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WCBA Newsletter

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President's Note

by Sharon Brown, WCBA President

Welcome to the Washington County Bar Association's June newsletter! Remember that June 8 is our annual picnic and we will be presenting a professionalism award at the picnic. As usual, our June 8 meeting will be our last monthly meeting until fall, when president-elect turned president Janelle Wipper will be taking over the reins of this august organization. I will remain on the board of directors as immediate past president. We welcome three newly-elected members at large, as well. I hope you enjoy your summer and look forward to seeing you at the picnic on the 8th!

Join the WCBA for a picnic and presentation of the Professionalism Award to PamYee on Wednesday, June 8 at Rood Bridge Park in Hillsboro. See page 3 for details.

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Judge Marco Hernandez
by Arthur Saito

In February of 2011, Judge Marco Hernandez transitioned to his role as Oregon's newest Federal District Court Judge. At age 53, he has maintained his candor, thoughtful poise, and commitment to promoting the public interest. This transition is the latest in a series of transitions that have marked his remarkable life and professional career.



The third of seven children, Hernandez was born in the small town of Nogales, Arizona. At the age of five, his family moved to the San Fernando Valley during California's economic boom in the 1960s. In 1975, after finishing high school, he moved to Oregon. "I had passed through Oregon on my way to the 1974 World's Fair in Spokane and had a friend here," recalls Hernandez, "I wanted someplace different."

Hernandez continued his education after leaving California, starting with night courses through Portland Community College. He graduated from Western Oregon State College in 1983 with a B.A. in political science. In 1986, he received his J.D. from the University of Washington School of Law.

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Hernandez's first legal position was with Oregon Legal Services in Hillsboro, where he clerked during his second and third years of law school. His desire to practice public interest law stemmed from his experiences working with migrant families while employed with the Hillsboro School District as an instructional aid. As an attorney with Oregon Legal Services, he collectively represented migrant workers in employment, wage, and housing actions. "The work was very satisfying because of the compelling nature and abusive circumstances of the cases we took on," states Hernandez.

In 1989, Hernandez joined the Washington County District Attorneys Office. Despite a rigorous caseload, Hernandez recalls enjoying the closeness of the courthouse environment. "It was a great place to work and a lot of fun," he adds. After his appointment to the Washington County Circuit Court bench in 1995, this familiarity eased, in part, the transition to his new role as a circuit court judge. "I already knew my staff, the judges, and the attorneys," he says with a smile. One of his proudest moments in his career came in 2002, when he was made presiding judge at the courthouse.

Despite enjoying bipartisan support under two presidential administrations, Judge Hernandez's appointment process ultimately required a waiting period of almost three years. All good things, however, are worth waiting for.

In his chambers on the fourteenth floor of the Federal District Courthouse in Portland, Judge Hernandez describes his current caseload as a mixture of the familiar and the new. On one hand, there are the criminal cases, employment cases, and personal injury matters. On the other hand, there are the admiralty cases, the Social Security matters, and the possibility of traveling to other states to assist in appellate matters. "I love being a trial judge," states Judge Hernandez, "but operating at the federal level is very similar to operating a law firm - we have judicial meetings every other week, there are hiring responsibilities, and cases are individually docketed."

What will he miss most about working in Washington County? Naturally the people: his judicial colleagues, his former assistants, and everyone associated with a court he has known for over two decades.

Note: Biographical information regarding Judge Hernandez is available online. However, not all of this information is correct. For an in depth biographical article, please see the March 3, 2011 on line edition of El Hispanic News at www.elhispanicnews.com.



Professionalism Award Recipient Pam Yee by Brett Knewtson



I have known Pam Yee for as long as I have been practicing and she has always run an ethical and professional shop. But what sets her apart from the other great lawyers is the additional efforts she has made in improving practice resources such as rewriting and updating the garnishment chapter of the OSB bar creditor's book, teaching CLEs, serving as a pro tem in WA County small claims court and taking practice questions from people like myself.

She has also participates extensively in OSB leadership roles. She has been on the Local Professional Responsibilities Committee for four years. She then began serving on the Region 4 Disciplinary Board on 7/20/1998 and her current term expires 12/31/2012. She served as a HOD delegate for five years. She participated in the OSB Consumer law section executive committee as Treasurer, Secretary, and Chair and member over six years.

She is on two other bar committees - currently on the Access to Justice Advisory Committee and was on the committee that reviewed and did a rewrite of the ethical rule about advertising that the BOG shot down.

She participates in non-legal volunteer organizations as well, sitting on the Washington County Sheriff Office Foundation Board (which awards funds to projects like search & rescue, K-9 patrols & shows, SKID presentations (Stop Kids Intoxicating Driving), Elder Safe (tracking bracelets for Alzheimer patients), Buddy Bears, Safety Fairs, etc. She is also on the Enhanced Sheriff Patrol District board which is a group of citizens and business people in the ESPD area (like Aloha, Bethany, etc - those areas not in cities and don't have their own police agency) to give input to the sheriff for problems, issues to address, etc. She is on the board of Youth Building Green, a nonprofit that works with troubled or problem teens and teaches them how to build with recycled materials, solar, etc. And for her fun board, she just finished a 5th year of being either secretary or treasurer for Women For Winesense, a national organization that meets monthly to learn about wine, growing, food & wine pairing, health benefits, etc.

Pam is a great lawyer and she has done a lot for our local legal community. It is important for experienced and learned lawyers in our legal community to share their knowledge and Pam Yee has done so.

THE WCBA ANNUAL BARBEQUE BRING THE FAMILY!

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ROOD BRIDGE PARK
ON WEDNESDAY JUNE 8TH



WCBA will be presenting
its 2011 Professionalism Award
to
Pam Yee

In recognition of her professionalism in the practice of law.
Please come congratulate her on a job well done!

Please bring your family and come enjoy this beautiful 61 acre park with walking trails through the woods and a huge playground for the kids. Cousin Kenny's Barbeque will be catering our event. We will provide pork barbeque sandwiches, salads, cookies and soft drinks.

Date: Wednesday June 8, 2011

BBQ begins at 5:30 p.m.

Place: Rood Bridge Park, 4000 SE Rood Bridge Park
Hillsboro, Oregon 97123, Pavilion B.

Please send your pre-registration form to: Julie Viner, P.O. 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 June 4th so that we will be able to guarantee space.

BBQ Reservation:

Name: _____

Yes, I will attend the June BBQ (Please let Julie know if a vegetarian dinner is needed).

Number of attendees: _____; \$10 for members, \$15 for non-members, \$5 for children 6-12, 5 and under free.

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.

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