

# AdvanceSheet™

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## OWLS Honors Judge Frantz, Kasia Rutledge

By Brie Bridegum

The 25th Roberts & Deiz Awards Dinner was held at the Portland Art Museum on Friday, March 10. OWLS was pleased to bestow on Judge Julie Frantz the Justice Betty Roberts Award and on Kasia

Rutledge the Judge Mercedes Deiz Award.

The Judge Mercedes Deiz Award is given annually to a person who has made an outstanding contribution to the promotion of minorities in the legal profession and the community. Kasia Rutledge, an attorney with Metropolitan Public Defender Services, received the award based on her history of support and advocacy for people of color, from law students to other lawyers to her own clients.

Each award recipient was introduced by a video that featured comments by some of the many people who supported her nomination. On the first video, law student Alvin T. Clavon II said, "Kasia is there, and she is always there in full force supporting each student and being very passionate about what needs to be done. She helps students breaking into a culturally homogenous profession."

Judge Darleen Ortega spoke in the video about the professional impact Kasia has had, and she noted that Kasia's experience as a public defender has enabled her to educate the bench and bar on how race affects the criminal process. Judge Ortega also noted Kasia's strong history of mentorship, and that she hosts an annual "orphan Thanksgiving" to provide a welcoming holiday experience for those without family in Portland.

Roberta Phillip-Robbins also mentioned Kasia's professional success, noting that she is one of only a handful of public defenders in Oregon to obtain an acquittal on a murder charge.

"Kasia is aware of her privilege and is willing to create safe spaces for people who don't share



Judge Julie Frantz (left) and Kasia Rutledge

her privilege. That makes her an asset to the legal community and her organization," Roberta said.

Kasia then took the stage to a chorus of cheers from her many supporters in the

audience, many of whom brought cardboard cutouts of her face, which they waved in the air during her speech.

Kasia spoke about the tremendous honor she feels to work as a public defender, noting that she gets to help people tell their stories. She pointed out that the law has never been a leader in social change and that each person has a responsibility to help ensure progress.

During her remarks, Kasia said:

*The space I often find myself in in the law is not made for me. My voice is often not welcome, or is not valued. These spaces have traditionally and are currently filled by the same people who have filled them for the past two hundred years. And if I, as a straight, cis, non-disabled, privileged citizen white woman experience this feeling, it is hard to imagine how stifling it is for queer, disabled, non-citizen, or lawyers of color in those same court rooms, classrooms, and board rooms. To continue moving in those spaces as someone who doesn't get the presumption of being entitled to one's own air is an every day act of bravery. To endure sting after sting of microaggressions, hearing "Where are you from?" knowing that means "You don't belong here" is bravery. . . . It's our responsibility to make room for those not currently at the table.*

Judge Julie Frantz of the Multnomah County Circuit Court received the Justice Betty Roberts Award. The award is given annually to a person

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Photo: Dreams in Bloom Photography



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## President's Message



Laura Craska Cooper

Is OWLS a "political" organization? Under the formal definition, most certainly.

I've been thinking about this a lot lately, ever since I received a call a couple of weeks ago from an OWLS member in response to the letter that I sent, at the direction of the OWLS board, to Oregon Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley. The letter asked that our senators oppose the confirmation of then-Senator Jeff Sessions for attorney general of the United States. Of course, the letter did not have much of a practical effect. Both Oregon senators had already announced their opposition to Sessions's appointment. And as we now know, Sessions didn't need their votes to be confirmed. But in my view, the letter was important. Through his words and his actions, Senator Sessions had demonstrated a hostility to the core of OWLS' mission to "transform the practice of law and ensure justice and equality by advancing women and minorities in the legal profession."

The OWLS member who called to object to the letter wanted to know why and when OWLS had begun engaging in political activities. The member didn't necessarily agree with the letter, but the larger point the member tried to make was that OWLS shouldn't engage in political activities. I was surprised because I had always understood OWLS' mission to be political.

In looking at the definition above, I think OWLS' mission is clearly political. It seems unlikely that an organization would be able to ensure justice and equality by advancing women and minorities in the legal profession without relating to the government and public affairs of the United States. OWLS is, fundamentally, about civil rights and

According to the *Oxford Living Dictionary*, the first definition of the word "political" is "relating to the government or public affairs of a country."

lifting up those whose civil rights haven't always been protected or viewed as equal. I would argue that civil rights are so fundamental that they should be generally accepted as a societal norm. But until we universally accept basic civil rights for all, regardless of color, ethnicity, nation of origin, gender, religion, sexual orientation, or gender identification, we will have to continue to engage in "political" activities to promote the rights of these historically marginalized individuals and groups.

If our focus on civil rights and justice and equality weren't justification enough (and it should be) to validate our decision to engage our elected officials regarding the national agenda, the fact that we seek to transform the practice of law through our efforts and advocacy certainly should cause us to share our views. Our system of government is founded on the rule of law. Our government, indeed our society, works because the overwhelming majority of us respect and honor the legal foundation of our government. As lawyers, we have a duty to respect and advocate for the rule of law. As an organization dedicated to transforming the practice of law, that duty is doubly incumbent upon us.

So if our mission is political, then why shouldn't we engage in political activities? I believe that if we are unwilling to engage in political activities, then our mission doesn't matter because it will never be achieved. It is only by standing up for what we believe, by arguing with those who disagree, by loudly and publicly objecting to those who seek to undermine our mission that we will make progress. No one ever "transformed" anything or achieved "justice and equality" by talking among themselves or taking positions with which all in the universe agreed. So we will continue to speak up. We will continue to march. We will continue to write letters. We will and should continue to engage in political activities.

Morality is well and good. But what about the practical aspects of this decision? First, OWLS is permitted under the federal tax code to take political positions and engage in advocacy on political issues. That's part of the reason

*Continued on page 3*

*Our mission is to transform the practice of law and ensure justice and equality by advancing women and minorities in the legal profession.*

## Save the Date

### OWLS Fall CLE

Friday, October 27, 2017

1:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Embassy Suites

Downtown Portland

Followed by a reception

OWLS and the OWLS Foundation will also host a Chapter Summit prior to the CLE. For more information, contact Jennifer Nicholls or Amanda Thorpe.

## GrOWLS: OWLS' New Chapter

By Carrie Benson and Diana McDougale

We are excited to announce the formation of the newest OWLS chapter, Gorge OWLS, affectionately known as GrOWLS! Gorge OWLS serves Hood River and Wasco Counties and surrounding areas in the Columbia River Gorge, a beautiful, geographically diverse rural area where professional connections among those of us who work in the law don't seem to come readily.



MariRuth Petzing, Diana McDougale

Through word of mouth, a group of women attorneys in the area began getting together about a year and a half ago for wine tasting, coffee, and lunches. As our group grew, we realized the benefits of our collaborations and started talking about ways to organize more formally. Several of us were already OWLS members, and forming a chapter made perfect sense.

Members of Gorge OWLS meet on the first Wednesday of each month at noon for informal lunch get-togethers, with locations alternating between Hood River and The Dalles. At least twice a year those lunches will incorporate CLE presentations. We are also planning summer and winter social events.

We held our first CLE lunch on March 1, on the topic of immigration law. MariRuth Petzing and Diana McDougale, attorneys in the Hood River office of Immigration Counseling Service, presented a synopsis of the laws, regulations, and memoranda that guide their work. They described how they are navigating the current landscape of uncertainty, and the 11 attorneys present discussed how the rapidly changing legal framework and immigration law enforcement are affecting members of our community.

OWLS members and friends are always welcome at our gatherings. Please contact Carrie Benson at [carriebenson@mac.com](mailto:carriebenson@mac.com) to be added to our email list.

**Carrie Benson** is the founding president of GrOWLS, and **Diana McDougale** is the chapter's founding secretary/treasurer.

## President's Message

*continued from page 2*

OWLS is a 501(c)(6) corporation instead of a 501(c)(3) corporation. The latter would have subjected us to much stricter rules on political-related advocacy and activities. Second, when OWLS speaks, when OWLS engages in political activity, it is with the direction or approval of a majority of our board members. We never (nor should we) presuppose that we speak for every individual in the organization. Not every political action or statement that OWLS takes reflects the views of every one of our members. And for those who view "political" as a proxy for partisan politics, well then, we're not that kind of "political."

To be a member of OWLS is to stand for something. We are not a dinner club. Our mission is not to shine the spotlight once a year on jurists and lawyers doing extraordinary work on their own and pat ourselves on the back for having taken an hour or two to applaud the work of others. Our work is transform our profession and our society. No social or civic structure was ever transformed without political advocacy—or without controversy. Change is unsettling, but OWLS only exists because change is necessary and, without our voice, unlikely. OWLS most definitely does, should, and very likely will, continue to engage in political activity to shape a new view of the world. Only when our mission has become reality will we be able to look away from the places where change happens.

Laura Craska Cooper  
President, Oregon Women Lawyers

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## Upcoming OWLS Events\*

### Courthouse Connection CLE Series: Impacts of Oregon's Marijuana Industry on Your Practice

Salem

Tuesday, April 18 and April 25, noon–1 p.m.

Marion County Courthouse

100 High St., NE

### Ethics Issues for Lawyers Using Social Media

Oregon City

Friday, April 21, noon–1 p.m.

821 Main St.

### Professionalism Panel: Practicing Diversity

Portland

Friday, April 21, noon–1:30 p.m.

Mark O. Hatfield U.S. Courthouse

1000 SW Third Ave.

### Take Your Kids to Work Day

Portland

Thursday, April 27, noon to 1:15 p.m.

Multnomah County Courthouse

1021 SW Fourth Ave.

### Above the ADA: Disability and Employment Law Through an Inclusive Lens

Portland

Friday, April 28, 2–4:30 p.m.

Followed by a reception

Stoel Rives, 760 SW Ninth Ave.

### Habitat for Humanity Build

Portland

Saturday, April 29, 8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

### Road to the Bench

Medford

Saturday, April 29, 9 a.m.–2 p.m.

Oregon Community Foundation

818 W Eighth St.

### Networking in Salem: The Invincible Professional Woman: Find Your Blind Spots, Reveal Your Power

Featuring Best-Selling Author and

Coach Sonia Miller

Salem

Tuesday, May 2, 5:15–7 p.m.

Hallie Ford Museum of Art

700 State St.

### Dress for Success Fundraiser and Fashion Show

Portland

Thursday, August 3

Location TBD

### Contract Lawyer Discussion Group

Portland and by phone

First Tuesdays in May and June, 1–2 p.m.

Garvey Schubert Barer

121 SW Morrison St., Ste. 100

Discuss matters of mutual interest with contract lawyers and people considering working as contract lawyers.

### Family Law Mentoring Circle

Portland

Second Tuesdays, April–June, noon–1 p.m.

Gevurtz Menashe, 115 NW First Ave.

### Gorge OWLS

Columbia River Gorge

First Wednesdays, noon–1 p.m.

Hood River or The Dalles

### Josephine County Women Lawyers

Grants Pass

First Wednesdays, noon

La Burrita, 1501 NE F St.

### Queen's Bench

Portland

Second Tuesdays, 11:45 a.m.–1 p.m.

Mark O. Hatfield U.S. Courthouse

1000 SW Third Ave.

### Lawyers' Association of Washington County

Hillsboro

Third Wednesdays, 8–9:30 a.m.

Manaia Coffee House and Island Grill

Café, 203 E Main St.

Meet with the Washington County Bar Association New Lawyers Division.

\* See the events calendar on the OWLS website for more information about each event.

## Mary Leonard Chapter Co-sponsors New Attorney Series

By Rachel Hungerford

The OWLS Mary Leonard Chapter and the Oregon New Lawyers Division partnered this winter to offer lawyers and law students in the mid-Willamette Valley a three-part series on how to grow their careers. All three parts were held in the early evening in Salem and included refreshments and networking opportunities.

Collier Law hosted the first part, "Networking with Intentionality," on January 17. The panel of speakers—Hon. Chris Garrett (Oregon Court of Appeals), Kate Wilkinson (Oregon School Boards Association), Ryan Collier (Collier Law), and Sydnie Wells (Willamette Law 3L)—each shared practical tips for networking in a way that works for them and for avoiding some common networking pitfalls.

Saalfeld Griggs hosted the second part of the series, "Marketing Yourself at Any Stage," on February 23. Panelists Jennifer Paul (Saalfeld Griggs), Paul Saucy (Saucy & Saucy), and Catherine Trottman



From left: Jennifer Paul, Catherine Trottman, Rachel Hungerford, Mary Leonard Chapter President Tiffany Hamilton

(Law Offices of Jon Weiner) offered their thoughts on what you can be doing—whether you are a law student, a new attorney, or an experienced attorney—to successfully market yourself to prospective clients and employers.

Sherman Sherman Johnnie & Hoyt hosted the final part of the series, "Building a Successful Career," on March 15. Panelists Hon. Erika Hadlock (Oregon Court of Appeals), Beth Vargas Duncan (Oregon Refuse and Recycling Association), Gina Johnnie (Sherman Sherman Johnnie & Hoyt), and Michelle Morrow



(Sherman Sherman Johnnie & Hoyt) emphasized the importance of finding a work environment where you will thrive, not being afraid to change course along the way, and seeking out mentors who can help you find your footing.

Thanks to all of our wonderful speakers and to everyone who came out for these events.

*Rachel Hungerford, a staff attorney at the Office of Legislative Counsel, is the programming chair for the OWLS Mary Leonard Chapter.*



# OWLS Foundation Raises Record Amount to Fund Grants

By Christine M. Meadows

The Oregon Women Lawyers Foundation (OWLF) has exceeded its fundraising goal, raising over \$50,000 at the 2017 Roberts & Deiz Awards Dinner to fund OWLF grants. The OWLF board and officers thank all the donors for their generous contributions. "Betty and Mercedes would be so proud," said OWLF President Deanna Wray.

The money was raised through a direct-giving special appeal and the sale of raffle tickets. "We introduced the special appeal at the 2015 dinner, and the outpouring of support the past three years has been phenomenal," said Deanna. "The Foundation will be able to increase its grant making to continue educating and supporting women and minorities in the justice system."

As the Honorable Janice R. Wilson reminded the audience, "we do more at this dinner than celebrate individuals, or our past. We link our arms and hearts to make a chain reaching out to the future. We lend a hand to those who will carry

on the work of cloaking Lady Justice in a magnificent rainbow tapestry."

Dinner attendees were introduced to two 2016 Armonica Law Student Grant recipients, Bailey Moody and Gabriela Perez-Mendoza, who are 3Ls at Willamette University College of Law and are clerking at the Marion County Public Defender's Office in Salem. The women spoke of their experiences as members of marginalized communities, their dedication to serving the underserved as lawyers, and the support they received through the Armonica Grant.

The Armonica Grant is named for Armonica Gilford, who received the Mercedes Deiz Award at the dinner 20 years ago, in 1997. The grant is awarded to third- and fourth-year law students attending Oregon law schools who demonstrate a commitment to the Foundation's goals through their personal volunteer or educational experience. It provides both a monetary grant and mentorship from a women lawyer or judge for the year.



Gabriela Perez-Mendoza, Bailey Moody

OWLF supports four separate grant programs: the Armonica Law Student Grant, the Janis Hardman Medical Support Grant, the Justice Betty Roberts Leadership Conference Grant, and the Vernillia R. Randall Bar Exam Grant. The money raised will be put to immediate use; the application deadline for the next Vernillia R. Randall Bar Exam Grant was March 30, and applications for the next award will be accepted until October 30. The next Armonica Grant application deadline is September 17.

*Christine M. Meadows is an employment and labor attorney at Vigilant in Tigard.*

## Flynn Appointed to Supreme Court, Torres Mattson to Circuit Court

On March 31, Governor Kate Brown announced her appointment of the Honorable Meagan A. Flynn to the Oregon Supreme Court, effective April 1. Justice Flynn, an OWLS member, had served on the Oregon Court of Appeals since 2014. Before joining the bench, she was a civil litigator at Preston Bunnell & Flynn



Justice Meagan A. Flynn

and its predecessor firm, in Portland. A member of the Oregon State Bar since 1992, she has an undergraduate degree from Willamette University and a JD from Gonzaga University School of Law.

"In her tenure on the Oregon Court of Appeals, Meagan Flynn has already earned a reputation as a smart and thoughtful judge," Governor Brown said. "She is rightly regarded as fair-minded and compassionate. I am confident that as a Justice of the Oregon Supreme Court, she will apply her sharp legal mind, her strong work ethic, and her deep commitment to justice to strengthening and improving the application of Oregon's laws."

In addition, Governor Brown has appointed Xiomara Torres Mattson to the Multnomah County Circuit Court, also effective April 1. Judge Torres Mattson was a senior assistant attorney general in

the Oregon Department of Justice, where she had worked for more than a decade. An OWLS member and a past chair of the Oregon Minority Lawyers Association, she was born in El Salvador, immigrated to the United States at age 9, and spent time in the California foster care system. Judge Torres Mattson has degrees from the University of California–Berkeley and Lewis & Clark Law School.

Judge Torres Mattson fills the vacancy created by Judge Merri Souther Wyatt's retirement, and Justice Flynn fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Justice Richard C. Baldwin. Congratulations, all.



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## Roberts & Deiz Awards Dinner

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*The Honorable Janice R. Wilson*

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Enjoying the festivities, left to right: Photo at left: Judge Judith Matarazzo, Judge Marilyn Litzenberger, Judge Susan Graber, Justice Martha Walters; Below: Kim Stafford, Gabby Richards, Christie Martin, Kristina Holm, Susan Krant, Jennifer Nicholls



Left to right: Carolyn Pearson, Magistrate Judge Stacie Beckerman, Hala Gores, Anne Milligan, Rima Ghandour, Anna Raman. See page 16 for more photos.

Photos: Dreams in Bloom Photography

who has made an outstanding contribution to promoting women in the legal profession and the community. Judge Frantz was praised as a trailblazer, having served as the first female president of the Oregon State Bar and the first female presiding judge for Multnomah County.

In the video, Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum praised Judge Frantz as a fiercely loyal friend and colleague. She also said that Judge Frantz, like Justice Betty Roberts, personifies grit and grace.

Judge Waller agreed, and she spoke about Judge Frantz's commitment to community. She credited Judge Frantz with starting the successful Take Your Child to Work Day at the Multnomah County Courthouse, an annual program that Judge Frantz continues to implement. Judge Waller also noted that Judge Frantz had recruited a group of women to build a Habitat for Humanity home

for her 60th birthday party.

Attorney Joanna Robinson also praised Judge Frantz, noting that her focus is on service.

In her acceptance speech, Judge Frantz recalled that there were only five women in her law school class in 1972, the same year the Equal Rights Amendment was submitted to the states for ratification. Noting that justice is portrayed as a woman, Judge Frantz called on women to serve as mentors and role models. She cited Justice Sotomayor and noted that without proximate living examples, goals for what individuals may achieve remain abstract. Judge Frantz reminded the audience that mentoring is inter-generational, and she exhorted everyone to "get outside the four corners of your office and inspire and affect for the better."

**Brie Bridegum** is in the litigation group at Stoel Rives in Portland.



## Access to Justice

Over the course of my nearly 23 years on the Deschutes County Circuit Court bench, I have had opportunities to consider the concept of "access to justice." At times ensuring access to justice has been as simple as making sure that the courthouse facility is compliant with ADA requirements and as creating methods to accommodate a wide range of physical and mental disabilities of parties, witnesses, and attorneys. It includes breaking through language barriers, providing court information in multiple languages, and arranging for skilled interpreters. Access to justice also involves creating a safe courthouse through secure entrances, metal detectors, law enforcement presence, and surveillance cameras.

When the legislature is in session, access to justice takes the form of pursuing a budget sufficient to keep the courthouse and courtrooms open and operational. The judicial branch, while one of three co-equal branches of government, receives only 2.45% of the state general fund budget. A statewide judicial-officer workload assessment completed last fall concluded that the Oregon circuit courts are significantly under resourced. The deficit of statutorily created judicial positions ranges from a two- to three-judge shortfall in the 11th (Deschutes), 14th (Josephine), and 16th (Douglas) Judicial Districts; to a four-judge deficit in the 5th Judicial District (Clackamas); a five-judge deficit in the 4th (Multnomah) and 20th (Washington) Judicial Districts; and a seven-judge deficit in the 1st Judicial District (Jackson). The Jackson County seven-judge deficit is particularly remarkable in that the court currently has eight judicial positions.

A separate circuit-court-staff workload assessment confirms what has been true since the low point of the recession, around 2010. Every judicial district is substantially understaffed. Adequate resources are essential to process, manage, and resolve cases in a timely and effective manner. The lack of available judges and insufficiency of support staff has had and continues to have a significant impact on our ability to be accessible to and meet the needs of the communities we serve.

Recent changes in federal immigration policies have put the spotlight on another critical component of access to justice. Oregon courts have a duty to provide access and due process to all, regardless of status of citizenship. We

## THE JUDGES' FORUM



By Presiding Judge Alta J. Brady  
Deschutes County Circuit Court

cannot not deny anyone the protections provided by state law. Courts are tasked with making decisions and issuing orders that allow for the stability and security of some of the most vulnerable people in our communities. Oregon laws mandate the issuance of family abuse restraining orders to protect victims of domestic violence. Stalking orders provide similar protections in non-familial relationships. A tenant has the right to a trial before being evicted from his or her home. Child custody, parenting time, and support orders provide for safety and stability for children.

Many come to the courthouse to exercise the right to speak as a victim of a crime. Others come in response to legally issued subpoenas to appear as a witness. In Deschutes County, the sole access to the District Attorney's Office is through the secure entrance of the Deschutes County Courthouse.

Broad changes in federal deportation policies have had a very real impact in several Oregon judicial districts. In Multnomah and Washington Counties, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents have increased their presence in the courthouses for the purposes of investigation, identification, and arrest for deportation.

Even in those courthouses currently with little or no ICE presence, the impact has been remarkable. The result is no different whether ICE presence is actual or perceived. The perception is that it is risky to come to the courthouse to access justice. The judicial branch is no



*Presiding Judge Alta J. Brady*

longer perceived by some as an option for redress.

In Deschutes County, a nonprofit organization called Saving Grace provides, among other services, access to a bilingual hotline for victims of domestic violence. Saving Grace advocates provide assistance for obtaining family abuse protective orders, and the organization also operates a "safe house" for victims and their children. Saving Grace reports that since the implementation of the federal changes, phone calls to the bilingual hotline have almost ceased.

ICE enforcement policy does not identify courthouses as "sensitive locations," nor is there a legal basis to designate a courthouse as a sanctuary. As a result, one branch of government's right to choose the manner in which it enforces its regulations is having a dramatic chilling effect on another branch's obligation to provide access to redress for legal wrongs. Access to justice is diminished for many members of our communities who need it most. The future will tell us how this conflict will be resolved.

These are a few of the varied facets of the concept of access to justice. Access to justice is a fundamental right that is America's great promise. It is our obligation, as lawyers, judges, and citizens, to be vigilant in maintaining the judicial branch as a strong and independent branch of government so that this promise can be kept.

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**Contact us at 503.841.5758 or  
[executivedirector@oregonwomenlawyers.org](mailto:executivedirector@oregonwomenlawyers.org).**



# Oregon Filipino American Lawyers Association

By Judge Janelle Factora Wipper

**O**n February 28 a robust group of about 60 Filipino attorneys, judges, and community members gathered in Portland to celebrate Oregon's newest bar association, the Oregon Filipino American Lawyers Association (OFALA).

In 2015 the association started out with just an email; it then grew into social gatherings of Filipino lawyers and law students. Then, in a small conference room in September 2016, a mission was realized and bylaws were formed, and OFALA was founded later that month.

OFALA is a professional association of Filipino American judges, lawyers, law students, legal professionals, and supporters. Part of OFALA's mission is to increase the visibility of Filipino American legal professionals and their accomplishments; promote equality and multiculturalism by increasing diversity within the Oregon State Bar and the broader legal system; and empower Oregon's Filipino American community by increasing its access to the legal system. OWLS member Julia Markley currently serves as OFALA's president.

Since its founding, OFALA has made important connections: Six members traveled to San Francisco in March to attend the West Coast Pinay Powerhouse Conference, which focused on empowering Filipina American women lawyers. Two members volunteered at the Philippine Consulate's Portland-based event to help with passport renewals and other travel inquiries.

A current goal of OFALA is to partner with existing specialty bar organizations. Partnering generates a stronger voice in the larger Oregon bar community, and thus the unique issues facing Filipino Americans will be more readily identified. We plan to attend many events offered by our sister and brother specialty bars. Please support us. Visit [www.oregonfala.org](http://www.oregonfala.org). Check us out on Facebook or join our LinkedIn group.

OFALA thanks the sponsors of our February 28 event: Parker Butte & Lane; Parsons Farnell & Grein; and Perkins Coie.

**Judge Janelle Factora Wipper** serves on the Washington County Circuit Court. She is OFALA's president-elect.

# OWLS Thanks Laura Craska Cooper

By Bridget Budbill

**O**utgoing OWLS President Laura Craska Cooper has put a lot of miles on her car to attend OWLS board meetings in Portland, but she says her commute was well worth the personal connections made with OWLS members.

"Through OWLS, I have had opportunities to work with a amazing women and men from many different fields of practice,"

said Laura, a founding partner in the Bend office of Brix Law, where she practices real estate, land use, and general business law. She chose to attend board meetings in person rather than by phone because she values in-person conversations. "The board has been so very supportive of me and flexible when I needed it," Laura added.

Her ability to lead the organization while based in Central Oregon, where she lives with her family, galvanized her commitment to continue OWLS' efforts to be relevant to all parts of the state.

Laura expressed her admiration for OWLS' emphasis on cultivating and celebrating diversity in its membership. "OWLS has provided my daughters an education in civil rights and issues faced by marginalized communities, and a finely tuned sense of the importance of stand-

ing up for what's right. My daughters are not afraid to speak up for others, and that has a lot to do with being exposed to OWLS, its members, and its mission."

Laura became OWLS president in the spring of 2016, after serving both as vice president and as treasurer. Although her role as president ends this month, she vows to stay active in OWLS and has volunteered to organize the



OWLS President Laura Craska Cooper (left) and President-elect Angela Franco Lucero

2018 OWLS Chapter Summit.

Laura's other commitments in the legal community include serving on the Executive Committee of the Real Estate and Land Use Section of the Oregon State Bar and providing pro-bono legal counsel to nonprofit organizations throughout Central Oregon. She will soon begin a new endeavor as a member of the Central Oregon Film Office Board of Directors, which recruits production companies to use Central Oregon for filming locations.

Reflecting on her time as OWLS president, Laura said, "It has truly been one of the honors of my lifetime to have a seat at the table with so many amazing people and to work on so many important issues." OWLS thanks Laura for her dedication and her leadership.

**Bridget Budbill** is an attorney at the Bonneville Power Administration.

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# 100 Years of Counting Women Attorneys in Oregon

## Tales of Serendipitous Discoveries

By Trudy Allen

One hundred years ago, on April 22, 1917, an article appeared in *The Oregon Sunday Journal* with a bold headline: “Nearly Half Hundred Women Have Been Admitted to Oregon Bar.” There are 49 women listed in the article, and 16 of them are pictured. It had been 31 years since the Oregon Supreme Court had admitted Mary Leonard, the first woman admitted to practice in Oregon. Having “nearly half hundred” women lawyers in that time was probably very surprising to contemporary readers, but it’s surprising even today. Perhaps even more surprising, my research indicates that in fact the number was even better than 49; it was likely 55.

From a national perspective, 55 is a large number compared to states that had not yet admitted any women by 1917: Alaska, Arkansas, Delaware, Rhode Island, and South Carolina.<sup>1</sup> By 1920, 65 women had been admitted in Oregon, as compared to 1,700 women lawyers in the United States, so Oregon’s share was 3.8%—significantly higher than Oregon’s percentage of the U.S. population (0.74%). In her book *The Invisible Bar*, Karen Berger Morello suggests that women in the West faced a more balanced view of their abilities than existed back East, due to the fact that “the myth that they were faint-hearted and in need of protection could not be perpetuated on the frontier” after they had proven their toughness on the move westward; thus, they experienced greater acceptance in their admission to the professions.<sup>2</sup>

Twenty-four years after the “nearly half hundred” list, on March 2, 1941, *The Sunday Oregonian* published an article entitled “Oregon Portias . . . Their Ranks Are Not Large.” Under this headline are two stories: “Few Women Actually Practice Law in State” and “Only 117 Feminine Attorneys Admitted to Bar in 56 Years.” Despite what we in 2017 would view as an archaic reference to the “feminine” attorneys, under this latter title all 117 women are listed, and the list is a gold mine of information. I’ve been using it and several other lists I’ve collected over the years, along with the remaining records at the Oregon State Bar (OSB) and other news articles I’ve found online, to create a list of all

the women admitted in Oregon through 1970 (about 234). According to my latest count, by March 1941, approximately 135 women had been admitted, so the article missed some (about 18). And although this number is “not large,” it’s an increase of 80 women since 1917, an average of 3.3 new women per year.

For some unknown reason, a few years had “bumper crops”: There was an early and intriguing sudden surge of nine women admitted in 1913, eight in 1914, and eight in 1915, which are large numbers considering that in most subsequent years until the early 1970s only two or three, and rarely more than five, women were admitted. However, seven women were admitted in 1921, six in 1924 and in 1937—and there was one jump to nine in 1953. These numbers are especially surprising compared to those in some later years: there was only one woman in each of 1957, 1959, and 1967. In 1967, the one woman admittee was Betty Roberts, who has described what a lonely time it was for women lawyers.

Until 1981, when the OSB started actually tracking the sex of its admittees, assessment of the numbers of women admitted has been a guessing game, based on assumptions about the admittees’ names. It’s fairly safe to assume that the names Elizabeth, Dorothy, Harriet, Helen, Ruth, etc. are women. But what about Pat, Lee, Glyde, Leslie, Lindsay, and Kaye? Likewise, what about the women who were admitted under their maiden names and later married? Sometimes these turn up as duplicate entries. In my research, it has sometimes been difficult to solve these mysteries, but I have resolved most, using census records, obituaries, etc.

The OSB has tried to reconstruct its list of early admittees through 1981 (most prior records were lost or destroyed), but most deceased lawyers are missing from that list. Given these contingencies, the OSB estimates that a total of 2,188 people had been admitted to practice by 1941. Thus, the estimated percentage of women admittees (to total admittees) by 1941

*Continued on page 10*



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# 100 Years of Counting Women Attorneys

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would be roughly 6%. By December 31, 1981, that percentage had risen to 12%.

Fast forward to 2016 to find the most reliable data on the numbers of women vs. men OSB members. As of December 31, 2016, there were 15,104 active OSB members: 5,482 women and 9,622 men. So the ratio of active women members to the total is 36.3%.

Very luckily, I have an original of the 1917 "Half Hundred" news clipping. It's my most-prized item in my files on the history of women lawyers, information that I've been collecting since I clipped an obituary of Gladys Everett (admitted to practice in 1923) in 1986. The 1917 article was given to me by a relative of Manche Langley (admitted in 1909), who is pictured in the article and was the much-loved matriarch of Queen's Bench. I probably would not have known about this article but for receiving it as a gift. Likewise, it's pure serendipity that I came across the 1941 article last year while doing research for the Oregon Women Judges project. The article contains dozens of names that the OSB and I did not have. It also pictures five of the most prominent women lawyers of the day and describes their careers.

NAL, PORTLAND, SUNDAY MORNING, APRIL 22, 1917.

## VE BEEN ADMITTED TO OREGON BAR



I'm finding that serendipity frequently plays a role in my research. In January this year, an inquiry came to OWLS about who might be the first Jewish woman lawyer in Oregon. I reached out to several women lawyers about this question, and Katherine O'Neil put me in touch with the granddaughter of one of the early Jewish women admittees; Katherine had been contacted by the granddaughter only two months earlier. In February, I

received the latest issue of the *Lewis & Clark Chronicle* (because I'm an alumna of L&C Law), and it includes an article about Hester Turner (admitted in 1953), who turned 100 years old in January. I hadn't known that she was still alive. Happy 100th Birthday, Hester!

Finding such treasures makes research so much easier. Having one thing lead to another enhances this process in delightfully unexpected ways. The most fun is not in determining statistics, although they help to put history in perspective. It is in learning about the women's stories. They were real people who used their intelligence and determination in a variety of ways, to contribute not only to paving paths for future women in the law, but also to making a difference in the community. And they remind us that lawyers within our memory were not necessarily the "first" women to reach significant milestones.

Until very recently, we had thought that Marian Rushing (admitted in 1943) was the first woman deputy city attorney in Portland (in 1944). It turns out that the first was in 1921—Willametta McElroy (admitted in 1915). By Marian's time, Willametta had already been forgotten.

I recently discovered two elections (in 1928 and 1950) in which not just one, but two women ran for judge, long before women regularly served on the bench, let alone ran for election. And it should not be forgotten that Judge Mary Jane Spurlin had run for election in 1926, in the hopes of retaining the seat to which she had been appointed. She lost, as did the women in 1928 and 1950, but by putting their names forward, they

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To learn more about the Foundation, our grants, or to donate, please visit [owlsfoundation.org](http://owlsfoundation.org).



Continued on page 11



# 100 Years of Counting Women Attorneys

continued from page 10

showed women that they could aspire to such an office.

Not all of the early women admittees practiced law, but they were pioneers in being admitted to practice, and they often used their education to contribute in other ways. For example, Amy Rothchild Goldsmith (admitted in 1919) faced opposition to practicing from her husband, who was also a lawyer. But she used her law degree for advocacy work, such as serving on the Oregon State Welfare Commission.

As the 1941 article notes, “many have married and dropped out of the competitive business world, . . . some who are the mothers of families practice a little law on the side.” But “most of these women have used their law to enable them to hold down responsible positions. . . . Some of them work for governmental agencies. . . . Some serve as secretaries in law offices. . . . Three are working in Bonneville dam offices, one in the veterans’ hospital.” One of them, Celia L. Gavin (admitted in 1916), was the city attorney of The Dalles in 1941. “Blazing another trail for femininity in the law” was Grace Elisabeth Smith (admitted in 1917), assistant attorney general for the state of Oregon. In November 1940, Hannah Martin (admitted in 1924) was elected in Salem to the offices of city recorder and municipal judge. She had also served as a member of the Oregon House of Representatives (1933–1939) and as an instructor at Willamette University College of Law.

A lot more of the women were litigators than might be expected, and their appearance in court often caused a stir. It was a much-publicized case in 1936 when two women, Olive Zimmerman (admitted in 1926) and Lida O’Byron (admitted in 1904), appeared on opposing sides before the Oregon Supreme Court. Likewise, in 1928, when Lida O’Byron appeared opposite Mary Jane Spurlin before the presiding judge of the Multnomah County Circuit Court, it made the newspaper. Coincidentally, both women were candidates for a judgeship in the court of domestic relations at that time.

Several newspaper articles covered Neva Elliott (admitted in 1935) when she was appointed to defend a man charged with murder in 1948; she was the chief counsel, assisted by a man. *The Sunday Oregonian* featured Cecelia Gallagher (admitted in 1930) when she appeared in court defending an alleged murderer

in 1931: “Women lawyers are more plentiful nowadays than of old, but there are few who have had the opportunity to break into criminal practice in a case as important as the Ira H. Ormond murder case. . . . It naturally occasioned more than the ordinary flutter” when she walked into court.

These are just some of the women whose stories I’ve collected. Learning about them is the joy of being a historian. And it’s fun to be able to share these stories among OWLS members, for whom I hope they provide new perspectives on our heritage—a heritage that has been documented in the news in Oregon for at least 100 years.

*Trudy Allen has been the historian of the Oregon Women Lawyers Foundation since 1999. From 1993 to 1998, she was the OWLS historian. She served as chair of the Queen’s Bench committee that created the women’s history display at the Oregon State Bar.*

## Endnotes

1. Karen Berger, *The Invisible Bar* (Beacon Press, 1986) p. 38.
2. *Id.*, pp. 42–43.

You’ll find the entire 1917 article on page 19 of this newsletter.

A photo of the 1917 article is included on the women’s history display located at the Oregon State Bar office and is on the 36” x 36” poster that contains a miniature of that display. The display was created by Queen’s Bench. The posters are available for purchase on the OWLS Foundation website.



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# We Still Have a Long, Long Way to Go

By Kate Lozano

**E**rious Johnson, an attorney and the director of the Civil Rights Unit at the Oregon Department of Justice, presented an exceptional Black History Month CLE for OWLS and a number of co-sponsors on February 28. Working with OWLS IN (Intersectionality Network), he spoke on “Slavery, Capitalism, and Citizenship,” and answered questions from the audience (en masse and one-on-one) for over an hour afterwards. I helped to organize and attended the CLE.

And I failed.

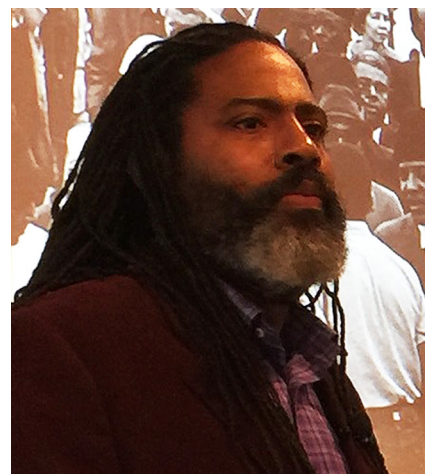
I failed Director Johnson in my role as a CLE organizer, failed to promote minorities in the law as an OWLS board member and as the OWLS mission calls me to do, and failed as a white woman to show the solidarity to an African American colleague that morality and decency demanded.

Director Johnson presented a fascinating and compelling CLE that challenged us all to see our history of slavery, and the continuing denial of the badges of citizenship to members of non-dominant cultures in the United States, as the result

of political and economic decisions made early in what became American society. He then showed how these dynamics have been perpetuated in insidious ways because of political power struggles and economic interests.

Director Johnson explained how we can look through this political and economic lens instead of framing the conversation as one about race and racism, and how we can use this shift in perspective to de-escalate emotional reactions and defensiveness. The intellectual framework he described allows the issues of freedom, citizenship, and opportunities for equity to be considered more dispassionately and with hope, as economic matters.

When he finished his innovative presentation, the very first question posed—by a white member of the audience—was a blatant, racist attack on Director Johnson: “Do you talk hip-hop?” It was also one that, clearly, did not even pretend to bear any relation to the CLE material. Other “questions” from the audience—white members of the audience—perpetuated racist stereotypes,



Erious Johnson

disregarded the content of the CLE presentation, or were not questions at all, but instead, were opinions that insulted the integrity of African American jurors.

In the face of what I can only describe as an assault on Director Johnson and attempts, conscious or unconscious, to diminish the authority of an African American presenter, Director Johnson was unfailingly professional and even gracious. I, on the other hand, was shocked. I was and am also profoundly disappointed in our legal community. It was a shameful evening.

However, I am even more disappointed in and ashamed of myself. As Director Johnson withstood the barrage of racism, I was silent . . . silently waiting for the food to arrive so *the caterer* would put an end to the ordeal. I did not challenge the audience members. I did not interrupt them. I did not even stop the question-and-answer session. Director Johnson is more than capable of speaking for himself. He is also more than capable of standing up for himself, but he shouldn't have had to; I should have stood with him.

The largely white and “progressive” Portland legal community has a long way to go before we can begin to call our efforts toward inclusion progress. For my part, I will try to take a page from Director Johnson and view our community through a different and less emotional lens, so I have the focus and courage to stand with all of my brother and sisters.

*Kate Lozano is a member of OWLS Board of Directors.*

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# Meet Deschutes County Circuit Court Judge Bethany Flint

By Danielle Lordi

**D**eschutes County's newest judge, the Honorable Bethany Flint, was appointed to the bench by Governor Kate Brown in February 2016, as one of seven circuit court judges for the 11th Judicial District, comprising Deschutes County. After running for and securing her position in the November 2016 election, she has just begun a six-year term.

Judge Flint, an OWLS member, grew up in Tucson, Arizona, and moved to California when she was 19. Before deciding to return to college, she worked in various jobs, including elementary after-school resource programs. She obtained her undergraduate degree from the University of California–Irvine, *magna cum laude*, majoring in English, and in 2003 she graduated from the Whittier College School of Law in Southern California.

During law school, Flint was admitted as a fellow to the school's Center for Children's Rights (now known as the Center for Children and Families) and participated in externships with the local public defender's office and the presiding judge of the Los Angeles Juvenile Court. She also clerked for the late Judge Florence-Marie Cooper of the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California, who had previously worked as shorthand secretary, and whom Judge Flint described as "remarkable."

According to Judge Flint, even in 2002, her second year in law school, when women constituted 49% of law school students nationwide, she felt extreme pressure to continue full-time enrollment despite giving birth to her first daughter that March. (Shortly thereafter, she scored the highest grade on the Con Law final.) Part-time enrollment was not an option if you wanted to be a serious contender in the job market.

Before becoming a circuit court judge, Flint worked as a solo practitioner in collaborative law and as a mediator in domestic relations cases, a Bend Municipal Court judge, and a Deschutes County Juvenile Court referee. These last two experiences helped her learn more about what serving as a judge was like.

Judge Flint has found her first year on the Deschutes County Circuit Court to be both incredibly challenging and fulfilling. Each judge in Deschutes County presides over all types of cases, necessitating the quick development of substantive knowledge in all areas of the law. And

because the county is operating at a 2.5-judge deficit, the work volume can be crushing. In addition, as a new judge, Flint has had to learn the court's business and administrative processes.

Pleasantly surprised by how much she enjoys jury trials, Judge Flint says that "working with and watching juries is a fascinating window into how the public perceives and analyzes the legal system." She also particularly enjoys presiding over family law cases and working with families to find a path to restructuring.

Flint first became interested in the bench when she attended a judicial candidate debate and realized, for the first time, that she wanted to answer the questions posed to the candidates and was passionate about her answers. She sought the advice of two judges she admired: Deschutes County Presiding Judge Alta J. Brady, also a long-time OWLS member, and now-retired Judge Michael Sullivan.

According to Judge Flint, Judge Brady explained that "being a trial court judge is working in the trenches with the public and our communities. It is navigating the emotion, tragedy, and pure administration of the law every day—being an extreme multi-tasker—and knowing you can't always get it right." As a new judge, Flint relies daily on Judge Brady's mentorship. "If I could grow up to be Judge Alta J. Brady," Judge Flint said, "I would be very proud, indeed."

Active in the Deschutes County legal community, Judge Flint recently helped form the Family Law Section of the Deschutes County Bar Association, to encourage the local family law bar to develop ties and common standards of practice. She also regularly attends the



local Inns of Court. She said that OWLS helped her connect with women in the legal profession at a time when she was feeling overwhelmed with running a solo law office while raising her daughters. OWLS helped her to hear and know that other women faced the same issues she did.

Judge Flint offers the following advice to young women lawyers:

*I encourage women to imagine—imagine what it would look like to be in the roles that you think will never be open to you. Practice law the way you want to practice law. Be true to your ethics and personal belief systems, and make the practice conform to your standards, not the other way around. Others may try to make you feel like an imposter or to embarrass you. Just remember that you belong where you are. You deserve to be at the table. Your voice belongs in the room.*

*Danielle Lordi is a civil litigation and trial attorney with Bryant, Lovlien & Jarvis in Bend. She is the past president and a current member of Cascade Women Lawyers.*

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# Meet OWLS Board Member Aruna Masih

By Shaun Morgan

Portland-based attorney Aruna Masih, whose practice focuses on employee and labor rights and public pensions, has been an OWLS member since 1998 and has served on the OWLS Board of Directors since 2014. She served on the Board of Directors of the Oregon Women Lawyers Foundation from 2005 to 2016, often spearheading the auction at the annual Roberts & Deiz Awards Dinner. She was also previously a co-chair of the Oregon Minority Lawyers Association.

Aruna is a founding member of OWLS IN, an intersectionality network that connects OWLS members with members of Oregon's other diversity and specialty bars. The long-term mission of OWLS IN is to strengthen networks to promote recognition and understanding of intersectionality through meaningful partnership with the specialty bars, affirmative programming, and promotion of diversity throughout our legal community. In the

short term, OWLS IN members are engaging with other diversity and specialty bar members and working separately to educate themselves on the barriers that prevent people from having the difficult discussions about race and gender issues that are necessary to effectuate real change.

Aruna notes two barriers that currently impede honest engagement: white privilege and white fragility. Both concepts reflect the fact that those of the dominant culture are either unaware of or unwilling to accept the experiences of people of color and the non-dominant culture. White fragility posits that white Americans are in a better position to avoid difficult and uncomfortable conversations about race and its impact on people, because they can simply walk away from the conversation, while people of color can never escape (or at least have a more difficult time escaping) the fact that stereotypes



*Aruna Masih*

and perceptions about their race, religion, ethnicity, gender, or gender identity affect how they are perceived and treated by others. This insulated environment of protection for the dominant culture builds expectations for comfort while at the same time lowering the ability of those in the dominant culture to tolerate stress regarding these issues.

Aruna's commitment to diversity and social change extends to her practice as an employment and civil rights lawyer for Bennett Hartman Morris & Kaplan. She works on behalf of employees and labor unions to protect their access to pensions and other labor and employment rights. Her work protects firefighters, teachers, and other employees.

Aruna joined a prior iteration of Bennett Hartman as a law clerk in 1997, soon became an associate, and then left the firm with some partners in 2001 to join McKanna Bishop Joffe. In 2003, she was invited to return to Bennett Hartman to work on PERS litigation. She's now a partner at the firm.

Aruna's mother, the daughter of British missionaries, was born in and lived most of her life in the Punjab region of India. Aruna's late father, a Punjabi Christian, was born in a small village and was the first in his family to attend college, which he followed with a medical degree. Aruna was born in New York, while her father was completing his medical training. When she was six months old, the family returned to India, so her father could take over as the medical director of a rural mission hospital in the Punjab region.

As a small child, Aruna spoke mostly Hindi in the house. She later attended

## U.S. District Court Update

The U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon is proud to now offer lactation rooms in the Wayne L. Morse U.S. Courthouse in Eugene and the Mark O. Hatfield U.S. Courthouse in Portland. In the Eugene courthouse, the lactation room is located on the third floor in room 3102, which is just outside courtroom 4. In the Portland courthouse, the lactation rooms are located on the ninth floor in room 904, which is just around the corner from courtroom 9A, and on the 15th floor in room 1504, which is just around the corner from courtroom 15A.

These rooms offer safe, comfortable spaces for nursing mothers and are open to attorneys, court participants, jurors, and anyone else visiting the courthouse. The rooms have locking doors, comfortable chairs, and refrigerators, in which pumped milk may be stored during the day in labeled containers. The court is grateful to the clerk's office, especially Chief Deputy Clerk Susan Miller and Division Manager Christy Weller, and to Judge Stacie Beckerman for help in getting these rooms ready for use.

The court also continues its efforts to appoint Ninth Circuit lawyer representatives who are diverse in terms of their gender, ethnicity, religion, geographic location, and practice area. Lawyer rep-

resentatives facilitate communication between the bar and the judges in the District of Oregon and also represent practitioners at the annual Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference. Other lawyer representative duties include planning the district's semi-annual District Court Conference, which is next occurring on October 6, 2017, and planning other educational events for the bench and bar.

Serving as a lawyer representative is an excellent way to get involved with the federal courts, get to know the judges in this district, and assist the court with ensuring that cases proceed in the most expeditious, inexpensive, and fair way possible. The District of Oregon has nine lawyer representatives; the judges appoint three representatives each year for staggered three-year terms. The court will select the next three representatives in late summer or early fall, with nominations due in mid-to-late spring. Self-nominations are welcome. If you actively practice in federal court, are interested in the work of the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference, and are willing to actively contribute thereto, please consider nominating yourself by sending a paragraph of intent along with your résumé to Chief Judge Michael W. Mosman's law clerk Gosia Fonberg at [Gosia\\_Fonberg@ord.uscourts.gov](mailto:Gosia_Fonberg@ord.uscourts.gov).

*Continued on page 16*

# OWLS Members Lead Oregon Lawyers for Good Government

By Jennifer Duncan Hackett

On the morning of November 9, as the country woke up to the reality of a Trump presidency, Traci Feit Love started a private Facebook group that began quietly and quickly gathering members. Originally called Lawyers of the Left, and now called Lawyers for Good Government (L4GG), the group grew to over 125,000 attorneys in all 50 states and abroad in a matter of days. Composed of lawyers, law students, professors, and activists, the mission of L4GG is to promote social justice, democracy, and equality in the wake of a presidential administration that does not appear to promote those values.

In November in Oregon, even before there was talk at the national level of official state L4GG chapters, Kristina Holm and Banafsheh Violet Nazari, both OWLS members, began bringing together hundreds of attorneys and law students to talk about forming Oregon Lawyers for Good Government (OL4GG). Recognizing that many attorneys and groups are already doing important work in the areas of, among others, health care, immigration, education, civil rights, criminal justice, environmental issues,

It has been less than five months since the election and less than 100 days since Trump's inauguration, but OL4GG is already making its presence known in important ways. At its first all-hands meeting, OL4GG members created more than 20 "issue groups," each of which is working to partner with organizations in Oregon that are already focused on those issues. One of OL4GG's first actions was to write letters to the Portland's mayor and police chief, in coordination with the ACLU of Oregon and the Portland Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild (NLG),



*Banafsheh Violet Nazari*



*Kristina Holm*

objecting to the tactics used by police at various demonstrations and offering to start a dialogue with the Portland Police Bureau and the mayor's office to resolve differences. Those letters led to in-person meetings, and the discussion is ongoing.

Other activities supported or created by OL4GG members include these:

- Mobilizing attorneys to respond to Trump's executive orders that established a "Muslim ban," and gathering volunteer attorneys and interpreters to meet at the Portland and Seattle airports in order to provide representation to people being detained because of the executive orders.
- Recruiting OL4GG members to become legal observers at protests, either with the ACLU of Oregon or the Portland Chapter of the NLG.

- Participating in Refugee Adjustment Day, assisting refugees in completing their paperwork to obtain their green cards.
- OL4GG member Shari Gregory co-hosted a Toothpaste and Toiletries happy hour, which raised money and provided needed supplies for refugees in the Portland area.

OL4GG is just getting started. Its leaders have met with U.S. Representative Earl Blumenauer, are in ongoing discussions with his staff, and are in the process of setting up meetings with other elected officials. In the coming months, OL4GG will be providing feedback on proposed immigration policies, police tactics, and other issues as they arise. The energy, enthusiasm, intelligence, and comradery of the OL4GG members is inspiring and will make it possible for this work to continue and to succeed, even in the face of seemingly relentless obstacles.

Please contact OL4GG co-leaders Kristina Holm ([kristina.holm@gmail.com](mailto:kristina.holm@gmail.com)), Banafsheh Violet Nazari ([violet@nazarilaw.com](mailto:violet@nazarilaw.com)), or Jennifer Duncan Hackett ([JHackett@zelle.com](mailto:JHackett@zelle.com)) if you are interested in getting involved in the group.

*Jennifer Duncan Hackett is a partner at Zelle LLP, where she concentrates on antitrust cases on behalf of plaintiffs. Also an OWLS member, she splits her time between Hood River and her office in Washington DC.*



*Jennifer Duncan Hackett*

and LGBT rights, the goal of OL4GG is to support the critical work the Oregon legal community is already doing, to give the people doing that work extra support and resources, and to fill in the gaps where needed.

# Nominations Sought for OWLS Workplace Leader Award

## Nomination Deadline Is June 2, 2017

Law as traditionally practiced has included barriers to the advancement of lawyers who are not part of the dominant legal culture, and has not always been a friend to those seeking a healthy, balanced life. We seek to encourage and celebrate change that will eliminate those barriers and imbalances, and we expect the profession to be stronger as a result.

While some legal employers agree in concept that such changes are needed, many disagree on how to achieve these goals.

- What can legal employers do to attract and retain qualified women, people of color, and people from other marginalized communities, honor the gifts they bring, and promote them for leadership?
- How can alternative work configurations maximize the experience, success, and satisfaction of all the players and the enterprise itself?
- How can legal employers help employees who are caregivers, or who have other important family and personal obligations or challenges, avoid losing the momentum in their legal

careers to become leaders in the profession?

- How can legal employers promote effective and reciprocal mentoring relationships?
- How can legal employers value contributions to the organization that are not captured by the usual quantification tools, such as billable hours?

### The Award

The Workplace Leader Award recognizes an Oregon legal employer making innovative and effective efforts to promote one or more of the following values:

- A healthy balance between work and personal life
- Acquiring and maintaining a diverse workforce with diverse leadership
- Maximizing opportunities for women, people of color, and people from other marginalized communities to succeed in the workplace and advance to positions of influence and leadership

### We look for a specific program, policy, or project

The award will recognize a specific

program, policy, or project that is successfully addressing one or more of the concerns outlined above. We are not expecting to find an employer that exemplifies all of these virtues. We welcome nominations from all legal employers, including in-house legal departments, government employers, and employers who are making strides in recruiting and retaining lawyers who are not part of the dominant legal culture, honoring the gifts they bring, and promoting them for leadership.

### Nomination Information

Nominations should include: information that will help the award committee evaluate the specific program, policy, or project of the employer; the markers of success for that program, policy, or project; and names of people who can be contacted for further information.

Nominations must be received via email by 5 p.m. Friday, June 2, 2017. Please send them to Val Tomasi, OWLS Transformation Committee chair, at [vtomasi@tomasilegal.com](mailto:vtomasi@tomasilegal.com).

The 2017 award recipient will be honored during the OWLS Fall CLE on Friday, October 27, at the Embassy Suites in downtown Portland.

For more information about OWLS chapters and activities, please visit [www.oregonwomenlawyers.org](http://www.oregonwomenlawyers.org).

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[executivedirector@oregonwomenlawyers.org](mailto:executivedirector@oregonwomenlawyers.org).**



# Daughter of the Empire State: The Life of Judge Jane Bolin

By Jacqueline A. McLeod (University of Illinois Press, 2011, 170 pages)

Book Review by Joanna Robinson

A sharply credentialed Wellesley graduate who entered Yale Law School as one of four women was later branded an “unruly” woman for her role in politics. Sound familiar? This is the story of Jane Matilda Bolin, the country’s first African American woman judge.

Jacqueline McLeod captures the remarkable strength and resilience of a woman whose story has managed to remain in obscurity to many of us in the legal profession.

The book traces Bolin’s preparation for entering the law at a time when very few black women were welcome to do so. McLeod perfectly frames Bolin’s daring to transgress a script written for her at the time by recalling that “[i]n 1910, of the 558 women lawyers in the United States, two were African American. By 1930 there were 22 black women lawyers; by the 1940s there were only 57 black women lawyers in the entire United States.”

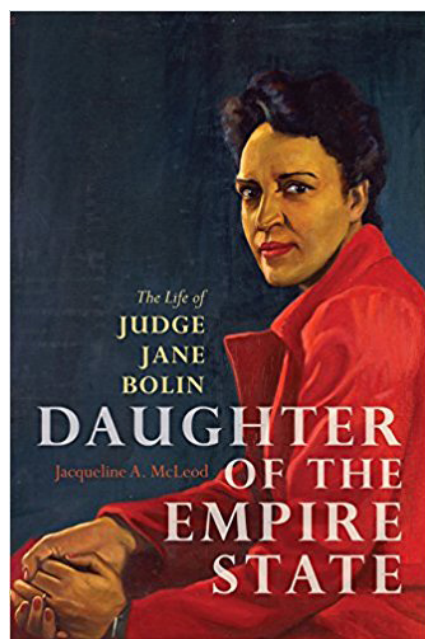
Bolin’s insistence on a career in law was met with resistance from all corners, but the ugliest came from a guidance counselor at Wellesley who threw up her hands in disbelief after Bolin laid out her post-graduation plans and said that “there was little opportunity for women in law and absolutely none for a ‘colored’ one.”

Adding injury to insult, not only was Bolin rebuked for having ambitious post-graduation plans, but during her time at Wellesley, she and the other African American students were never allowed to live in the campus dorms that housed the white students. Instead, they were assigned to live away from the college in the same room in an apartment of a family who lived in the village of Wellesley.

Life at Yale Law School, which Bolin entered in 1928, was no easier than her time at Wellesley. She was one of four women enrolled there that year, and the first and only African American. Judge Bolin recalled that “a few Southerners” at the law school had taken pleasure in letting the swinging classroom doors hit

her in the face, among other racial slights that made her seem and feel invisible.

In 1931, Jane Bolin graduated from Yale, its first black woman law graduate. Earning credentials from a prestigious university did not mean much, however,



given that the barriers for practicing law remained extremely difficult to overcome. McLeod describes the narrative for Bolin and other black lawyers at the time: “For all their success in self-training, self-employment, and self-association, black lawyers still had to acquit themselves before a judicial system that did not always provide for their equality under the law or their participation in the legal profession.”

In July 1939, Bolin became the nation’s first African American woman judge, after Mayor Fiorello La Guardia appointed her to the New York City Domestic Relations Court. Throughout her time on the bench, Judge Bolin managed to make significant changes in the family court. One of those changes involved the assignment of probation officers to cases without regard to race or religion, and another involved private childcare

agencies’ accepting children without regard to ethnic background.

McLeod gives us a view from Judge Bolin’s bench in the chapter titled “Speaking Truth to Power,” in which she traces the many ways Judge Bolin used her influence to advance and promote social justice by forming alliances across racial and gender lines. At other times, she engaged in rigorous letter-writing campaigns in her fight against injustice.

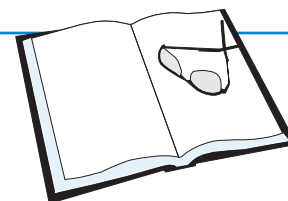
Judge Bolin’s judicial philosophy was simple. She believed that to effectively serve on the family court bench, a judge needed to understand the different cultures that comprised the city and reflected the composition of those who came before the court.

Beyond the bench, Judge Bolin was a force in the NAACP. Not swayed by titles or internal politics, she stood up to the association’s leadership when she noticed that the hierarchy would dismantle the organization unless significant changes were made. For her nonconformist positions and robust dissent, the NAACP board labeled her an “unruly” woman and effectively discharged her from participating in further leadership of the organization.

Toward the end of the book, McLeod asks the obvious question: how did such a visible political subject become invisible to the historical eye? Was that the result of Bolin’s desire to protect the sanctity of the private aspects of her life, which enabled her to survive in a hostile environment? We will never truly know the answer, and although McLeod’s question may be the most obvious, it may not be the most important.

This book offers more than a history of the nation’s first African American woman judge. It places Judge Bolin’s life in the context of black progress and visibility in a profession with longstanding traditions, and offers us an opportunity to decide what is to come next.

*Joanna Robinson is an associate at Lindsay Hart in Portland.*





## Meet Aruna Masih

*continued from page 14*

an international boarding school, where English was the primary language. She also speaks Punjabi.

When she was in high school, Aruna's family moved to New York City. The family had intended to return to India, but her father suffered a debilitating brain aneurysm, and the medical system in the United States offered better treatment options.

Aruna graduated from Wellesley College in 1994 with a degree in international relations and French. She decided to attend law school in hopes of pursuing a career in international human rights. She attended Tulane Law School for her first year, but soon doubted her career choice. She transferred to the Creighton University School of Law, in Omaha, Nebraska, to be closer to family and save on law school expenses. Creighton was more politically and culturally conservative than other schools she had attended, but she was able to develop strong bonds with a group of people who shared her values, including her husband, a public defender.

Aruna had no connection to Portland before moving here with her husband in 1997. They feel at home here, and they appreciate the outdoors and the opportunity to interact with likeminded people. In keeping with the Indian tradition of maintaining tight-knit family bonds, Aruna's mother lives with Aruna and her husband.

In her spare time, Aruna plays indoor soccer and is active in her church, Calvary Presbyterian. She recently read *Before We Visit the Goddess*, by Chitra Bannerjee Divakaruni, a book she devoured. She notes, however, that there's less time for pleasure reading these days, given the current political climate and the time it takes to stay informed and civically engaged.

Aruna has succeeded in finding a career and developing a practice that allows her to remain civically engaged and to work on behalf of the public. She advises women not to judge themselves too harshly, noting that professional women are often taught to mold themselves into a certain stereotype. She encourages women to remain true to themselves, and to follow the wisdom of Mahatma Gandhi, who once said, "Happiness is when what you think, what you say, and what you do are in harmony."

**Shaun Morgan** is an associate attorney at Rizzo Mattingly Bosworth, in Portland.

## More photos from the 2017 Roberts & Deiz Awards Dinner



*The 2017 Roberts & Deiz Awards Dinner Committee (left to right): Alejandra Torres, Linda Tomassi, Gina Ko, Traci Ray, Kristin Sterling, Suleima Garcia, Adele Ridenour, Kalia Walker, Brie Bridegum, Gwyn McAlpine, Lauren Blaesing. Not pictured: Jacqueline Alarcón, Megan Burgess, Nadia Dahab.*



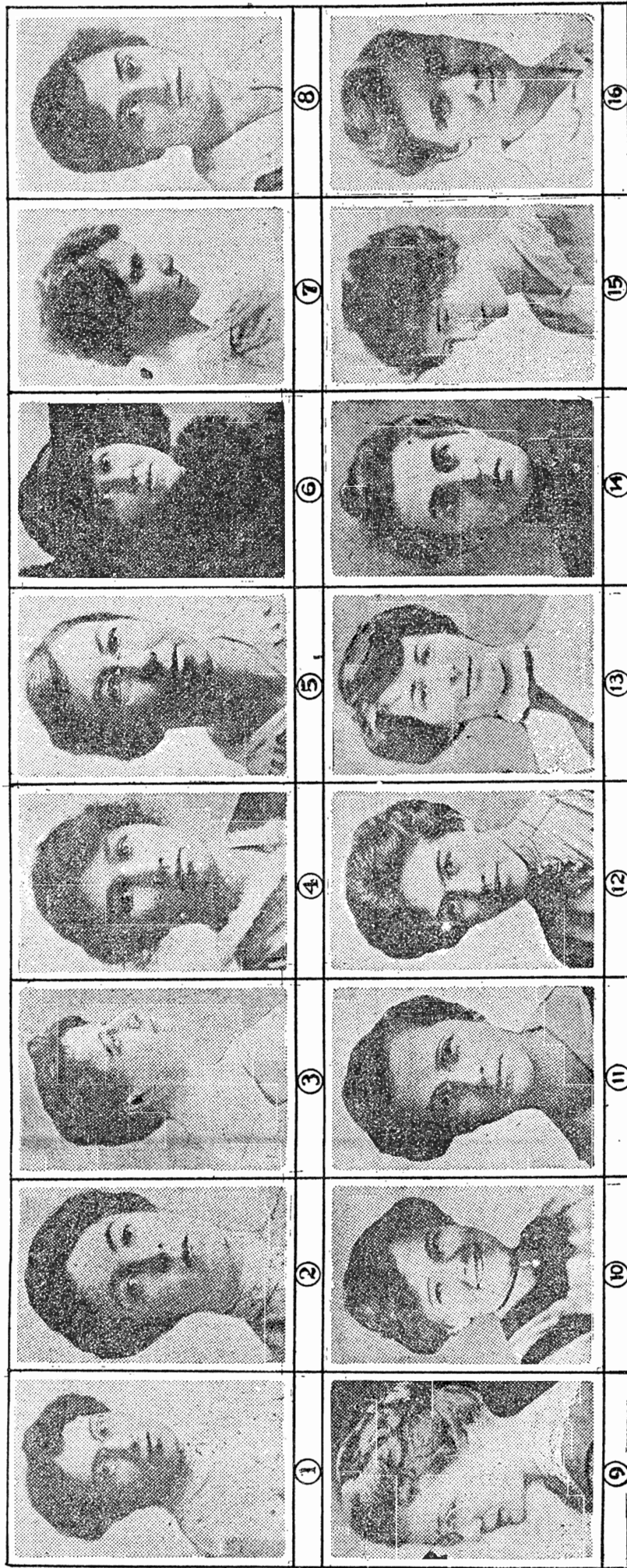
*Paul Southwick, Suji Patel, Toni Kelich, Lotta Alverson, Emily Lohman, April Stone*



*Photos: Dreams in Bloom Photography*



## NEARLY HALF HUNDRED WOMEN HAVE BEEN ADMITTED TO OREGON BAR



Among the women who have been admitted to the practice of law: 1, Lida M. O'Bryon, Portland; 2, Miss Manche Langley, Forest Grove; 3, Mrs. Tom Garland, Portland; 4, Mabel A. Welborn McInturf, Marshfield; 5, Miss Lydia May, Portland; 6, Miss Florence E. Olson, Milwaukie; 7, Miss Maud Mattley, Portland (Photo by Peterson); 8, Celia Gavin, The Dalles; 9, Fern Hobbs, Portland; 10, Frances M. Kemp, Woodburn; 11, Nellie Dickey, Marshfield; 12, Lois Byrd Upjohn, Salem; 13, Violet A. Clements, Grants Pass; 14, Gabrielle Clark, Salem; 15, Elizabeth J. Braun, Portland; 16, Katherine Stewart, Eugene.

Forty-nine women have been admitted to the practice of law in Oregon since 1885, when, at a special session of the legislature, a statute was enacted allowing women to enter the law profession in this state. The list includes women who have made enviable names for themselves in the practice of law on their own account; some have become law partners of their husbands; others continue to do clerical work, in which they find their knowledge of the law a constant help, and a few have married and given up the profession entirely.

Interesting and even dramatic is the story of how the statute admitting women lawyers was enacted in Oregon. It was back in 1884 or '85 that Mrs. Mary A. Leonard was defendant on a grave charge at The Dalles and was imprisoned pending her trial. While in jail, Mrs. Leonard studied law. She was acquitted of the charge against her and, having mastered Blackstone,

applied to the supreme court for admission to the bar. But there was no precedent and the court did not interpret the law widely enough to admit women. But Mrs. Leonard was not to be denied the desire of her life. She began working for a new statute and at the special session in 1885 the law was changed, admitting women to the legal profession and Mrs. Leonard became Oregon's first woman barrister.

The entire list of those admitted to practice to date is as follows: Grace Arnold, Edna May Bayless, Elizabeth G. Biggs, Prineville; Mrs. Mabel G. A. Welborn McInturf.

Boydton, Esther Carson, Gabrielle Clark, Olive S. England Enright, Mrs. Alice H. Page, Mrs. Dora W. Stone and Mrs. Lois C. Byrd Upjohn, Salem; Anna M. Carson, now Mrs. W. J. Staffer of Seattle; Violet A. Clements, Grants Pass; Nellie Dickey, Medford; Celia Gavin, The Dalles; Miss Estella M. Howard, Albany; Frances M. Kemp, Woodburn; Effie Mae King, Hance, Turners Falls, Mass.; Manche Irene Langley, Forest Grove; Mrs. Mary Leonard, deceased; Eva L. Moulton; Katherine Stewart, Eugene, and Mabel A. Welborn McInturf.

