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Washington County Bar Association

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After practicing for 32 years in Washington County, I will retire and close my law practice effective December 31, 2010.

I want to express my thanks to all the lawyers, judges and courthouse personnel for their professional courtesies, assistance and many kindnesses over the years.

R. CRAIG HINDLEY, LLC

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 members gathered to celebrate the holidays on Thursday, December 9 at the Glenn & Viola Walters Cultural Center in downtown Hillsboro.

The food was by Claeys Catering.

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THE CAMPAIGN FOR EQUAL JUSTICE A TRADITION OF INVESTING IN ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN OREGON

*Article Submitted by Sharon M. Brown, WCBA President
2010-11, with a lot of help from my friends*

As many of you know, I have worked with legal aid in Oregon for the past six years, first as a Supervising Attorney in the Hillsboro Regional Office of Legal Aid Services of Oregon from 2005 through 2010, and beginning in January of 2010 as the Statewide Pro Bono Program Manager for the Oregon Law Center. I had been involved in pro bono programs in the State of Washington where I practiced law for the preceding twenty-five years, but it wasn't until I started work with Legal Aid that I really understood the multitude of unique legal problems that face low income people. I learned the legal problems of this population often interfere with their ability to meet basic human needs of health and safety. For example, a catastrophic illness for a person without health insurance often results in unpaid bills referred to collection. This in turn affects that person's credit report, affecting their ability to securing housing through renting an apartment or applying for a home loan. A loss of employment and a denial of unemployment benefits can result in homelessness. These stories and more like them affect Oregonians every day, and you can review more at the Campaign for Equal Justice's website <http://www.cej-oregon.org/clients.php>.

One of the most difficult things I had to learn as a legal aid lawyer was that we have resources to meet less than 20% of the civil legal needs of the poor in Oregon. While the number of people in poverty is increasing, the resources that traditionally support legal aid are shrinking. For example, income from IOLTA funds has decreased by over 30% during the economic downturn. There are current proposals to reduce revenue from filing fees that help to fund legal aid services. At our WCBA Christmas party earlier this month, Larry Brisbee noted the dramatic increases of people living in poverty in Washington County as well as statewide in Oregon. He simply and elegantly described the need for lawyers in this county to step up and help in this cause. He passed out envelopes to those present, to make contributing simple. Matt Kehoe, Larry's co-chair of our local campaign committee, noted recently that contributing to the Campaign is important to ensure that all Oregonians have access to justice, to help keep people from being deprived of legal help that levels the "playing field" in court.

Leslea Smith, Regional Director of the Hillsboro Legal Aid office, spoke earlier this year at the September Washington County Bar Association CLE about the legal needs in Washington County. She noted the growth in the county over the past few years, accompanied by an even faster growth in the poverty population. For example, Washington County families applying for food stamps (SNAP) increased by 34% between March 2009

and March 2010. The number of families applying for temporary assistance to needy families (TANF) in Washington County increased by 16% between March 2009 and March 2010. People who qualify for SNAP and TANF benefits are also income eligible for legal aid. Legal aid lawyers are seeing dramatic increases in the incidence and severity of domestic violence as well as increases in unemployment and housing issues being faced by their clients. The Hillsboro office sees the demand for services exceeding the staff and resources she has to meet those needs. The office relies on funding from sources including the Campaign.

As lawyers, we have a better understanding than most of how solving legal problems can change people's lives. We also have the unique perspective to appreciate how a lawyer's skills can be used to effectively help low income Oregonians. As Governor Kulongoski stated in his remarks to the American College of Trial Lawyers at Salishan on July 26, 2010, "[E]nsuring access to equal justice is absolutely critical to our society's future. It is the best insurance - really, the only insurance we have against the rule of law becoming a privilege for some instead of a right for all."

We have a unique opportunity to help meet the legal needs of the poor through the Campaign for Equal Justice. Please take a few minutes and consider the information in this article, and donate to support this worthy effort. Your gift, big or small, is needed and appreciated. You can donate online at the Campaign's website, <http://www.cej-oregon.org/donationform.php>.

INFORMATION ABOUT

THE CAMPAIGN FOR EQUAL JUSTICE MISSION

The Campaign for Equal Justice ("CEJ") was established in 1991 by Oregon lawyers with the mission of ensuring that equal access to justice becomes a reality for all Oregonians. CEJ supports 100 legal aid attorneys in 19 communities. CEJ accomplishes its mission by:

- Operating an Annual Fund Drive with the help of 200 volunteer lawyers;
- Educating lawyers and the community about the importance of access to justice and how legal services are delivered in Oregon;
- Working with lawyer volunteers and bar organizations to increase state and federal funding for legal aid;
- Assisting legal aid programs in increasing revenue through foundation support; and
- Operating an Endowment to preserve the future of legal aid.

Since 1991, the Oregon legal community has helped the Campaign raise more than \$17 million for legal aid. Despite the tremendous efforts of our volunteers and contributors, we still meet less than 20% of the legitimate legal needs of Oregon's poor. With your help, we can do better than 20%.

WHO IS HELPED?

Oregon legal aid programs assist low-income Oregonians all across the state. Legal aid represents people with high priority needs—food, shelter, medical care, income maintenance and safety from harm. About forty percent of our work is in family law, usually helping victims of domestic violence.

TWENTY PERCENT IS NOT ENOUGH; THE NEED IS GREAT

There are now nearly 800,000 low-income Oregonians eligible for legal aid services. The need has increased under pressure from a weak economy. Legal aid is only able to serve less than 20 percent of low-income Oregonians’ legal needs.

Your Investment Helps To:

- Provide direct legal assistance to 20,000 individuals and families each year;
- Assist thousands of individuals with self help materials, classes and websites;
- Connect private lawyers and low-income clients through legal aid’s many pro bono programs; and
- Secure public funding and foundation support to help maintain the integrity of our justice system.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN PEOPLE'S LIVES

Oregon legal aid programs assist low-income Oregonians all across the state. Legal aid represents people with high priority needs—food, shelter, medical care, income maintenance and safety from harm. About forty percent of our work is in family law, usually helping victims of domestic violence. Here are some brief snapshots of people we assisted this year.



Helping When Disaster Strikes
 Bend legal aid helped Michael and his family when they lost everything in Hurricane Katrina. Trying to start over in Central Oregon, Michael was penalized by the IRS for unpaid taxes. Legal aid helped him amend his tax return to fully describe the family’s hurricane losses. Instead of

penalties, the family received a refund.

Giving Hope, Opening Doors

Fatima lived with violence every day. Physically assaulted and held prisoner in an arranged marriage, she saved up quarters from the laundry money and made a plan for herself and her baby son. The day Fatima was

able to escape, she took a bus to Immigration Services in Portland. Officials there referred her to legal aid. Legal aid staff helped Fatima obtain a divorce and get custody of her child. Today she is a Certified Nursing Assistant and she is studying to be a Registered Nurse.

Preventing Homelessness

Charles, a developmentally delayed senior, almost lost his childhood home, the only place he had ever lived. When his parents passed away, Charles couldn’t afford the property taxes or the liens left by his parents’ medical bills. Legal aid was able to help. They filed a small estate affidavit, secured quitclaim deeds from his siblings, and negotiated with the estate’s creditors. The creditors withdrew their claims. With the house now in his name, Charles is able to qualify for a tax deferral.



Protecting Children

Anna could see that her son Juan was in danger. His father was abusive to Anna and, when he was drinking, he was abusive and neglectful towards Juan. Legal aid helped Anna get an order requiring supervised parenting time. When Juan’s father attacked the supervisor, legal aid helped end the father’s parenting time.



ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN OREGON

Oregon's legal services programs have offices in 19 communities statewide. Statewide programs include the Native American Program, the Farmworker Project, and the Community Development Law Center.



Last year alone, legal services programs directly served over 20,000 low-income clients. Thousands more were helped through pro se materials, self-help programs and pro bono assistance.

Nearly 800,000 low-income and elderly Oregonians qualify for the services of Oregon's 100 legal aid attorneys; that's one attorney for every 8,000 persons. For the general population there is one attorney for every 340 persons.

According to the Oregon Legal Needs Study completed in 2000, more than 80% of the legal needs of low to moderate income Oregonians are going unserved each year. A recent survey completed by Legal Aid Services of Oregon shows that this unmet need has only increased in the last five years.

Legal services representation is limited to high-priority needs: food, shelter, medical care, income maintenance and physical safety. About 40% of the cases are family law cases, usually helping the victims of domestic violence to obtain and enforce restraining orders and create a stable home environment for their children. Recent studies have shown that access to legal services is essential in the process of ending domestic abuse.

A [statewide legal needs study](#)* found that 70% of respondents who were represented by a legal aid attorney had a favorable view of the legal system, even when the issue was not resolved in their favor. Of respondents who did not have access to legal counsel, 75% had an unfavorable view of the legal system.

*[2000 Legal Needs Study](#) sponsored by the Oregon State Bar, Oregon Judicial Department and the Office of the Governor.



Hillsboro Legal Aid Services of Oregon staff members - back row, l to r: Ellen Johnson, Maria Sias, Rebeca Lopez, Heather Kemper, MariaElena Santaella, Lynda Bevier, Diane Henderson; front row, l to r: Trena Klohe, Debra Dority, Mike Pijanowski, Leslea Smith. Not pictured: Lisa Lam, Jon Strauhal. The Hillsboro Regional Office will become part of the Oregon Law Center on January 1, 2011. Their new telephone numbers are: 503.640.4115, toll free 1.877.296.4076.

A CALL TO ACTION

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP LEGAL AID IN WASHINGTON COUNTY & THE STATE OF OREGON

Understand how funding for legal aid works and support increased funding on both the state and federal level. Supporting access to justice is a bipartisan cause.

- Put your lawyer trust account funds with a "Leadership Bank." These banks are committed to maximizing the rate of return on IOLTA accounts. The interest from these accounts is distributed by the [Oregon Law Foundation](#). Contact the OLF to locate the Leadership Banks in your community.
- Do pro bono work through your local legal aid office. Contact your local office. Some offices provide direct referrals, others use pro bono lawyers to assist in case screening. Remember that the offices are stretched and that administering pro bono programs takes office resources. Please be patient.
- Sign up to [receive a weekly email](#) with available pro bono cases. Right now the list serves the Portland Metro area and Central Oregon. Expansion plans are in the works.
- Give generously to the Campaign for Equal Justice. The best way to increase access is to create more legal aid staff attorney positions.
- Include the Endowment Fund in your estate plan. Gifts and bequests to the Endowment Fund will grow to be a source of perpetual, stable support for Oregon's legal programs and a lasting legacy for donors. For more information contact [Sandy Hansberger](#).
- Understand how legal services are delivered in your community so that you can make appropriate referrals for low-income clients.
- Become involved in your local legal aid offices' priority setting. Periodically, your local office seeks input on the legal needs of the low-income client community and the priority of these legal needs.
- Take a legal aid lawyer to lunch. No kidding. Get to know the lawyers and their work. Besides, it would be a really nice thing to do.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

The Clackamas County Office of County Counsel is recruiting for an experienced litigation attorney to prosecute, defend, appeal and negotiate civil lawsuits and other legal proceedings for the County in the position of Senior Legal Counsel. This position is the chief litigator for the County and has the responsibilities for civil litigation, risk management, and condemnation.

Please look for the complete Job Posting online at: <http://www.clackamas.us/>. You must apply online to be considered. Please call Anthony Cesario, HR Analyst, at 503.742.548 for more information.

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 wcb.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.

**Congratulations to
Jeffrey Matthews,**

*selected as The American Trial
Lawyers Association 2010 Top 100
Trial Lawyers in Oregon. Jeffrey
Matthews is one of only three Family
Law Attorneys in Oregon to have
been included in this esteemed group.*



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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

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!



Congratulations to Michael A. Yates,
named by Best Lawyers, the oldest and most respected legal peer-review publication, as the
2011 Family Lawyer of the Year for Portland, Oregon.



Family Law - Portland, OR



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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: _____