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WCBA Newsletter

Washington County Bar Association

PO Box 912

Hillsboro, Oregon 97124

Phone: 503.648.0300

Fax: 503.693.9304

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President's Note

by Sharon Brown, WCBA President

Welcome to the Washington County Bar Association's May newsletter! My hope for you all is that we will have a real spring this year. Remember that our May 11 meeting is our annual election of new officers and directors. Rebecca Guptill, Nicole Schneider and Amy Velázquez are three new directors who have volunteered to join our board and run for election. Our CLE hour in May will be a meet-and-greet for the men and women who have put their names forward as candidates for the Governor's appointment to the Washington County Circuit Court vacancy. I look forward to seeing you there!

Wednesday, May 11, the WCBA will provide a judicial candidate meet & greet and annual election of directors and officers at The Spaghetti Factory. See page 2 for details and dinner registration.

WCBA Contacts

President: Sharon Brown,

sbrown@oregonlawcenter.org

Treasurer: Brett Knewtson, bknewtson@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,

wcbanews@comcast.net



WCBA Board of Director Volunteers Come Forward

by Sharon Brown, WCBA President

Nicole L. Schneider obtained her Bachelor of Arts and Juris Doctor degrees from the University of Nebraska, graduating from the latter in May of 2000. She was born and raised in Lincoln, Nebraska and was ready to experience other places after graduation. She moved to Portland in 2000, and in April 2001 was admitted to the OSB. She practiced primarily in the area of Social Security Disability until January, 2009 when she joined the Beaverton law firm of Helzer & Cromar LLP, where she is a partner. She practices Social Security Disability law, domestic relations and general law matters. She volunteers her time at the St. Andrew Legal Clinic and the Hollywood Theatre. She is also involved in the Broadway Rose Theatre Company. Nicole describes herself as enthusiastic, and believes she has a perspective that will be of benefit to members of the Washington County Bar and the board. She notes that she is unbiased and objective, at least when not discussing Husker football.

Amy Velázquez graduated from Portland State University with a degree in Administration of Justice, followed by her Juris Doctor from Willamette University in 2004. She clerked for the Oregon Department of Justice and the US Department of Justice while in law school. After graduation, she worked as a judicial clerk to the Honorable Cynthia D. Carlson at the Lane County Circuit Court in Eugene. She joined the Harris Law Firm in Hillsboro in 2005, where she is now a shareholder. She notes she is comfortable in the courtroom and effectively argues cases to both judges and juries. She handles criminal cases ranging from minor misdemeanors to major felonies, as well as cases with overlapping family and crimi-

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nal law issues such as Restraining Orders (FAPA's) and Stalking Protective Orders (Civil and Criminal). Amy has been a member of the Washington County Public Safety Coordinating Council since 2008, and was nominated by Judge Thomas W. Kohl and elected to serve as vice chair of the council for 2009. Amy has also volunteered to join our Washington County Board of Directors as a member at large.

Rebecca Guptill was born and raised in Oregon, graduating as Valedictorian of Waldport High School in 1998. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Print Journalism cum laude from the University of Southern California Annenberg School for Communication in Los Angeles in 2002, and her Juris Doctor from Willamette University College of Law in 2005. Rebecca previously worked as an associate attorney at Ridehalgh & Associates, LLC and Cummins, Goodman, Fish, Denley & Vickers, PC, practicing in various areas of civil and criminal law. In addition, she clerked during law school at Clark, Lindauer, Fetherston, Edmonds, Lippold & Collier, LLP and for attorney Carl Crowell. Rebecca works with the Hillsboro Law Group PC, and focuses on criminal and juvenile law as well as family and estate planning cases. She lives in Hillsboro with my husband, Dan Reichenbach, who owns a commercial fleet collision repair and graphics company called Pacific Service Center. When not working, she reports she likes to cook, travel, and spend time outdoors with Dan and dog, Jack, who is a pit-bull mix adopted from the Oregon Humane Society. Rebecca is looking forward to getting more involved with WCBA, hopefully as a board member!

Family Law Bench Bar Committee News

by *Becky Mehringer*

The Family Law Bench Bar Committee met in March to discuss the "Best Practices in other Counties." The guest speaker was Lucinda Giorgetti, who spoke at length about the practices in Clark County, Washington. Many of the practices implemented in Clark County save court time and money. Some of the practices are as follows:

- The burden and responsibility of the pre-trial docket is on the attorneys
- Commissioners handle many of the hearings
- The parties can elect an "expedited trial" format in which the attorneys present their case through statements and documents, but no other witnesses (except experts). The evidence rules are less rigid and the judge weighs the documents in making their decision
- There are Mandatory Judicial Settlement Conferences for family law cases, with a Settlement Conference Affidavit which includes all assets and liabilities, the proposed distribution, child support,

spousal support, and parenting plans. This is assigned to a Judge, but not your trial Judge. If this is not filed in a timely manner, penalties are assessed.

- Once the trial is set, there will be no continuances.
- Clark County allows a single page attorney withdrawal, no motion or affidavit

Also coming out of this meeting were discussions of what our county could do in addition to what is already implemented. Discussed was utilizing the County website in manner to get information out in a more effective manner, expanding the pro tem list (possibly using pro tems for family law mediations), recruiting volunteers to help at the courthouse with family law matters, creating a process that allows parties to get to mediation quicker (possibly by eliminating the requirements that parties attend both parent education classes prior to mediation), stipulated set-overs by telephone (instead of by motion), and re-vamping the existing process of settlement conferences, possibly adopting Clark County's practice of Mandatory Settlement Conferences.

JUDICIAL CANDIDATE MEET & GREET WCBA BUSINESS & DINNER MEETING WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 2011 5:15-6:15 p.m.

In lieu of the regularly scheduled MCLE meeting, the board is providing the bar with an opportunity to meet the applicants for the Washington County Circuit Court appointment to be made by Governor Kitzhaber.

The WCBA Annual Business meeting and dinner follow. Come vote for next year's Board of Directors. New director candidates are Rebecca Guptill, Nicole Schneider & Amy Velázquez.

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 wcbassociation@frontier.com.

Please register by **May 9** 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 _____
 - with Mizithra Cheese _____
 - Fettuccini Alfredo _____
 - Baked Chicken with steamed broccoli _____
- (Gluten-free whole wheat pasta available on request)

Not a WCBA member? Join us!

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



Celebrating 10 Years—Julie Viner
Administrative Assistant for the
Washington County Bar Association
by Sharon Brown, WCBA President

Our April meeting included our Staff Appreciation Dinner, celebrating the staff that allow us to all accomplish the work we attempt every day. We also honored our own Julie Viner, the administrative assistant to the bar association, for reaching ten years in service to the association. We presented her with a plaque to commemorate this achievement. I recently spoke with Julie and asked her about her memories of the last 10 years.

Julie told me that she was hired by the bar association when Doug Gordon was president and Sue Lain president-elect. She understood the position to include duties such as getting mail, answering phones, attending meetings, taking minutes and helping with the newsletter. However, there were unmentioned job duties that came up almost immediately. The first Christmas party, she remembers washing dishes and worrying about a member who couldn't eat anything on the dinner menu. She also recalls an event at the courthouse where the caterer didn't show up. She and Doug had to convince a reluctant fill-in food provider to provide the food - and the provider was already upset they had not been asked in the first place! She remembers Judge Nachtigal helping her find the coffee supplies in the jury room and helping her make coffee for the event.

Some years later, Julie and her husband Scott welcomed their twins, Parker and Savannah, into the world. Despite a twin pregnancy, Julie missed one only monthly dinner meeting and was back the next month. The twins, who both have red hair, are now six and a half. Julie works part-time at the Law Office of Laura Schantz in addition to her work for the bar association, and this allows her to have the flexibility to help the twins get ready for all-day school next year.

Julie tells me it has been an honor for her to work with

our members, and that she loves working with us. I can tell you that Julie's knowledge of the bar association and its membership has been invaluable to me as president. It's so helpful to have someone who has had a length of time with our bar association, particularly when our board members turn over regularly and there is a new president each year! Next time you see Julie handing out CLE materials, signing you up for your dinner order or helping a visitor feel welcome, be sure and tell her "THANK YOU." We appreciate you, Julie!



**Wednesday, May 11, the
WCBA offers a Judicial
Candidate Meet & Greet.
June 8 is the last meeting
and BBQ before the summer.**



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