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# WCBA Newsletter

Washington County Bar Association

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October 2014, Page 1 of 4

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## President's Note

*Lawyers associated for justice, service, professionalism, education, mentoring, social interaction and leadership for our members and our community.*

The air is getting crisp and fall is upon us, which means the WCBA CLE season is in full swing. The September CLE was presented by the PLF on the topic of Avoiding Legal Malpractice. Barbara Fishleder, Jennifer Meisberger, and Kyra Hazilla provided fantastic information and materials for those who attended. Feel free to provide me with feedback about the September CLE, including any topics you think might be interesting to have the PLF talk about in the future.

Lauren Walchli did an excellent job of planning and moderating the annual Washington County Family Law Bench Bar luncheon on September 15<sup>th</sup>. I know that those who attended were glad that they did, as information was provided regarding changes at Conciliation Services including the cessation of custody evaluations, the introduction of the New Ways for Families classes, as well as information regarding the evolution of domestic violence resources in the county and tips regarding child support paperwork and how best to (and not to) utilize the Family Law Assistance Program.

The rapidly approaching October CLE will be a probate CLE presented by the Honorable Andrew Erwin regarding new developments in Washington County probate practice or as we like to refer to the CLE, "How to Avoid Awkward Conversations with Judge Erwin." I am excited to attend what I am sure will be an extremely helpful and educational CLE.

In November, the CLE is going to involve a panel of Washington County judges and attorneys knowledgeable in the area of DHS and juvenile de-

pendency -involved family law and criminal cases. Many of us have experienced a case that has gone from routine to extremely complicated, when a report is made to DHS regarding the well-being of a child. While the CLE is still in the works, I expect it to be informative and useful to practitioners in a relatively broad range of practice areas.

We are again having our Winter Social at the Glenn & Viola Walters Cultural Arts Center in downtown Hillsboro, which will feature an amazing dinner catered locally by Claeys Catering. The Winter Social is always a favorite for members and their guests. If you haven't attended before please save the date, as the Winter Social is always a great time for socializing with other members of the Washington County bench and bar community.

Incoming Presiding Judge Charlie Bailey will be giving the annual State of the Court address at our regular meeting in January. That meeting will feature a bankruptcy-related CLE. As always we are securing the attendance of Oregon Supreme Court justices and the judges of the Oregon Court of Appeals for meetings later in the season. We also have more great CLEs and events in the works for the year, including our June Social, so stay tuned for the latest information. You can find update information on our website at [www.wcbabar.org](http://www.wcbabar.org), in our monthly newsletters, and on our "Washington County Bar Association" Facebook page.

If you have ideas for events, CLEs, dinner speakers, or if you have other suggestions for how we can improve our organization for our members please do not hesitate to contact me or another board member. Also, if you are interested in getting more involved with WCBA, there are always new avenues to do so. Let's chat!

**Rebecca Guptill**

**President**

**Washington County Bar Association**

**See upcoming events schedule on page 2.**

## LAW LIBRARY NEWS

### Washington County Law Library

111 NE Lincoln

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Phone: 503.846.8880

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Email: [laura\\_orr@co.washington.or.us](mailto:laura_orr@co.washington.or.us)

Email: [lawlibrary@co.washington.or.us](mailto:lawlibrary@co.washington.or.us)

Website: <http://www.co.washington.or.us/LawLibrary/>

Oregon Legal Research website & blog:

<http://www.oregonlegalresearch.com/>

### Time-saving DIY Legal Research Resource Tips:

Nowadays, legal researchers can find the easy stuff themselves; for the tough stuff they call the law library. Then there is that middle category, which I'll call advanced Do it Yourself (DIY) legal research resources:

So, if you like to noodle around the web, here are 6 DIY tips to check out:

1. HeinOnline and Legal Forms: If you live in Multnomah or Washington County (lucky us!), you can get a free public library card from each library system. The two systems share some databases, but not all. For example, your Washington County (WCCLS) library card gives you free, remote access to HeinOnline (paid for by your WC Law Library). Your Multnomah County (public) Library card gives you access to the Gale Legal Forms database and many other consumer, law-related, health, and science databases that you won't find through WCCLS: <https://multcolib.org/research-tools>
2. The Multnomah Law Library catalog is now online: <http://www.multnomahlawlibrary.org/>
3. The Index to Legal Periodicals (ILP), rather than a full-text legal periodicals database, can sometimes be the best research tool for the job. Our Lexis subscription includes a full-text database and the ILP. Come to the Law Library to search ILP or call or email and we'll run a search for you. We send results via email.
4. Where can I find that book?: WorldCat (<https://www.worldcat.org/>). Your public library probably uses a more robust (and more expensive) version of this database for their cataloging and interlibrary-loans, but this free version can be a very useful research tool. (And don't forget the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA), which now includes records from the Catalog of U.S. Government Publications: Links: <http://dp.la/bookshelf> and <http://catalog.gpo.gov>.)
5. Law firm websites: Lawyers, even Big Law lawyers, share a lot of information on their websites, in front of their firewalls. I've found excellent free legal research resources on topics from employment law to water law on law firm websites. Your first forays into this world will take a little time, but after a while, you'll find your favorite lawyer and law firm websites.
6. Academic Libraries: As students we had remote and free access to hundreds of databases. Some of these resources may still be free, although you have to be on-

site in order to use them. For example: Portland State University (PSU) has some very useful databases, legal and quasi-legal, that you can use from inside their library. Use your research as an excuse to visit the Park Block's Saturday Farmer's Market. (But make sure the PSU Library is open on the day you plan to visit.) And, the PSU Library stacks are blissfully quiet so you can get lots of work done, without interruption.

*Laura Orr*  
Law Librarian



## Upcoming Events

**Wednesday, October 8**

**CLE: New Developments in Washington County Probate Practice**  
**"How to Avoid Awkward Conversations with Judge Erwin"**

**Wednesday, November 12**

**CLE TBD: Regarding DHS & Juvenile Dependency-Involved Cases**

**Wednesday, December 10**

**Winter Social at the Glenn & Viola Walters Cultural Arts Center**

**Wednesday, January 7**

**State of the Court Address with incoming Presiding Judge Bailey**  
**Bankruptcy CLE**



## Avoiding Legal Malpractice Traps CLE Recap

Our September CLE presented by the Oregon State Bar Professional Liability Fund was full of excellent information. A special thank you to Barbara Fishleder, Kyra Hazilla and Jennifer Meisberger, for their presentation and all of the materials they provided.

A highlight of key techniques for avoiding malpractice:

1. Communication - keep your clients informed, provide them with a realistic assessment of their case, maintain a professional attitude, make certain that your client makes the decisions in the case and never proceed without your client's permission;
2. Reject certain cases and clients - carefully screening clients and cases can lower the threat of a legal malpractice suit and greatly reduce the stress in your life;
3. Document information and clarify your relationships IN WRITING - for example; non engagement letters, engagement letters, disengagement letters, document your advice to the client as you proceed through the case. Your file should reflect the case history, status and strategy;
4. Understand the applicable rules of professional conduct, particularly those related to conflicts of interest;
5. Clarify your fee arrangements;
6. Use a double calendar system;
7. Avoid personal and financial involvement with clients;
8. Know about the resources available to assist you!

Services provided by the PLF are free to bar members. Attorneys are encouraged to explore and take advantage of the services offered.

The Practice Management Section of the PLF is completely confidential and free of charge. The focus is on assisting attorneys in reducing our risk of malpractice claims and enhancing the enjoyment of practicing law. Practice Management advisors will assist with the following: setting up your practice, creating office systems, determining the best technology for your practice, office management, financial management, client relations, winding up your practice and other resources, such as sample letters, forms and practice aids.

The Oregon Attorney Assistance Program is a confidential service funded by the PLF. The OAAP offers assistance and referrals for problem alcohol, drug and/or other substance abuse, stress management, time management, career transition, compulsive disorders (including problem gambling), relationship issues, depression, anxiety and other issues that may impact our ability to function effectively. OAAP attorney counselors are lawyers and professionally trained counselors. All services provided by the OAAP are free; however, there may be nominal charges for certain workshops and seminars. Groups available through the OAAP include: Lawyers in Transition, Grief, Women in Recovery, 12-step, Discipline, Men's Work/Life Balance, and Getting It

Done. The OAAP is currently looking for a reasonable location in Washington County to offer groups and services if there is a desire for such services from the local bar.

Further information for the PLF is available at: [www.osbplf.org](http://www.osbplf.org) or via phone at 503.639.6911 or 1.800.452.1639. Further information for the OAAP is available at: [www.oaap.org](http://www.oaap.org) or via phone at 503.226.1057 or 1.800.321.OAAP (6227).

*Amy N. Velázquez*  
Immediate Past President & Secretary  
Washington County Bar Association



### WCBA Contacts

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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:  
[washingtoncountybarnews@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:washingtoncountybarnews@gmail.com).

To pay for your ad, visit  
<http://www.wcbabar.org/newsletter-advertising.asp>

# The WCBA CLE & DINNER MEETING

Wednesday, October 8th

## CLE: New Developments in Washington County Probate Practice

*"How to Avoid Awkward Conversations  
with Judge Erwin"*

**Presented by:**

The Honorable Andrew Erwin, Washington County Circuit Court  
Qualifies for 1 General or Practical Skills MCLE Credit

CLE at 5:15pm, cocktails at 6pm, dinner at 6:30pm

The Old Spaghetti Factory, 18925 NW Tanasbourne Dr.

Hillsboro OR 97124

Please send your pre-registration form to:

Rosie DeSantos

PO Box 912

Hillsboro OR 97123

Phone: 503.648.0300; fax number 503.693.9304; or via email to

[wcbassociation@frontier.com](mailto:wcbassociation@frontier.com) or [www.wcbabar.org](http://www.wcbabar.org).

Please register no later than October 3rd so that we will be able to guarantee space.

You can now also pay on our website, [wcbabar.org](http://wcbabar.org).

### Reservation for:

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Dinner + CLE = \$30 (member)

\_\_\_\_\_ Dinner + CLE = \$40 (non-member)

\_\_\_\_\_ CLE only = \$15 (member)

\_\_\_\_\_ CLE only = \$25 (non-member)

### **Dinner**

\_\_\_\_\_ Potpourri Spaghetti Sampler (Mizithra Cheese, Meat, Clam & Tomato Sauces)

\_\_\_\_\_ Spaghetti with Meat Balls

\_\_\_\_\_ Spaghetti with Marinara

\_\_\_\_\_ Spaghetti with Mizithra Cheese

\_\_\_\_\_ Baked Chicken with Steamed Broccoli

**(Gluten free & Whole Wheat Pasta Available upon Request)**