

Young Lawyers Begin the Campaign Year at Ecotrust Party



Mavel Morales, Oregon Law Center; Fay Stetz-Waters, Oregon State Bar; and Roberta Phillip, Multnomah County Judicial Clerk



Co-Chair Amy Edwards

Young lawyers gathered to launch the 2007 Annual Campaign September 11 on the terrace of the Ecotrust Building in northwest Portland. Associates and legal aid lawyers met and talked with the newest crop of young lawyers and law students about the work of legal aid and the importance of the Campaign for Equal Justice.

The reception, generously sponsored by the court reporting firm **Beovich Walter and Friend Associates**, aimed to energize young leaders in the legal community. Co-chair **Amy Edwards** thanked the gathering and said, "I know some of you out here are longtime supporters of the Campaign and some of you are brand new to it, but I want to encourage you all to get involved."

Young boys find a home, *cont'd from page 1*

income Hispanic population of east Multnomah County. Potential clients are screened by Oregon Law Center staff and firm shareholder and clinic coordinator **Margaret Hoffmann** schedules clinics and recruits lawyers to take cases. Although some of the Schwabe lawyers speak Spanish, **Eleanor Morfin**, a bi-lingual paralegal with the Oregon Law Center, is always on hand at the Clinic to act as an interpreter if needed. She also helps with follow up appointments and translates documents.

Noah Jarrett, the lawyer who helped Jose, Alba and their grandsons, said that the family's needs were outside his area of expertise, "but when you take on cases from the clinic, you know you're going to be stepping outside your comfort zone and doing things that require you to do some research." Noah adds that there is always someone in the firm who has experience with a particular area of law and, he says, "The firm supports pro bono work. They make resources available to us and recognition is heaped on those who do pro bono work."

About the legal work, Noah Jarrett said, "We had to file three separate guardianship petitions in Multnomah County Probate Court. It's not something I would want to try to do myself if I weren't a lawyer. We didn't have to have a hearing because the boys' father voluntarily came in and met with me and signed an affidavit consenting to the appointment of his father-in-law as guardian for the boys." This is one of approximately 100 cases the Schwabe pro bono clinic handles every year.

Law Firms Among Most Generous Corporations

In its Corporate Philanthropy Awards ceremony on October 12, 2007, **The Portland Business Journal** recognized Portland law firms, among many others, for charitable giving. **Stoll Stoll Berne Lokting and Shlachter** was honored as one of the top ten contributors in the small business category for their contributions to charity, including the Campaign for Equal Justice. **Miller Nash** was acknowledged in the mid-size business category. Other firms receiving recognition at the ceremony for their contributions to the Campaign along with other charitable causes included **Stoel Rives, Lane Powell, Davis Wright Tremaine, Bullivant Houser Bailey** and **Schwabe Williamson & Wyatt**.



The Stoll Stoll Berne partners

Portland Litigators Train New Legal Aid Lawyers

Portland lawyer **Bill Crow**, a member of the Access to Justice Committee of the **American College of Trial Lawyers**, helped recruit colleagues for legal aid's Trial Advocacy Training, which took place October 24th through the 26th. Twenty new legal aid lawyers with less than three years of trial experience attended. **Tom Matsuda**, Executive Director of Legal Aid Services of Oregon said, "The list of trainers read like a Who's Who of Portland's great trial lawyers." The trainers included **Dave Markowitz, Dave Miller, George Kirklin, Ken Renner, Paul Duden, Peter Glade, Rich Busse, Paul Fortino, Robert Stoll, Steve English, Elden Rosenthal, Garry Kahn, and Dan Skerritt**.



Paul Duden, William Kastner & Gibbs, speaks about expert testimony

The Campaign for Equal Justice

The Campaign for Equal Justice was established in 1991 and works to support statewide legal aid programs. Our mission is to champion access to justice for low-income Oregonians through education and by working to increase funding for legal aid through grants, foundation support, state and federal support, and direct fundraising from private lawyers. The Oregon legal community has responded generously, helping the Campaign to raise more than \$13,000,000 over the last sixteen years. Despite the tremendous efforts of our volunteers and

contributors, we are still meeting less than 20% of legal needs of the poor in Oregon. With your help we can do better than 20%!

- When you contribute to the Campaign, you are making an investment in our system of justice. It is also an investment in the lives of our clients.
- The Campaign's efforts effectively double the value of your contribution by working for increases in federal and state funding, obtaining grants from government and private foundations, and operating an endowment to secure the future of legal aid.
- The Campaign educates lawyers, legislators and the public about the legal needs of the poor and what they can do to help legal aid.

Types of Cases Handled

Over 40% of legal aid's cases are family law. The majority of those focus on domestic violence. Because we can only serve less than 20% of the legal needs of the poor, legal aid offices must set priorities.



We Could Use ...

- A 6' round table
- A letter folding machine
- A plain, safe, reliable used car for LASO's Farmworker Program

Legal Aid Offices in Oregon



Where We Are

Legal Aid Services of Oregon
– Albany, Bend, Eugene, Hillsboro, Klamath Falls, Independence, McMinnville, Newport Oregon City, Pendleton, Portland, Salem St. Helens, Roseburg, Woodburn

Center for NonProfit Legal Services
– Medford

Lane County Legal Aid & Advocacy Center
– Eugene

Oregon Law Center
– Coos Bay, Grants Pass, Ontario, Portland, Salem, Woodburn

Oregon Advocacy Center
– Statewide

THE LAWYERS' CAMPAIGN *for* EQUAL JUSTICE

A New Legal Aid Office for Klamath and Lake Counties



PHOTO: BEN VALLEJOS

Leaders celebrate the reopening of the Klamath Falls office: Attorney General Hardy Myers, Chief Justice Paul DeMuniz; Marla Cummins, Director of the Klamath Falls office; Tom Matsuda, Executive Director of Legal Aid Services of Oregon; Rick Yugler, incoming President of the Oregon State Bar; and Lisa LeSage, President of the Oregon Law Foundation

The new legal team in Klamath Falls is making up for lost time by bringing much-needed legal assistance to this isolated area of south central Oregon. When officials gathered last May to celebrate the reopening of the Klamath/Lake County office of Legal Aid Services of Oregon, the LASO Board and

administration experienced the pleasure of realizing a long-held goal—to restore service to this significantly underserved area of the state.

It takes a long time to get to Klamath Falls or Lakeview from other cities and in fact quite a long time to get from Klamath Falls to Lakeview. After the Klamath Falls office was closed in 1996 due to federal funding cuts, the nearest offices were in Bend and Medford. While staff time and effort have been devoted to this area in recent years by telephone hotlines and a lawyer traveling from Bend, the new local office will have the capacity to provide direct and timely representation in a way that is not possible at a distance.

Regional Director and attorney **Marla Cummins**, new attorney **Staci Palin** and office manager **Tiffany Walton** are working to assess community priorities while responding to a considerable pent-up demand for legal services in critical areas, such as family law and housing. Between July and early September, they took in 130 requests for legal help. When a fourth member, an intake specialist, completes the team, their aim is to assist 1,000 clients per year.



PHOTO: BEN VALLEJOS

Judge Cameron Wogan welcomes guests to the reopening reception sponsored by Sterling Savings Bank.



PHOTO: BEN VALLEJOS

Circuit Court Administrator Val Paulson signaled the project's completion by filling in the second eye of a 'Daruma', a Japanese folk art tradition.

One More Family is Getting a Fresh Start

Karri thought she might lose custody of her children, Austin and Colleen. Although she had obtained a divorce from her abusive husband more than two years ago, he continued to visit the

children, and those visits sometimes ended in violence against Karri. In an odd twist, Karri's ex-husband accused her of physically attacking him. He filed for a restraining order and asked for full custody of Austin and Colleen.



PHOTO: RITA BADALAMENTI

Karri Layton with pictures of her children

Sharon Brown, a legal aid lawyer in Hillsboro, agreed to represent Karri at the restraining order hearing. Brown's questioning at the hearing established that the ex-husband had no grounds for a restraining order and revealed facts that helped the District Attorney successfully prosecute him on criminal assault charges against Karri. He is now serving a two year prison sentence. Washington County District Attorney Gina Skinner said, "When a domestic violence victim goes into a civil hearing we can't do anything to help them. I'm really glad legal aid is there to help."

With the legal struggles behind her, Karri has now joined her children where they spent the summer with relatives. Karri has an offer of employment in her new location and is making a fresh start with her family.

Three Young Boys Find A Secure Home

Enrique, 12, Roberto, 11, and Gabriel, 7 months, needed caregivers and their grandparents, Jose and Alba, were willing to take them to their home in Honduras. The boys' mother died shortly after Gabriel was born and their father was unable to care for them. Everyone agreed that the grandparents could give them the best chance for a secure future. Jose and Alba had traveled to Oregon to help with the children, but there were a number of complex legal barriers to getting the children to Honduras with their grandparents.

Since 1991 with the help of the Oregon Law Center, the law firm of Schwabe Williamson & Wyatt, has organized a biweekly pro bono law clinic in their offices that serves the low

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Noah Jarrett, Schwabe clinic volunteer

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Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Portland, Oregon
Permit No. 3215

Among Us



PHOTO: JORGE LARA

Erika Nordhaus

NEW DIRECTOR FOR LANE COUNTY LASO

Erika Nordhaus has been appointed as the Regional Director for Lane County Legal Aid Services of Oregon to fill the position left by **Laurence Hamblen** who stepped down after 21 years of service. Erika was previously at the Albany LASO office for 3 years.

She is a graduate of Syracuse College of Law, Syracuse, NY. "I'm glad to have the opportunity to work with the skilled and talented staff and to be a part of the Lane County community."

ED HARNDEN RECEIVES PROFESSIONALISM AWARD



Ed Harnden

CEJ Board Chair **Ed Harnden** is the 2007 recipient of the Edwin J. Peterson Professionalism Award by the Joint Bench-Bar Commission on Professionalism.

NELSON, WADA, AND LESAGE HONORED BY BAR

with the President's Public Service Award. **Hon Adrienne Nelson, Mark Wada** and **Lisa LeSage** are past and current

presidents of the Oregon

Law Foundation and have worked tirelessly with Oregon bankers to increase interest rates on IOLTA accounts. The interest is distributed by OLF to benefit public interest projects, including legal aid.

LARRY REW HONORED FOR PRO BONO SERVICE

Pendleton lawyer **Larry Rew**, was honored with a **2007 Regional Oregon Governor's Volunteer Award** in Salem this September. Larry Rew has been a friend and supporter of the Campaign for Equal Justice and Pendleton legal aid for many years and regularly provides *pro bono* legal assistance and advice to clients in the region. This award, given by the State Commission for Voluntary Action and Service, "recognizes volunteers... that have demonstrated dedication, commitment, and determination in promoting and supporting volunteerism...and have worked to strengthen communities and improve the quality of life for Oregon residents through service."



Sybil Hebb, Denise Washington and Robin Selig

OCADSV RECOGNIZES WOMENS' ADVOCATES

The **Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (OCADSV)** awarded Oregon Law Center attorneys **Robin Selig** and **Sybil Hebb**, along with **Denise Washington**, former OCADSV director, now executive director of Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the Midori Hamilton Award. The award is "in recognition of their commitment, dedication, and leadership in service to women and children who have experienced violence in their lives and programs that provide support and advocacy to survivors."

RECORD ATTENDANCE AT MARION COUNTY CAMPAIGN LUNCHEON



Brena Moyer Lopez at the Marion County Luncheon

The annual Marion County Campaign for Equal Justice luncheon sponsored by Pioneer Trust Bank was held on October 11, 2007 at the Mission Mill. Chief Justice Paul DeMuniz delivered keynote remarks to more than 200 attendees. **Brena Moyer Lopez**, a Salem legal aid lawyer, also addressed the crowd.

She told them about the most difficult part of her job—sending rejection letters to low-income Oregonians who have legitimate legal needs but who will not receive services due to a lack of resources in the legal aid office. **Eric Lindauer** followed up with a challenge to Marion county lawyers to help make that stack of rejection letters shrink. They answered the call by raising a record \$41,000, nearly doubling the amount raised last year.

The Marion County Bar Association led the charge, donating a record \$5100. When asked why the Marion County Bar Association supports the Campaign for Equal Justice, **Todd McCann**, President of the bar association said, "As lawyers we have a professional duty to assure that all people have access to justice." This year's fundraising goal for Marion County is \$65,000 and, thanks to Salem area lawyers, we are well on our way!

PHOTO: JORGE LARA

New Staff Attorneys: Why I Chose to Become a Legal Aid Lawyer



RYAN FRIEBELE HILLSBORO

As an individual who grew up in poverty, I understand how challenging it can be to see the light at the end of the tunnel. As a tax advocate, I can help low-income taxpayers towards financial security.



COURTNEY CROWE OREGON CITY

I support LASO's commitment to offering legal services to those who would not otherwise have access to them and I have the desire to serve diverse, low-income populations. There is never a dull moment. I love my job.



YESENIA GUTIERREZ HILLSBORO

I chose to work for Legal Aid for selfish reasons. My work is full of glimpses of a variety of cultures, personalities, and experiences. Each time a client opens a part of their lives to me, I am changed.



STACI PALIN KLAMATH FALLS

I grew up in an environment where a job was supposed to be more than a paycheck. I wanted to be intellectually challenged and also go home every night knowing that I had helped someone.



SARAH RADCLIFFE PORTLAND

I chose to become a legal aid lawyer based on my experience working with people who, due to poverty, were trampled upon by those with more power and lacked the tools and resources to access justice.



MARY ROSS ONTARIO

For me, working for legal aid is the best combination of using my legal skills and making a difference in people's lives.

LAF-OFF Back by Popular Demand

Laf-Off, a Legal Aid Fundraiser Originated by Fios and Friends, took the stage October 26th at McMenam's Mission Theater. **Kerry Tymchuk** graciously returned for his third time as Master of Ceremonies. Judges awarded the coveted rubber chicken awards as follows: in a split decision, **Hon Jacob Tanzer** and **David Aman**, Tonkon Torp, took the first show, and **Lisa Ludwig**, Attorney at Law, swept the second. By the time the lights went down, participants had given their all for legal aid programs in Oregon.

Contestants faced two panels of distinguished judges including Supreme Court Justice **Thomas Balmer**; Court of Appeals Judge **Robert Wollheim**; Multnomah Circuit Court Judges **Julie Frantz** and **Adrienne Nelson**; United States District Court Judge **James Redden**; and **Craig Wessel**, publisher of the Portland Business Journal.

Contestants included **Sonia Montalbano**, Elliot Ostrander & Preston; **Greg Levinson**, Elzinga & Associates; **Mike Porter**, Miller Nash; and **Jeremy Aliason**, of the Native American Project of Legal Services. **Fios, Inc.**, electronic discovery service providers and the **Multnomah Bar Association** generously sponsored the event.



Laf-Off Judges Hon Tom Balmer, Hon Julie Frantz and Hon James Redden



Contestants Jeremy Aliason, Mike Porter, Lisa Ludwig and Hon Jake Tanzer

PHOTOS: MICHAEL RENFROW

Dream Team Honored by MBA

The Multnomah Bar Association's Pro Bono Award of Merit was presented to seven attorneys often called the 'Dream Team' for their distinguished credentials and devotion to the cause of legal services. The team includes **Steve Walters**, formerly of Stoel Rives, now of Allen Matkins, San Francisco; **Michael Hallinan** and **Beverly Pearman** of Stoel Rives; **Don Marmaduke**, **Scott Seidman** and **Anna Sortun** of Tonkon Torp; and **Kent Thurber** of Davis Wright Tremaine.

The team has worked since late 2005 on a lawsuit that challenges the restrictions the federal government places on legal aid programs that receive funding from the Legal Services Corporation (LSC). Don Marmaduke said in a recent speech, "The litigation challenges a seriously flawed, federally funded legal services delivery system—a system that we believe unconstitutionally prevents low-

income people from receiving a full range of services..." The case has survived a motion to dismiss and is now in the discovery phase.

Other pro bono awardees at the September 19th luncheon include **Hon Elizabeth Perris**, honored for her leadership in establishing and assisting the Bankruptcy Clinic jointly sponsored by the OSB Debtor-Creditor Section and Legal Aid Services of Oregon; **Peter Willcox-Jones**, Cosgrave, Vergeer and Kester, for restoring his firm's contribution to the Oregon Law Center Neighborhood Pro Bono Clinic; and **David Gray**, Swensen & Gray, for his exceptional service to seniors at the Neighborhood House Senior Law Project clinic. Legal aid programs provide crucial support to pro bono clinics including intake interviews, case assignments and on-site facilitation.

A Call To Action >

What You Can Do To Help Legal Aid In Your Community

- > Understand how funding for legal aid works and support increased funding on both the state and federal level.
- > Put your lawyer trust account funds with a bank that will maximize the rate of return on IOLTA money that goes to support legal aid. www.oregonlawfoundation.org
- > Do pro bono work through your local legal aid office. Administration resources are often limited, so please be patient. In the Portland metro area and Bend sign up at: probonooregon-subscribe@mail.lawhelp.org.
- > Give generously to the Campaign for Equal Justice. The best way to increase access is to create more legal aid staff attorney positions.
- > Include the Endowment Fund in your estate plan to help build stable future support for Oregon's legal programs. Contact Sandy Hansberger at (503) 295-8442 or sandy@cej-oregon.org.
- > Understand how legal services are delivered in your community so that you can make appropriate referrals for low-income clients.
- > Become involved in your local legal aid offices' case priority setting.
- > Take a legal aid lawyer to lunch. Get to know the lawyers and their work.

For more information go to www.cej-oregon.org, "A Call to Action".

How Staff & Volunteers Leverage Your Investment in Access to Justice

2007 STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDING

During the 2007 legislative session, legal aid received a special grant of approximately \$700,000 over the next two years from the general fund. "This is the first time we have received general fund money. We thank the leadership in the Oregon legislature for taking the time to understand the importance of funding civil legal aid for the poor," says David Thornburgh, Director of Oregon Law Center. With strong support from our congressional delegation, federal funding is also expected to increase slightly in 2008.

GRANTS FOR OPERATIONS AND PROJECTS

The Campaign for Equal Justice has been instrumental in obtaining nearly \$1 million in private foundation and corporate grants to support legal aid projects and programs during the past two years. Support from the **Oregon Law Foundation** has been vital to the reopening of the Klamath Falls office. In addition, the **Oregon State Bar**, the **Oregon Law Foundation**, the **Jackson Foundation** and the **Rose Tucker Trust** provide funds that support the work of the Campaign and legal aid programs.

USING THE CREATIVE FORCE OF VOLUNTEERS

The Campaign's annual fund drive is supported by more than one hundred volunteers throughout the state who use their creative efforts to raise money and educate lawyers and the public about legal aid. This helps the Campaign stretch limited resources. A good example of these efforts is **Justice Rocks**, a project of the Salem law firm, **Crowell Ing LLC**. In celebration of the firm's tenth anniversary they planned this rock 'n roll concert held in Salem on October 27, with ticket proceeds going to the Campaign for Equal Justice.



The Stoel Rives law firm, in celebration of their 100th anniversary, has chosen to 'adopt' several charitable organizations including the Campaign for Equal Justice. Stoel Rives employees will donate their time to projects of the Campaign. Their first assignment, on October 26th, was to welcome guests to Laf-Off at the Mission Theater.