

THE LAWYERS' CAMPAIGN FOR EQUAL JUSTICE



SUPPORTING LEGAL AID IN OREGON

Spring 2006

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Henry Hewitt, Senator Ron Wyden and Senator Gordon Smith

Campaign Celebrates 15th

by Sandra Hansberger

The 2005 Annual Campaign, successfully concluded on March 31, 2006, marks a year to celebrate as well as a new phase for the Campaign for Equal Justice. With the generous assistance of a matching grant from Meyer Memorial Trust, the Campaign raised an historic \$1 million. We did this with the help of more than 150 volunteers, including legal aid lawyers, who took time to talk with the private bar about the needs of their clients and the 80 percent of those eligible for help who cannot be served. Lawyers from all over the state and in all areas of practice worked to raise money for legal aid to help close the gap.

The Annual Awards Luncheon was a time to celebrate our success, thank our volunteers (see pages 1, 3 of the Annual Report for a full listing) and also pay tribute to the significant contribution of Henry Hewitt, the Campaign's founder and long-time Board Chair. Both Senators Smith and Wyden honored Henry's remarkable service by presenting him with the first Henry Hewitt Access to Justice Award. (See Annual Report, page 1.)

We also celebrated the Oregon Law Foundation's work with banks to increase interest rates on lawyer trust accounts—money which primarily goes to fund low-income legal services. US Bank was honored by the Foundation for their significant contributions.

What next? Despite our successes, we still meet less than 20 percent of the legal needs of the poor in Oregon. During the spring and summer months, Campaign staff and volunteers will continue their mission to educate the community about access to justice, build the endowment, and seek out other funding sources for legal aid. We are also gearing up for our fall Legal Aid Open Houses that will take place in 16 communities around Oregon and a fall Access to Justice Conference. We welcome your input, energy and ideas on how we can help provide resources for access to justice. Please, let us hear from you! sandy@cej-oregon.org ■

SID LEZAK: A VOICE FOR COMPASSION AND FAIR PLAY

As one of the many paths toward a more humane and just society that Sid Lezak spent his life pursuing, the Lawyers Campaign for Equal Justice was honored by the time and effort he made to promote equal justice for all. Campaign leadership, staff and volunteers were also, quite simply, warmed by his presence on many public occasions when he made a substantial contribution by just walking in the door.

But his involvement never ended there. During the 2005 Annual Fund drive, Sid was one of the most engaged volunteers. He sponsored a House of Delegates Resolution calling for adequate funding for legal aid and encouraging 100 percent participation by the House of Delegates members. The measure passed unanimously. He wrote letters to Delegates asking them to contribute. He made phone calls to colleagues for Campaign contributions and to encourage them to attend special events like Laf-Off. He was always there to offer sage advice, wisdom, humor and encouragement. When Sid Lezak died this past April, the cause of equal justice lost a great friend.

In 1999, Sid helped the Campaign raise funds for legal aid by celebrating his 75th birthday, his 50th wedding anniversary and his 50th year as a lawyer at a party and roast in his honor. Three hundred friends of Sid and his wife Muriel marched into the Governor Hotel's Grand Ballroom wearing Martian antennae and playing kazoos. He said on this occasion, "I am willing to have my humility tested in the interest of my profession's greatest unmet social obligation—to provide competent legal assistance to those who are priced out of the market for our services." In Access to Justice Conferences, 1998, 2000 and 2002, Lezak

played various roles—the ghost of Gus Solomon, the kindly uncle from Mars, the outlaw Fagan—in musical comedy sketches with a justice theme.

It was great fun but it was for a serious goal. All through his career, Sid Lezak remained an unabashed champion of the work of legal aid lawyers and volunteer

"True justice is a subtle thing, and often can be hard to find. With Sid Lezak, it was always right there, in his heart." The Oregonian, April 26th, 2006

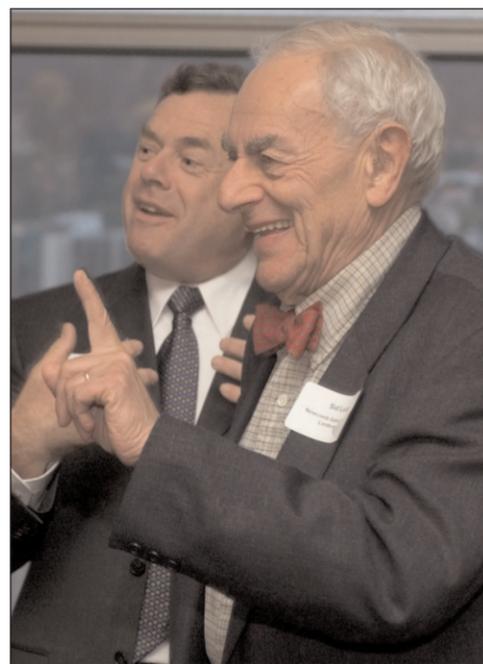
lawyers as they stood up for those least able to afford legal help. And because of his prominent role in the legal

community and his legions of friends, Sid's belief in the cause made a great difference in the lives of low-income people in need of legal help.

Sid Lezak served as United States Attorney for Oregon for a record twenty years. A Kennedy appointee in 1961, he continued up until the Reagan administration, leaving in 1982. After Sid Lezak's years as US Attorney, he chose the new field of dispute resolution and was a leader in establishing mediation as a branch of legal practice in Oregon and across the country.

He saw mediation as another way to lower the cost of legal proceedings and to provide a less expensive way for people to have their grievances resolved.

His leadership in the mediation field as everyone's "Uncle Sid" continued up to the present time. Also, from 1982 until his death, he was 'of counsel' to the Portland law firm Newcomb Sabin Schwartz & Landsverk. Many of Sid's friends have made contributions in his honor to the Campaign. Their names will be published in the Fall 2006 newsletter. ■



Ed Harnden and Sid Lezak



Sid Lezak (third from left) at the 2002 Access to Justice Conference

INSIDE
THIS
ISSUE

PAGE 2 LEGAL AID PROFILE
Monica Goracke
BRIEFLY
NATIONAL; STATE

PAGE 3 PROJECT HOMELESS
CONNECT
Legal Advocates Take Part
PITCHING IN
Pro Bono Opportunities

PAGE 4 COMMUNITY FOCUS
LEGAL AID IN OREGON
Focus on Central Oregon
LANE COUNTY RECEPTION

MONICA GORACKE

Monica Goracke, who formerly advocated for people with disabilities in Oakland, California, passed the bar exam this spring and became an Oregon attorney. She serves homeless people in the metro area through outreach and advocacy. Her work includes regular visits to JOIN, a daytime resource for homeless people, and Transition Projects Inc., a shelter and human services organization. She meets with people to discuss ways to solve the problems that increase the difficulty of their day-to-day lives and that stand in the way of finding employment and housing. Goracke led a team of legal advocates at the first 'Project Homeless Connect' service day in January. (See 'Project Homeless Connect', page 3.)



PHOTO: JOANNE ZUHL, STREET ROOTS

that might help?" I definitely can improve the access of homeless people to legal advice and legal services just by going into the shelters and the programs and talking to people in the street. And when I see policies or decisions that are unjust or that hurt homeless people in some way, I can try to advocate against those or change them. I can add my voice." When asked if she feels some optimism about reducing or ending homelessness, she says that it's hard to do this work and not feel sad about the trends of things generally, but that it is important to remember that after the 1930s, homelessness wasn't a widespread social problem until the 1980s.

Goracke's interest in social issues was strengthened during high school. "My parents made sacrifices so that I could go to St. Mary's, a school in Medford, Oregon that has a strong college prep program. The principal at

St. Mary's, Barbara Callaway, gave me a book by Jonathan Kozol, *Savage Inequalities*, and it made a huge impression on me. Until then, I didn't make the connection that the same problems we were dealing

"After the 1930s, homelessness wasn't a widespread social problem until the 1980s."

with in Oregon were contributing to poverty and inequality across the country." Kozol's book also gave her a first glimpse into what lawyers could do to improve social conditions. The idea that lawyers had power to create change led her to Stanford Law School and eventually to seek a job in public interest law.

When she meets people in the shelters and on the streets, Monica begins by helping them talk through their distress and feelings of hopelessness before she can address specific needs. She says, "I think of it as one way I can put positive energy out there and one person will find the world a little bit easier to deal with." ■

Briefly...

National News



Ed Harnden accepts award from ABA Grassroots Director Julie Strandlie and ABA President Michael Greco

American Bar Association Honors the Campaign for Equal Justice

The ABA honored the Campaign for Equal Justice, in partnership with the Oregon State Bar, for their outstanding grassroots efforts in support of funding for the Legal Services Corporation and to improve access to justice for all at the May, 2006 ABA Day in Washington, D.C. **Ed Harnden** accepted the award on behalf of the Campaign. The award acknowledged the Campaign's leadership, in conjunction with Oregon Senators Smith and Wyden, in achieving bi-partisan support for federal funding for legal aid.

Senators request \$358 Million for Legal Services Corporation

The Bush administration has recommended a \$20 million cut to the Legal Services Corporation's annual appropriation for 2007. This will bring federal funding down to \$311 million, a figure that is lower than the funding level in 1981. In May,

Senator Gordon Smith (R-OR) and **Senator Edward Kennedy** (D-MA) sponsored a letter requesting a 2007 appropriation of \$358 million for the Legal Services Corporation and are urging senators to sign. Also, **Representative Darlene Hooley** (D-OR) has written a letter, signed by all members of the Oregon congressional delegation, supporting a \$358 million appropriation.

Kulongoski Addresses NYU Law Students on Public Service and the Law

New York University Law School invited **Governor Ted Kulongoski** to deliver the "Robert Abrams Public Service Lecture" this past January. Kulongoski's speech touched on issues of public service and public interest law. "Public interest lawyers," he said, "are critical guardians of our democracy. That's why I hold legal aid lawyers especially close to my heart...They haven't just chosen public service; they've chosen to stand up for people who have the least ability to stand up for themselves." Of the private bar, Kulongoski assigned them the role of guarding and advocating for public interest lawyers. "Wherever you end up, there will be opportunities for pro bono work, and there will be a legal aid office or an organization dedicated to protecting legal aid. So step up. Be a volunteer for legal aid."

State News

Kaiser Permanente and PacifiCorp award grants

The newly established **Kaiser Permanente Community Fund of the Northwest Health Foundation** has awarded \$324,000 for a three-year

project aimed at preventing sexual assault and sexual harassment of farmworker women. It is called **Projecto en Contra de Acoso Sexual en el Campo** or The Farmworker Program's Project Against Workplace Sexual Assault. This, under the direction of **Nargess Shadbeh** of the **Oregon Law Center**, is in collaboration with **Oregon Health and Sciences University**. The Virginia Garcia Medical Clinic in Washington County will provide some assistance.

The **PacifiCorp Foundation for Learning** awarded \$10,000 for the Indigenous Farmworker Education project that has, since 2002, provided outreach and education on employment related subjects to farmworkers from indigenous cultures in Mexico and Central America.

New Legal Services for Klamath Falls

The **Oregon Law Foundation** has awarded two special project grants totaling \$200,000 to **Legal Aid Services of Oregon** to increase services to Klamath and Lake Counties. The grants are intended as seed money to build sustainable new resources needed to eventually re-open a legal aid office in Klamath Falls. The Klamath Falls office was one of several legal aid offices closed in 1996 due to funding cuts. LASO will seek additional funding from a variety of public and private sources with the assistance and support of the Klamath and Lake communities. The two-county region served by a Klamath Falls office would be the second largest in the legal aid system.

ProBonoOregon Listserv Receives Pro Bono Innovation Award

Pro Bono Challenge awards, sponsored by the **Oregon State Bar New Lawyers Division**, were presented April 6th. The awards recognize outstanding pro bono contributions and also recognize Oregon lawyers throughout the state who contribute their time to assist people not able to afford a private lawyer. (See Pro Bono, page 3.) Oregon Law Center's new ProBonoOregon Listserv received the 2005 Pro Bono Innovation award. The listserv lets attorneys review individual pro bono cases from various offices providing legal services to the low-income community each week. It currently serves Oregon's ten northwest counties, including the Portland metro area. Work is now being done to expand to other areas of the state.

Galloway Honored for Solo Practitioner Pro Bono

The 2005 Solo Practitioner pro bono award went to **George Galloway**, formerly of **Stoel Rives**, who now practices in La Grande. Galloway accepts low-income clients pro bono in La Grande and Elgin that are referred to him from the Pendleton office of Legal Aid Services of Oregon. LASO Regional Director, **Arron Guevara** said, "George Galloway has done an incredible job for low-income people in Union County. By helping so many people in need he has made a great contribution to the good of his community." ■

LEGAL TEAM SERVES MORE THAN 100 AT FIRST PROJECT HOMELESS CONNECT

Tuesday, January 17th marked the City of Portland and Multnomah County's first service day for "Project Homeless Connect." Portland's Memorial Coliseum was the site of a daylong project to address specific problems of homeless people in Multnomah County, estimated to be 4,000 on any given night. Monica Goracke, the Oregon Law Center attorney who headed up the Homeless Connect legal team, said of the city and county 2005 homeless census, "This figure includes 1,020 who were turned away from shelters on the night of the 2005 count. In 2004 the number was just 465—the number turned away more than doubled."



PHOTO: THEODORE DORONILA

Organizers shared the belief that service providers and ordinary citizens of Portland have the skills and the desire to help homeless people but lack the setting where they can work efficiently and have a real impact, so the city provided a place and a single day where people could get help for a variety of problems all in one place. This first service day was for individuals. A second Homeless Connect day is planned for July, specifically for families.

Monica Goracke headed a legal team that included private attorneys, paralegals and law students, and legal aid staffers Lori Alton, Christina Dirks, Julie Stevens and Julia Greenfield for civil legal help. Public defenders Alex Bassos and Rebecca Blaney helped with criminal matters. The team spoke with more than 100 people about an array of legal problems including divorce, child support, domestic violence, consumer law, help with expungement of criminal records, problems with ID and drivers' licenses as well as other barriers that prevent people from finding employment and housing. Legal aid lawyer Julie Stevens, who advised clients on family law issues, said that the atmosphere was friendly, "Most of the people that came to me, their legal problems seemed to be very frustrating to them but they seemed to be in a very good mood."

Care was given to provide services that would, at a single meeting, provide the most help possible and make the connections for future services. Many of the people who came began at a foot washing station where their feet were cleaned and dried and checked for injuries. Goracke explained that in San Francisco, where these service events began, "The foot washing is supposed to be about breaking down barriers that aren't just economic but they're social barriers, so having the mayor of San Francisco and other leaders there washing people's feet

See *Project Homeless Connect*, page 4

BEHIND THE SCENES OF OREGON'S PRO BONO PROGRAMS

In 2005, Oregon attorneys reported over 86,000 hours of pro bono work to the Oregon State Bar. This is the equivalent of over 40 people working full time for a year! What goes on behind the scenes to make pro bono such a success in Oregon? Hard work and dedication by Oregon's 1200 pro bono lawyers and support by state and county bar associations makes this possible.

The behind the scenes work of legal aid programs is critical to the success of pro bono. The Multnomah County Office of Legal Aid Services of Oregon (LASO) has two attorneys, as well as paralegal and support staff, who are devoted to pro bono coordination. Additionally, the Portland Office of the Oregon Law Center (OLC) devotes staff resources to coordinating pro bono projects. Pro bono coordinators take client intake information, get detailed factual information in some cases and then attempt to place cases with pro bono attorneys. The pro bono coordinators may place clients in pre-established clinics or attempt to directly refer the clients to volunteer attorneys. In addition, the coordinators provide support to volunteer attorneys by providing them with training materials, mentors and planning CLEs.

The projects operated by the offices are varied. The Domestic Violence Project places survivors of domestic violence who have contested protective order hearings with volunteer attorneys. Attorneys provide brief legal advice or document review to pro se family law clients in the Pro Se Assistance Project, housed at the Multnomah County Courthouse. The Senior Law Project in Multnomah County and Senior Law Service in Lane County connect volunteer attorneys with clients age 60 and over. The OSB Debtor-Creditor Section co-sponsors the Bankruptcy Clinic with LASO and provides pro bono bankruptcy assistance to clients. Stoel Rives, Schwabe Williamson Wyatt, Tonkon Torp and Lane Powell sponsor legal clinics with LASO and OLC that provide needed assistance. In all of these projects, legal aid staff spend a significant amount of time communicating with the client and placing the cases.

There are a variety of cases that don't fit the niches these programs are designed to fill and attorneys sometimes have difficulty finding a pro bono assignment they feel comfortable with. These concerns led to the creation of the ProBonoOregon Listserv. The Listserv is maintained by OLC, and also lists opportunities from other programs including LASO, Community Development Law Center, Oregon Advocacy Center and Catholic Charities Immigration Services. In order to limit the impact of the listserv on inboxes, opportunities are sent only on Thursdays, and the list does not serve as a forum for discussion. Please note that right now the list serves the Portland metro area, though expansion plans are in the works.



ProBonoOregon Listserv is coordinated by Lori Alton, Oregon Law Center

The Oregon legal aid community has made a commitment to pro bono work, by devoting staff time to coordination, providing interpreters when needed, and continually looking for the most efficient and effective way to connect volunteer attorneys to low-income clients. Pro Bono programs are supported financially by a variety of sources including The Roscoe

Attorneys may sign up for the listserv by sending an email to probonooregon-subscribe@mail.lawhelp.org.

C. Nelson Jr. Fund, The Multnomah Bar Association, and the Oregon Law Foundation. The Oregon State Bar also employs a pro bono coordinator, maintains the Military Assistance Panel and provides a useful website on pro bono opportunities throughout the state. Between investing in the infrastructure required for widespread pro bono practice, and investing in legal aid direct service, we can get closer to meeting the legal needs of our low-income neighbors. Legal aid offices provide pro bono opportunities in Pendleton, Albany, Medford, Roseburg, Coos Bay, Grants Pass, Newport, Ontario, Bend, Salem and Eugene. ■

OREGON Access to Justice ENDOWMENT



YOU CAN SHAPE THE FUTURE

- Remember The Oregon Access to Justice Endowment Fund in your will
- Designate the Endowment Fund as the final Beneficiary of your retirement fund assets
- Transfer life insurance to the Endowment Fund
- Preserve income for yourself or your loved ones through a trust

Decide now to help secure the future of legal aid.

I wish to learn more about the Oregon Access to Justice Endowment Fund.

- Please send me information about making a planned gift.
- I/We have remembered the Oregon Access to Justice Endowment Fund in our estate plans.
- Please list my/our names as written below in the Legacy Partners Circle.
- I/We wish to remain anonymous.
- I/We are interested in making a cash contribution.

Name _____

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Legal Aid in Oregon: Focus on Central Oregon

Assisting clients in Bend, making monthly outreach trips to the Warm Springs reservation and to Prineville, Redmond and Madras, and with programs reaching south into Klamath and Lake counties, the Central Oregon office of Legal Aid Services of Oregon has a small staff with a full plate. The Bend office serves Deschutes, Crook and Jefferson Counties. Regional Director Leigh Dickey, who began the job eighteen months ago, says, "This area looks so affluent but the need for legal aid is everywhere."

Central Oregon legal aid has a staff of six. In addition to director Leigh Dickey and staff attorney Racheal Baker, attorney Ari Halpern travels to Klamath Falls and Lakeview for domestic violence cases. Also, there is AmeriCorps paralegal, Margo Dobbertin, who will leave Bend to attend law school later this year, Office Manager Denise Newman, a long-time LASO staffer and resident of the area, and Spanish-speaking intake worker Alma Rodriguez.

In Dickey's view, the most serious problem is that there are so few advocates for so many people in need. "It's just overwhelming, the number of cases that are deserving of an attorney. We don't have the manpower to do them so you find yourself giving 15 or 20 minutes of advice here and there and you see you haven't been able to accept a full representation case for a long time. There's a balance between wanting to give a little bit of advice to everyone versus wanting to spend your attorney time wisely." This year, the Bend office hopes to launch a pro bono listserv, modeled on the listserv at the Portland metro area legal aid offices, to provide opportunities for private attorneys to help clients in the Central Oregon counties.

Leigh Dickey says that the low-income community in Bend, and increasingly in the Prineville area, is under a different kind of stress than other areas of central and eastern Oregon. "The lack of affordable housing is one of the highest priorities in our case load, issues like public housing facilities not renewing their Section 8

contracts and switching to market price rentals, owners giving tenants notice that they will tear down their apartments and build new ones in their place, mobile home parks giving notice and selling the land for development." "The job market," she says, "has shifted to low-paid service jobs, particularly housecleaning, landscaping and in-home care for the elderly, all at very low pay. Our clients need help with consumer problems, wage claims and other problems related to employment."

Leigh Dickey is excited about the possibilities in community outreach and involvement of the private bar in the region. Tom Matsuda, Statewide Director, says, "It is troubling that the rapid growth in Central Oregon is causing low-income residents to lose basic shelter in their own home towns. Leigh and her staff are doing a



Bend office: Leigh Dickey, Racheal Baker, Alma Rodriguez, Denise Newman, Margo Dobbertin, and Ari Halpern

great job of assessing these changing client needs and reaching out to the private bar and community leaders to help address the legal problems caused by these changes." ■

Central Oregon Legal Aid serves Deschutes, Crook and Jefferson Counties, a total of 7,778 square miles, including Bend, Redmond, Madras and Prineville.

Legal Team serves more than 100 at first Project Homeless Connect, continued

helps to do that. At the same time being homeless really is hard on people's feet."

Goracke emphasized that legal help can be critical to alleviating the problems associated with homelessness. Finding employment and affordable



PHOTO: THEODORE DORONILA

housing is vital, but it is often hidden problems that prevent people from moving forward—identification lost or stolen, credit history problems, the need for child support or disability payments. This is where lawyers can make a difference. ■

Campaign Celebrates with Lane County Volunteers

On April 18th, the Campaign for Equal Justice hosted a reception at the Opus6IX Gallery in Eugene to thank Lane County contributors to the 2005 annual fund campaign. Lane County Co-Chair Gerry Gaydos and Eugene attorney Martha Walters thanked the fifty lawyers and community leaders in opening and closing remarks. Court of Appeals judge David Brewer praised the lawyers and community leaders present for supporting Oregon's legal aid programs.

Judge Brewer spoke about the legal profession's ethical obligation to serve the poor. "Why do those folks matter to us? It's really very simple. It's because ours is a constitutional system of government that guarantees access to justice to everybody under the law. Our freedoms are based on everything but status, race, wealth, sex and other identifying factors. Our system is complex. It's why lawyers are licensed to practice law and belong to the bar. And it's an adversarial system of justice—people who aren't represented are at a disadvantage and they're going to lose whether they've got a good case or not. From a judicial standpoint the administration of justice is better served when both sides have an equal footing. Judges face an ethical dilemma when one side is well represented and the other is not. Under those circumstances, it's very difficult if not impossible to achieve an even-handed decision."

"Lawyers like Laurence Hamblen and his staff who have chosen to serve the public as lawyers for those who can't afford to pay are filling an indispensable public function for all of us. They work to achieve justice on behalf of those whose well-being depends on fair treatment much more than ours does, but have virtually no chance of achieving that without our assistance. Legal aid's role in this community, in this state, in this society is critical to the function of our system of justice and the democratic principles on which it is built." ■

LEGAL AID OFFICES in Oregon

Where We Are

Legal Aid Services of Oregon –

Albany	Newport	Salem
Bend	Oregon City	Roseburg
Eugene	Pendleton	Woodburn
Hillsboro	Portland	

- Center for NonProfit Legal Services – Medford
- Lane County Law & Advocacy Center – Eugene
- Oregon Law Center – Coos Bay, Grants Pass, Ontario, Portland, Woodburn



What We Do

Housing	Employment Law
Family Law	Administrative Law
Domestic Violence	Senior Law