



For immediate release
April 23, 2012

BEVERLY PEARMAN ELECTED PRESIDENT AND CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF OREGON LAW CENTER

Portland, OR – The Board of Oregon Law Center (“OLC”), the Lawyers’ Campaign for Equal Justice and the law firm of Stoel Rives LLP are pleased to announce that Stoel Rives partner Beverly Pearman has been elected President and Chair of the OLC. Pearman succeeds Lou Savage, who served as OLC President since 2002 and who will continue in the role of OLC Vice-President. OLC is a statewide nonprofit corporation dedicated to providing free civil legal services to low-income people and families.

Pearman, who focuses her professional practice on complex business and environmental litigation, has long supported efforts to improve legal aid delivery to disadvantaged groups. As former Chair of the Oregon State Bar Legal Services Committee, she helped coordinate the funding and oversight of statewide legal aid programs. She also served as Co-Chair of the Associates Committee of the Lawyers’ Campaign for Equal Justice. Pearman currently works as a volunteer providing direct service to low-income clients through the Stoel Rives Legal Aid Clinic. She has received recognition from the Oregon State Bar for her pro bono work, and the Multnomah Bar Association selected her as a recipient of the Pro Bono Award of Merit in 2007.

“I’m honored by this opportunity to serve as OLC President,” said Pearman. “Providing quality legal services to those facing economic and other significant barriers is a major challenge under prevailing economic and government revenue conditions. I look forward to working with my fellow Board members and volunteers in pursuing new and creative ways to fund and deliver legal services to those in need.”

“Beverly has demonstrated impressive leadership abilities,” said Savage. “Since joining the Board, she has taken on increasing responsibility, working on the Executive Committee and as the Chair of another committee. She is an exemplar of the new generation of Oregon legal aid advocates, and we are fortunate to have her as our President.”

David Thornburgh, Executive Director of OLC added, “We look forward to working with Beverly as President. She is committed to helping legal aid provide high-quality civil legal services to low-income clients. We will benefit from her insight and strong communication skills as we work to improve access to justice statewide. We also thank Lou Savage for his many accomplishments as President and look forward to working with him in his new capacity.”

Pearman received a B.A. from Furman University and a J.D. with honors from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Law. She was selected as an Oregon Rising Star - Business Litigation and as a Rising Star by *Oregon Super Lawyers*,® 2008-2010.

About Oregon Law Center: OLC is a statewide legal aid program providing civil legal services through offices located in Coos Bay, Grants Pass, Hillsboro, McMinnville, Ontario, Portland, Salem and St. Helens. Legal aid provides legal services on high-priority civil needs including food, shelter, medical care, income maintenance and safety from harm. Oregon’s legal aid programs provide direct



assistance to more than 25,000 clients each year, with thousands more helped through legal aid's pro se materials, self-help programs and pro bono projects. About 40% of legal aid's cases are devoted to helping victims of domestic violence. Legal aid programs have offices in 17 communities serving clients in all 36 counties. Legal aid programs currently have resources to address less than 20% of the civil legal needs of the poor. While demand for services has increased dramatically since the recession began, resources to fund legal aid have been shrinking.

About the Lawyers' Campaign for Equal Justice: *Established in 1991 by Stoel Rives and other Oregon lawyers, the Lawyers' Campaign for Equal Justice provides legal services to those who live in poverty by developing and distributing resources through fundraising, public education and law-related projects. With 200 volunteers and an annual fundraising program, the organization currently supports 92 legal aid attorneys in 17 Oregon communities.*

About Stoel Rives LLP: *Stoel Rives is a business law firm providing corporate and litigation services to a wide range of clients throughout the United States. The firm has nearly 400 attorneys operating out of 11 offices in seven states. Stoel Rives is a leader in corporate, energy, environmental, intellectual property, labor and employment, land use and construction, litigation, natural resources, project development and real estate law. The firm has offices in Alaska, California, Idaho, Minnesota, Oregon, Utah and Washington. For more information, visit www.stoel.com.*

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