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WCBA Newsletter

Washington County Bar Association
PO Box 912
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Deadline: 20th of preceding month

President's Note

If you missed the CLE in February on Real Estate Law presented by Kevin Luby and the one in March on Search and Seizure by Dave Thompson, you may have also missed having dinner with the Oregon Court of Appeals Judges and the Oregon Supreme Court Justices. If you did, you missed two very enjoyable evenings. But, there's always next year. We will be inviting the Judges and Justices again next February and March. Mark your calendars!



Rainmaking Whether you are a new attorney starting your own practice, or someone whose been practicing for a while, our next CLE on Rainmaking has something for everyone. David Markowitz of Markowitz Herbold Glade and Mehlhaf, PC will be presenting. If you are looking for inspiration and

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practical advice on getting and keeping clients, I highly recommend this CLE. You'll be glad you came.

Staff Appreciation! Following the CLE, we hope everyone will invite their staff to dinner as a way to acknowledge them say thank you for their hard work throughout the year. If you have a support person, secretary, legal assistant, paralegal or anyone else who provides support to you, please invite them to dinner on April 11.

New June Meeting Location! Oak Knoll Winery
Given our late snow and plentiful rain lately, we are already looking forward to June. The WCBA Board decided to change our end of season meeting this year to Oak Knoll Winery. Look for more information in upcoming newsletters and on our website. You don't have to like wine to enjoy this meeting. We will have something for everyone, outdoor ambiance, music, wine and hors d'oeuvres (appetizers to most of us) as well as the Professionalism Award.

Call for Nominees: Professionalism Award If you have someone you would like to nominate to receive the professionalism award this year, please email us with your nomination and a statement explaining why the person should be recognized for their general contribution to the practice of law here in Washington County. The deadline for nominations is June 1, 2012. Last year's recipient of the award was Pamela Yee of Schmidt & Yee, PC.

Washington County Criminal Defense Criminal defense practitioners are invited to a monthly criminal defense bar meeting. Meetings are held from noon to 1pm on the first Friday of each month at the Offices of Metro Public Defender, 400 E Main St. Ste. 210, Hillsboro. Bring your own lunch, or pizza is provided (donation requested). No RSVP is required. The next meeting is April 6. For more information about the monthly meeting, contact Lindsey Widmer, 503.648.7383. For more information on the next meeting and agenda items, visit www.ODAC.org.

Sincerely,
Kathy Proctor

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.



Profile

Judge Oscar Garcia

by Kathy Proctor

Governor John Kitzhaber appointed Oscar Garcia to fill the vacancy on the Washington County Circuit Court left by Judge Price's retirement. Before his appointment, Judge Garcia worked in private practice where he represented indi-

viduals in the areas of criminal defense, family law, support enforcement, restraining and stalking orders, civil commitments, juvenile delinquency and more. Judge Garcia was also a Federal Panel attorney qualified to take Federal Court appointed cases and he was an advisory attorney to the Consulate of Mexico.

During his time in private practice, Judge Garcia demonstrated his leadership and commitment to the community by volunteering as a member of the Oregon State Bar unlawful practice of law committee, participating in the OSB Leadership College and serving as an attorney mentor and speaker for groups of students interested in legal careers.

In addition to his busy life as an attorney, Judge Garcia's background includes military experience going back to 1987 when he was in the Army R.O.T.C. During my interview with Judge Garcia for this article, I asked him how his military training might help him in his new role as a judge. He responded that the military was good at training leaders. He learned to become a leader and to make decisions with confidence. He added, in the military he had to deal with explosives so he quickly learned how to be calm in a tense situation. With a slight smile, he added he knows how to deal with chaos.

Judge Garcia didn't have a lot of time after his appointment to relax before starting his new job. He quickly transitioned out of his private law practice and into his new role as a judge. Just days after his appointment, Judge Garcia was personally sworn into his judicial office by the Chief Justice of the Oregon Supreme Court, Justice Paul De Muniz. Judge Thompson's courtroom was filled to capacity as practitioners, judges, retired judges, and court staff observed the ceremony. Notable attendees included Federal District Court Judge, Marco Hernandez, who served as a circuit court judge here in Washington County before his appointment to the Federal Bench, Washington County District Attorney Robert Herman and, Lane Borg of Metropolitan Public Defenders. Following the swearing in ceremony, Judge Garcia commented that he ultimately hopes to be remembered as a judge who worked hard and started work on time. He believes litigants should be heard and to have their day in court in a timely manner. His goal is to be impartial, to hear the parties, consider the evidence, and then make a decision.

Judge Garcia says he believes in a team approach which may serve him well as Washington

County's newest family law judge. He knows that the family law court often sees pro se litigants who may present a challenge since so many emotions are involved in these cases. He is aware that he will preside over tough issues and deep emotions in family law cases, but he is prepared to be patient and use his communications skills to navigate through and get to the legal issues that are before the court.



As he settles into his new role, Judge Garcia's procedures for handling ex parte and other matters may change as he expects there to be an evolutionary process as he settles into a routine. He intends to keep up with technological changes to improve the speed and efficiency of his court. As an example, his judicial assistant Robbin Lake wants attorneys to know that limited information such as trial memorandums, hearing memorandums and even asset/liability statements can be e-mailed to the judge by noon the day before trial through her at robbin.lake@ojd.state.or.us. Don't forget to copy the opposing attorney and file the original on the day of trial. This saves attorneys an extra trip to the courthouse and eliminates having to pay the copy charges to send a facsimile of your memorandum to the court.

I asked him how the attorneys who appear before him can help him. He replied that he himself expects to be prepared and to be respectful to all the people in his courtroom and he expects the attorneys to do the same. He is open to suggestions on how he can do things better in his court too. When I asked about newer attorneys, he said he plans on being approachable and hopes that new attorneys will solicit advice from him on how they can do better, saying, "We all have to start somewhere."

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/>

AFTER-HOURS KEYS

If you are a law library user, please consider applying for an After-hours Access Key.

We may have to cut law library hours or we may experience last-minute, short-term closures, due to budget cuts that have affected our ability to hire on-call staff. (County law libraries are now funded by the state.)

The law library will notify everyone about any permanent or long-term closures, by telephone, on the Law Library county website, or via email, but timely notifications will not always be possible for last minute, short term (2-4 hours) closures.

One way to make sure you have 24/7 access is to have a Washington County Law Library after-hours access key. If you don't have a key, you may apply for one. (You need to be a member of the OSB and live or work in Washington County.) If you have a Washington County Courthouse key, you don't need an additional key; we just put another access code on your existing courthouse key. But you do still need to apply for the law library key. We can email you the application form and instructions, but you will need to sign the application and pick up the key in person. There is currently a one-time county Facilities Department charge of \$25 for the key.

LAW LIBRARY BOOK DROP-OFF at PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Don't forget that you can now drop off your Washington County Law Library books at your Washington County (WCCLS.org) public library, e.g. Forest Grove, Hillsboro, Beaverton, Cedar Mill, etc.

You can use your public library outside drop-box, too. When you check out your Law Library books, please ask for a return-envelope at the law library reception desk.

LAW LIBRARY CHECKOUTS

Say goodbye, mostly, to our carbon copy checkout slips. The Law Library is migrating from paper checkout slips to barcode scanning.

What does this mean for you? Instead of taking home your copy of that easy-to-lose, yellow paper checkout slip, you will receive an email record of your circulation transaction - and an email reminder if your books are overdue.

In order to complete this project, we need to create a "patron record" for you. If you check out our CLEs or books, give us a copy of your business card the next time your visit the Law Library and we'll be ready to go the next time you check out an item. You can also email your contact information to:

lawlibrary@co.washington.or.us.

In the meantime, we still have plenty of those carbon-copy checkout slips for you to use during this



Have some news or information to share?

Send it to
washingtoncountybarnews@gmail.com.



Mock Trial Results

The Washington County Bar Association sponsored Classroom Law Project's Regional High School Mock Trial Competition on Saturday, March 3 at the Washington County Courthouse. We had 12 teams from

eight schools, including Catlin Gabel School, Westview, Sunset, St. Helens, Clatskanie Middle High School, Village Home Education Resource School, Oregon Episcopal School and Beaverton's Science and Technology. We so appreciate all the wonderful volunteer attorneys and judges that judged the students. The students were all amazing and very well prepared! Teams who went on to state were Catlin Gabel BX and AR and Village Home Education Resource School OW. Village Home Education Resource School OW took fourth place in the state competition!

Thanks so much to everyone for making the high school mock trial competition a very successful one!

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.

A Tribute to John Ryan

by Nicole Schneider

On December 19, 2011, long-time Oregon lawyer John D. Ryan passed away. During his more than fifty years of meritorious service in the practice of law, John contributed to the community at large, as well as the bench and bar. He was a proud member of the Washington County Bench and Bar.

John attended Grant High School in Portland, and Fordham University in New York City. He was dedicated to serving others at a young age. This was especially evident while in college when John convinced the Dean at Fordham to begin a summer school program to allow him and his classmates the opportunity to graduate early so they could enlist and serve in World War II. After his military service, John studied law at Northwestern College of Law (now Lewis & Clark Law School).

John was a true friend to the community. He believed in and was a staunch advocate of fairness for all. In order to achieve this, he felt strongly that everyone should have access to the courts. John was devoted to helping those in need reap the benefits of the judicial system. He understood the power of words; and developed a literacy program in the Armed Forces for members of the military. His dedication carried on into his civilian life. In Portland, he helped to establish the Londer Learning Center, which offered literacy and GED programs to assist those who had criminal histories. John felt that the best way to help people was to arm them with information, and he worked tirelessly to do so by teaching them to read and encouraging them to pursue an education.

I had the opportunity to interview Richard Helzer, who considered John a mentor and a great friend. In 1980, Richard began practicing law with John at a time when Richard felt somewhat confounded and was seeking a guiding beacon to the courthouse steps. They eventually formed a partnership - Ryan and Helzer. In the early 1990's, they moved their offices from Portland to Beaverton, intending to become a "boutique" law firm. However, they never understood the practice of "boutique" lawyers. They frequently represented clients who had no ability to pay legal costs and fees. Richard said, "John believed that justice was not only blind but more often than not, insolvent." He championed the causes for many who otherwise would not have had access to a lawyer for court appearances.

Richard describes John as a renaissance man. He was a scholar of the law and for a time, he taught Torts at Northwestern School of Law. Regarding representation of clients and presenting a case, John believed there was no substitution for preparation and hard work. John had an inquisitive approach to the law. He was often the attorney whom other attorneys would turn to when they felt their cases needed a fresh approach. John avoided arcane ideas of the law.

John's legacy of service inspires us to share our legal knowledge and better serve our community and profession.

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

RAINMAKING

Please join us for our April CLE, presented by
David Markowitz

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 Monday, April 9th 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.

Washington County

Courthouse News

by Amy Velázquez



We are now including information about changes at the courthouse in our newsletter as we hear about them. If you know of any changes that are important to the legal community, please forward them to Amy at ave-lazquez@harrislaw.com so they can be included in future newsletters.

Special Request from Court Staff

For all pleadings, attorneys and staff drafting pleadings should include the full five digit bar number of the attorney. Court staff is currently in the process of updating and inactivating the five digit numbers in the system, but often see attorneys are still only using their former five digit numbers, which may contain old contact information. This could result in important court notices being sent to incorrect contact addresses. Please pass this information along to members of the legal community and their staff.

Judicial and Staff Moves / Contact Information

Welcome to our new Judge, Oscar Garcia. Judge Garcia will be in courtroom 105C and his Judicial Assistant is Robbin Lake, formerly with Judges Price and Gardner. Beginning April 1, Megan Rowley will be joining Judge Garcia's team as court clerk. Megan formerly worked with Judge Upton and most recently over at the Law Enforcement Center. You can contact Robbin and Megan as follows: Robbin.Lake@ojd.state.or.us; 503.846.8262 and megan.m.rowley@ojd.state.or.us 503.846.4840. The courtroom line is 503.846.2240.

Judge Wipper is generally located in 301C, but will be at the Law Enforcement Center (LEC) through June 2012 and will return to LEC for the months of November and December 2012. Judge Wipper is staffed by Lisa and Julie. You can contact Lisa and Julie as follows: lisa.braem@ojd.state.or.us; 503.846.3852 and juliana.e.macfarlane@ojd.state.or.us; 503.846.3853. The courtroom line is 503.846.6489. While they are over at LEC, you can reach them at the following numbers: 503.846.6344, 503.846.6364, or on the courtroom extension at 503.846.6080.

Judge Fun is now located in 303C. Judge Fun is staffed by Kristine and Tiffany. You can contact Kristine and Tiffany as follows: kristine.l.hackney@ojd.state.or.us; 503.846.3615 and tiffany.d.walker-barkman@ojd.state.or.us; 503.846.3616. The courtroom line is 503.846.3617. For the months of July through September 2012, Judge Fun

will be at the Law Enforcement Center (LEC). While they are over at LEC, you can reach them at the following numbers: 503.846.6344, 503.846.6364, or on the courtroom extension at 503.846.6080.

Construction Causes Temporary Relocations for Judges and Staff

Due to construction, some judges and staff will not be found at their normal locations: Presently, both Judge Cobb's courtroom and chamber as well as the Family Law facilitation office are under construction. Judge Cobb and her staff can be found temporarily in courtroom 301C, while Judge Wipper is doing a rotation at the Law Enforcement Center. The Family Law facilitation office is using the area next to Judge Raines' jury room on the second floor. This will continue for the rest of the courtrooms in that building over the next several months, which may make it difficult to track down staff by phone as people will not be using their own courtrooms or offices. I will request monthly updates from staff and include them in our newsletter until construction is completed.

CLEs to be held on court closure/furlough dates for 2012

Judge Letourneau has generously offered to host CLEs on the court closure/furlough days below. The CLEs will be held in Judge Letourneau's courtroom (460J) from noon to 1pm on the dates listed below. Topics TBA, but will be geared towards newer practitioners.

Friday, May 25, 2012

Friday, August 17, 2012

Friday, October 19, 2012

Friday, November 23, 2012

Family Law Bench-Bar News

The Washington County Family Law Bench-Bar Procedure Improvement Committee is seeking input from anyone who may have suggestions for the improvement of any current local family law rule or procedure. These suggestions will be presented at the next Bench-Bar meeting on April 10. An example of an already suggested improvement includes a streamlined Status Check Hearing where parties can appear telephonically. Suggestions of procedures or local rules already implemented and tested in other counties are welcome.

Suggestions may be emailed to ken@mcneilllawoffice.com. The identity of anyone making a suggestion will remain protected if the person desires anonymity.

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: _____