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WCBA Newsletter

Washington County Bar Association
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President's Note

Last month's CLE and dinner was one of the best attended this season. The Hon. Keith Raines, attorneys Laura Schantz, David Hobson, and Deborah LeMeitour, along with Adam Furchner, Ph.D. coordinated and presented a CLE on "How to Represent a Child & Parent Coordination for Dummies." They provided practical and valuable information and materials to family law practitioners including discussions regarding the role of the child's advocate. Dr. Furchner's materials included some standard questions that a child might be asked in an interview with a parenting time coordinator.



Not only was the CLE interesting and informative but so was the dinner during which Presiding Judge Kirstin Thompson gave a presentation on the state of the court in Washington County with news

around the courthouse. A written version of some of the information in her presentation was published in last month's Washington County Bar Newsletter, pages 3-4. If you missed it, you should be able to find a link to it on our website at <http://wcbabar.org> soon. Among other information she discussed, she acknowledged that despite budget challenges the court has heard the concerns of practitioners who have expressed frustration regarding the difficulties of getting civil cases out to trial in Washington County. She noted that more civil cases are going to trial than have in the past.

We all know the courts are a vital part of our system of democracy and as Judge Thompson noted Oregon's Constitutional mandate calls for our court system to administer justice completely and without delay which requires judges and court staff. Unfortunately, the necessity of having a well-functioning court system might not be readily apparent to members of the general public unless or until they become directly affected.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROJECT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

One way that we can help is to get involved with the Domestic Violence Project. The following information was provided by Legal Aid and from what I understand, you do not have to be a family law practitioner to volunteer.

The Domestic violence project matches pro bono attorneys with victims of domestic violence for representation in contested Family Abuse Prevention Act (FAPA) restraining order hearings, Elderly Persons and Persons with Disabilities Abuse Prevention Act hearings (EPPDAPA) and stalking order hearings. These cases tend to have short timelines, limited issues and require a court appearance. Attorneys sign up in advance to be available to take a case on a specific day (restraining order hearings are generally held on Mondays and Thursdays). DVP volunteers represent clients in Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington Counties (you can choose which counties you want to take cases in). This project is an excellent volunteer opportunity for young lawyers, lawyers seeking litigation experience, and attorneys who cannot commit to taking long-term cases. This project

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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.

covers a discrete area of law and most of the volunteers are not family law practitioners. Volunteers are not expected to assist clients with family law matters that may exist after the protective order hearing. An online CLE and extensive written materials are available for this project at www.oregonadvocates.org. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Maya Crawford at maya.crawford@lasoregon.org.

FEBRUARY CLE

Please join us Wednesday, February 8 for a CLE presentation by Kevin Luby, who is going to provide us with an Update on Case Law and Legislative Changes in Real Estate. A registration sheet is on page 3 of this newsletter.

The **OREGON COURT OF APPEALS JUDGES** will be our dinner guests! We are very pleased and fortunate to welcome these distinguished guests on February 8 and we encourage everyone to come out and take advantage of this rare opportunity to meet and converse with judges who currently preside in our appellate court system.

Sincerely,
Kathy Proctor

Gone, but not forgotten

Judge John. B. Lewis

Senior Judge John B. Lewis has found the secret to staying young after leaving the bench: still working. Judge Lewis has been working as a mediator, arbitrator, and reference judge since he finished his Plan B service in June of last year. Judge Lewis' work has been primarily domestic relations and juvenile to date and he has settled, by his estimation, as much as 98% of the matters brought to him.

Judge Lewis has been enjoying a return to being more involved and hands on in cases. "It has been wonderful," Judge Lewis said, "with mediation you usually get right down to the main point quickly and can actually do some good. At trial you may have a trial memo from one party ahead of time that may be helpful, but when you get started you may have done a lot of work for naught if many of the issues have settled."

Judge Lewis appreciates the ability he now has to sit down with the parties and get to talk to them and know them. "I almost always like the people," Judge Lewis said, "I actually feel like I get to do some good. I get to dig my teeth into a case and make the parties work it out." This is not to say he doesn't occasionally miss being on the bench full-time. "I used to enjoy it because it was very fast-paced and I was always juggling multiple matters."

Another benefit of continuing to work, according

to Judge Lewis, is that it "keeps you from getting really old; just semi-old. If you keep at it and keep doing something, it really keeps you going."

When Judge Lewis isn't working as a mediator, arbitrator, or reference judge, he stays busy working around the house he shares with his wife, Linda. The house, a 120-year-old Victorian near Forest Grove has received a lot of love from Judge Lewis over the years. He has redone or installed for the first time all of the electric and plumbing work throughout the house. Judge Lewis and his wife have plans to do a lot of gardening in the near future, in part because, as Judge Lewis said, "Linda loves all flowers. She's never met one she didn't like."

Judge Lewis is an avid reader and loves thrillers. The next book in his queue is *The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo*. What you won't catch him doing is following politics too closely as according to him, "It drives me nuts!"

While Judge Lewis and his wife haven't done much traveling, they do find time to visit their daughter who is a Latin American History professor in Mobile, Alabama and their son who is a composer in Pasadena, California. Judge Lewis and his wife recently welcomed their 5-month-old grandson, Henry, into their home when their daughter came for an extended visit. Of Henry, Judge Lewis said, "He is the cutest little thing you ever saw."

Classified advertising rates:

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To obtain a quote, send the proposed text to: washingtoncountybarnews@gmail.com.

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1/4 page \$50

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Please submit your ad in JPEG format to:

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Judicial Review

Judge Steven L. Price

by Arthur Saito

After nearly 16 years of service at the Washington County's Circuit Court, Judge Steven L. Price retired on January 1. He reflects in this article on the series of "small accidents" that have shaped his thirty-one year legal career and offers us a glimpse of what lays ahead for one of Washington Counties most respected senior judges.

Growing up in Southeast Portland, Price's interest in the law was sparked in early high school after he read "My Life in Court" by trial attorney/author Louis Nizer. After earning a degree in English Literature from the University of Pennsylvania, Price joined the Oregon Employment Division, where he worked with the future Personnel Director for the Oregon Judicial Department, Gary Martin. It was Martin who, during a lunch break, persuaded Price to take the LSATs and, as a result, apply to law school.

After being placed on the "wait list" at Lewis & Clark's Northwestern School of Law, Price intended to "just let the matter of law school drop." Fate, however, interceded. "Unbeknownst to me," recalled Judge Price, "my then wife took matters into her own hands by sending in the card requesting that I be continued on the list!"

At Northwestern, Price enrolled in the evening program, taking classes at night and working for the Employment Division during the day. In his last year, he left the Employment Division and began clerking for Sid Brockley, then a lawyer in Oregon City. Graduating in 1980, Price passed the bar examination and began practicing in an office share with Gary Gedrose, a law school classmate who had set up practice in Hillsboro. Why practice in Washington County? "Gary was so persuasive about working here that I was literally too embarrassed to say no. He was really enthusiastic," states Judge Price.

Then, as it is now, starting a new practice provided its share of challenges. "I think I made all of \$8,000 in my first year of practice," says Judge Price

with a grin. Working in domestic relations, workers compensation, personal injury, and criminal law, Price expanded his practice to include criminal and civil appellate work. After 16 years in private practice, and with the support of his peers, Judge Price was appointed onto the bench in 1996 by then Governor Kitzhaber.

When asked about his most memorable case, Judge Price replies, "That would probably be *State vs. Robleto* - a fraud case in which three defendants were charged with 190 counts in an alleged scam to provide driver's licenses to illegal aliens. Judge McElligot had two of the defendants and I had one. The most remarkable thing about this case was the public outcry - including being a topic of discussion on The Bill O'Reilly Show - that occurred as a result of the acquittals, despite that fact that two different judges considered the same evidence and came up with similar conclusions. "It is not every day that you find yourself the topic of discussion on a national television show," observed Price.

What qualities, in his opinion, make for a great judge? "A great judge," explains Price, "is a work horse, a leader, and an innovator. It's rare to have all three qualities in one person. However, we can all be good judges if we work hard and bring an appreciation of human nature and a sense of compassion to the bench."

What will Judge Price miss the most after he leaves the bench? He replies without hesitation - "The opportunity to have a significant impact on people's lives and the quality of life in Washington County and the remarkable people in the courthouse who work so hard and efficiently to ensure that our system works."

When asked about the largest issues facing Washington County's future, Judge Price identifies the needs of the growing immigrant population. "I believe that it is important for the immigrant members of our community to have as many opportunities here as possible. My maternal grandparents came from Calabria, Italy. They loved America and wanted to make the most of it. My grandfather was a stonemason and his contributions can still be seen at places like Timberline Lodge and Crown Point Lookout."

What are Judge Price's plans for future? Performing his Plan B service ("Better Plan B than Form B!"), traveling with his wife, spending time with his mother and his two adult sons, attending a more-than-occasional weekday Mariners baseball game in Seattle, and working on other personal hobbies, such as brewing beer, bicycling, juggling, and taking pictures of tattooed women in fishnet stockings and roller skates. Fishnet stockings and roller skates? "Yes," he smiles, "I have been photographing the local roller derby league since 2005, in addition to serving on the league's code of conduct committee and board of directors. I hope to travel with the league's All Star Team to bouts all over the United States!"



THE WCBA CLE & DINNER MEETING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8
CLE, 5:15 p.m.

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Case Law and Legislative Changes in Real Estate

Please join us for our February CLE, presented by Kevin Luby
Our dinner guests will be the Oregon Court of Appeals Judges

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, February 6th 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 going to start including information regarding changes at the court house in our newsletter as we hear about them. If you know of any changes that are important to the legal community, please feel free to forward them to Amy at avelazquez@harrislawsite.com so they can be included in future newsletters.

Staff Changes

Annette Cornish, former judicial assistant to Judge Nachtigal, is now the Management Assistant in Court Administration. She is available to provide judicial support for attorneys, judges, court staff and the general public. Folks may contact her for just about anything they need, from mag cards, to use audio/visual equipment for their court cases or general case information. Contact:

annette.l.cornish@ojd.state.or.us and 503.846.8767.

Annette is also the court's Volunteer Program Manager. Anyone interested in volunteering for the circuit court can complete an online volunteer application from the webpage (<http://courts.oregon.gov/Washington>), click on "volunteer opportunities." After receiving the application and clearing a background check, applicants will be invited to attend a volunteer orientation.

Judge Nachtigal's new staff includes **Jessica King** (her former clerk is now her Judicial Assistant) and **Cassandra "Cassie" Vanreenterghem** (court clerk, formerly in accounting). You can contact Jessica and Cassie as follows: jessica.d.king@ojd.state.or.us, 503.846.4562 and cassandra.vanreenterghem@ojd.state.or.us, 503.846.4819.

Judge Cobb's new court clerk is **Teresa Parfet** who was formerly in the file/records room. Her contact information is: teresa.k.parfet@ojd.state.or.us, 503.846.4588.

Judge Upton has a new part time court clerk, **Kimberlee Kim** (formerly the Management Assistant in Court Administration). Contact:

Kimberlee.A.Kim@ojd.state.or.us, 503.846.2653.

Stephanie B. Schilling is our new Probate Commissioner. Contact: Stephanie.B.Schilling@ojd.state.or.us, 503.846.2366.

Traffic Department

The Traffic Department has moved from the Justice Services Building to the Law Enforcement Center (LEC). Traffic clerks are now available in the verifier window area adjacent to the court room at LEC. Arraignments on non-misdemeanor traffic citations are now being handled at LEC at 1pm each day. They were previously held at 8:30am by rotating judges in the main courthouse.

Court Closures/Furlough dates for 2012

Don't forget to mark your calendars with the following dates:

Friday, March 23, 2012

Friday, May 25, 2012

Friday, August 17, 2012

Friday, October 19, 2012

Friday, November 23, 2012.



Washington County High School Mock Trial Tournament is coming soon!

Please mark your calendars to judge on Saturday, March 3, at the Washington County Courthouse. There will be three rounds, at approximately 8:30am; 11am; and 1:30pm. The case this year is entitled "*Lee Cavanaugh v. Cup of Joe*." It is a civil dispute when coffee purchased from a local shot burns a customer. Was the coffee too hot to handle? Please contact either the Classroom Law Project at classroomlaw.org or Elizabeth Lemoine at elizlemoine@yahoo.com to register to judge. Please include email and phone contact information, availability for rounds, conflict information and any experience you may have had judging. It is a wonderfully fun experience interacting with some very amazing high school students from our area!

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!)

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One application per attorney, please.

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