information.

Continued on page 2

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.

THE WCBA CLE & DINNER MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11
CLE, 5:15 p.m.

REPRESENTING CHILDREN Presented by Laura Schantz

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

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.

You can now also pay online on our website,
wcbabar.org using PayPal.

Please register by November 7th 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 November CLE

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

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Call for News

We would like to be able to print a regular feature of news, changes and moves in our association. If you are moving to a new job, adding to your family, or have other interesting news about your practice and life here in Washington County, please let us know. Submissions should be made no later than the 20th of the month.

Email us at wcba.association@frontier.com or washingtoncountybarnews@gmail.com.

Be sure to include your contact information in case we have questions.

Thanks for reading and Happy Holidays.

Sincerely,

Kathy Proctor



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: washingtoncountybarnews@gmail.com.

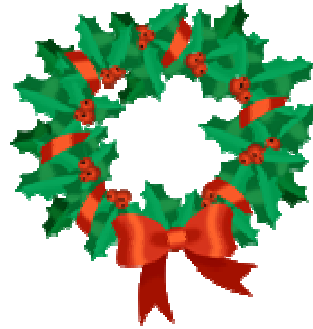
Display advertising rates:

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

Please submit your ad in JPEG format to:
washingtoncountybarnews@gmail.com.



WASHINGTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION 2011 HOLIDAY DINNER



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2011

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

Glenn and Viola Walters Cultural Arts Center
527 E Main St, 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 now 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
You may also now pay online through our PAYPAL account at www.wcbabar.org.

POINT-COUNTERPOINT MANDATORY CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION?

CON

I understand and fully support the concept of continuing legal education. Advances (and regressions) in various legal disciplines occur so rapidly that it is difficult for most lawyers to keep fully up to date on all aspects of their practice. Of course, it may be somewhat easier for specialists but even for those that specialize on only one or two areas of the law, there are always others attorneys and professionals that have new ideas that may improve an attorney's ability to serve his or her client. That being said, there is a significant difference between voluntary continuing education and mandatory continuing education.

The Oregon State Bar, in its infinite wisdom, requires each practicing attorney to attend 45 hours of continuing education on legal issues of his/her own personal interest, together with five hours of legal ethics, one hour on child abuse reporting, and one hour of Access to Justice. Granted this has to be done over a three year period but the question remains - why? Not why should lawyers attend and participate in continuing legal education but why should we be required to do so.

To suggest that the vast majority of attorneys don't make a concerted effort to stay current in their fields of expertise is insulting. To suggest that an attorney can only remain current by attending seminars is myopic. The fact is that most attorneys that I know are constantly working to stay current. Rarely do I have two or more clients with identical issues. Accordingly, I have to research current case law, statutes and regulations for almost each new matter I undertake. Further, I regularly read the Advance Sheets to determine how the appellate courts have impacted the areas of law in which I toil? Reading the monthly Bar *Bulletin*, as well as various other periodicals also allows me to continue to educate myself. I consult with other lawyers to confirm my analysis or to inquire as to whether I might be missing something. By doing all of this, am I not engaging in continuing legal education?

I certainly find the various CLE presentations promoted by the Bar, the Oregon Law Institute and various other provides to be of assistance. If I learn of a program that I believe would be helpful to me in my career, I attend it. I do this because I strive to excel at my profession and to be able to best serve my clients. I don't have to be told that I have to go, I just do.

The Bar, by setting an arbitrary minimum number of credits that I need every three years, merely promotes my attendance at seminars that are of no benefit to me. I recently attended a seminar by the Hon. Rita Batz Cobb on probate practice in Washington County. Judge Cobb was well-prepared and her presentation was of assistance to those with a probate practice in Washington County. Unfortunately for me, I don't practice probate law. So why did I attend? The answer is because

this is a reporting year for me.

We're all familiar with the old saying about how you can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink. Think of this at the next seminar that you attend and look to see who is actively listening to the presenter (s) and who is reading the paper, working on their laptops or, God forbid, even taking a nap. Requiring attorneys to attend continuing legal education is nothing more than a public relations ploy to curry favor with the general public and encourage them to have confidence in the legal profession as a whole. I prefer to encourage my clients to have confidence in me by working hard and obtaining the best results rather than just posturing. For those attorney who don't regularly educate themselves, they will fail and, using Darwinian terms, the fittest shall survive.

I would love to be able to say that all attorneys want to stay abreast of developments in the law, especially in the areas in which they practice, but that would not be accurate.



PRO

The benefits of CLEs are well known: It's a chance to brush up on changes in the law, to hear what members of the bench are thinking about, and to crib for catchphrases that perpetuate the illusion that you know what you're doing.

These benefits are not the reason why the bar requires 15 hours of CLE credits per year. If the bar were concerned about how its members practice law there would be far less conferences and far more interventions.

The real reason the bar requires attorneys to crawl out of their shells and into the sunlight for a whopping 15 hours a year is very similar to the reason why one takes one's dog to the dog park.

Our Bar leadership is well aware of the fact that the practice of law attracts people who are coldly analytical, conflict-driven, and basically ill-mannered. The inherent character of our profession lends itself to an antisocial, grumpy disposition, and a gruff combative approach to problem solving. The Bar knows that most lawyers don't like to socialize unless paid to do so or required by law. Guess which option they chose.

The problem with these inherent character traits is that they affect the entire legal community, not just the individual lawyer. If it were merely a matter of individual success or failure, we could just as easily say let all lawyers determine their own individual level of success. However, the data does not support this idea. Scientists studying lawyers in the wild have determined that, if left to their own devices, lawyers will live in caves, go blind, and eat their young. This behavior is not good for the long term success of our species.

So here's the pitch: The Oregon Bar loves you and wants to see the profession continue to grow. The Bar is concerned about your vitamin D deficiency and your general lack of social skills and hygiene. And since

Continued from page 4

the bar can't afford to pay you to go outside they're doing the next best thing by making it a licensure requirement.

Now I know that many of you are preparing briefs arguing that forcing lawyers to mingle with each other for 15 hours a year is a cruel, excessive, and unusual punishment. You can stop briefing. You don't have to pay attention to what the lecturers are saying. You can sit back, read the paper, or take a nap. This is mostly about you leaving the office, holding a door open for someone, and maybe meeting another attorney who you can play nicely with. If some knowledge accidentally seeps in, consider it a bonus. The main thing is that you are out there.

For those of you who are saying "This is a stupid argument, I don't need to socialize with other lawyers. I'll just attend online or check out materials from the library." Yeah, this rule was written for you. So here's the pitch: The Oregon Bar loves you and wants to see the profession continue to grow. The Bar is concerned about your vitamin D deficiency and your general lack of social skills and hygiene. And since the bar can't afford to pay you to go outside they're doing the next best thing by making it a licensure requirement.

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Editor's note: Point-Counterpoint is a new feature we would like to include again in future newsletters. We and our anonymous authors hope to inspire further discussion. If you would like to comment on this month's Point-Counterpoint, please forward your commentary to wcba.association@frontier.com.

LAW LIBRARY NEWS

Washington County Law Library
111 NE Lincoln, Hillsboro OR 97124
Phone: 503.846.8880

Email: lawlibrary@co.washington.or.us

Website: <http://www.co.washington.or.us/LawLibrary/>

LAW LIBRARY BOOK DROP-OFF at BEAVERTON CITY

LIBRARY: You can drop off your Washington County Law Library books at the Beaverton City Library. We're adding other public library drop-off sites in early 2012. Ask for a return-envelope at the Law Library reception desk.

NOT EVERYTHING IS ONLINE: Please contact the Law Library staff if you can't find the document you need.

LEGAL RESEARCH PRACTICE TIP: HeinOnline is free to any Washington County public library (WCCLS) cardholder. Log onto <http://www.wccls.org/>, click on "Online Resources," select the *Government and Law* database option, and follow the HeinOnline log-on instructions.

CONFERENCE ROOMS AND MEETING SPACE: The Washington County Law Library conference room can seat 10-12 people; attorneys may reserve the room for no charge. Do you need meeting space in Roseburg, Seattle, or even Austin, Texas? Contact local public law libraries when looking for inexpensive (or even free) meeting space for small groups.

LAW LIBRARY BUDGET CUTS: Oregon county law libraries are no longer funded from their respective county's Circuit Court litigant filing fees. Filing fees are still collected from county Circuit Court litigants, but those fees are now sent to the State General Fund instead of being kept in the county. (The Trial Court Administrator and Presiding Judge can provide specific information on how filing fee revenues are collected and distributed.)

The 2011 Oregon Legislature appropriated money for county law libraries and the Chief Justice decided how to distribute the funds among the county law libraries.

Counties and county law librarians will be subject to a Ways & Means appropriations process each legislative session. (Preparing for this will take away from time Law Library staff members spend on services, programming, and outreach.)

The July 1 revenue reduction to the Washington County Law Library was 14.4%. We have revised our budget accordingly. The next budget cut will be made in early 2012 or, we've been told, the Legislature could eliminate county law libraries entirely. (Note: county mediation/conciliation programs are in the same situation.)

The Law Librarian reports to the WCBA Law Library Advisory Committee (LLAC) on a regular basis and publishes a LLAC Quarterly Report, which will soon be available on the Law Library's website.

Note: All state and local government budgets have been cut and will continue being cut, including major staffing cuts in the courts. Washington County residents can tell their state and county elected representatives which public services should be funded.



WASHINGTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION 2012 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 and 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 2011 to August 2012)

(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 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: _____