

AdvanceSheet™

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY OREGON WOMEN LAWYERS

VOLUME 29, No. 1 WINTER 2018



In This Issue

Justice Adrienne Nelson
OWLS Fall CLE
President's Message
Upcoming OWLS Events
Councilor Jaimie Fender
Political Leadership Series
Judge Fay Stetz-Waters
Judge Danielle Hunsaker
Gorge OWLS (GrOWLS)
Roberts & Deiz Award Recipient
Workplace Leader
Queen's Bench Honors Judges
Contract Lawyer Service
Judges' Forum: Hon. Susan Graber
OWLS Mary Leonard Chapter
Judge Beth Bagley
Lane County Event
Chapter Summit
Career Strategies for Introverts
OSB Awards to OWLS Members
Working Parents Committee
OGALLA Gala
Book Review: *Just Mercy*
Dragonflies
Susan Pitchford
Thank You

The Honorable Adrienne Nelson Appointed to Oregon Supreme Court

OWLS congratulates Justice Adrienne Nelson on her appointment to the Oregon Supreme Court, which took effect January 2.

Justice Nelson moved to the Supreme Court from the Multnomah County Circuit Court, where she had served since 2006, having been appointed by former Gov. Ted Kulongoski. Before that, she was a lawyer at Multnomah Defenders, Inc. (1996–1999), the Portland law firm Bennett Hartman Morris & Kaplan (1999–2004), and Portland State University's Student Legal and Mediation Services (2004–2006). She earned a bachelor's degree at the University of Arkansas and a law degree at the University of Texas.

Justice Nelson's extensive community service currently includes chairing the board of Self Enhancement, Inc. and serving on the Reed College Board of Trustees and the Girl Scouts Beyond Bars Advisory Board. A longtime OWLS member, Justice Nelson has also served as an adjunct professor at Lewis & Clark Law School and as president of Queen's Bench, the Portland OWLS chapter.

When Justice Nelson graduated from high school in Arkansas in 1985, she had the highest grade point average in her class and was thus slated to be the valedictorian, her school's first valedictorian of color. The school board decided, however, to bestow that honor on someone who was white. Nelson's mother retained a law firm and filed suit, Justice Nelson was named valedictorian, and she decided to pursue a career in the law.

Justice Nelson is the first African American to serve on an appellate court in Oregon. She is, as Gov. Kate Brown said when making the appointment, "a widely respected civil rights champion, whose perspective on the bench moves us closer to our shared vision of justice for all."



Justice Adrienne Nelson

United We Stand, Divided We Fall Dispatches from the OWLS Fall CLE

By Rebecca Guptill

OWLS members from around the state united on Friday, October 27, for an inspiring and informative CLE program tackling several diversity-related issues.

Barbara Arnwine kicked off the CLE with a call to action. "If we don't affirm each other, then how can we be affirmed?" asked Arnwine. "We need to embrace each other. It is most critical to be unified and take action." Arnwine stated that this is the first time in her life that lawyers are being seen as the heroes in our society, describing the numerous attorneys showing up at airports to help immigrants and fight racist immigration policies. It is key, she said, that we ask ourselves what we can do, particularly as women lawyers, to move the nation forward and help to dismantle the racism of the past and replace it with a future of justice.

Arnwine poignantly described how our nation's history and resulting vestiges of past structural racism continue to affect our policies today. As a result, she warned that the legal community must remain vigilant at identifying and counteracting policies, structures, and laws that continue to tilt the scales of justice.

So where do we go from here? Can we imagine the "what ifs," Arnwine asked: What if we can reenvision and reimagine the concept of justice? What if we built "community mediation centers" instead of courthouses? What if strong police-recruitment policies could prevent the infiltration of police forces by white supremacists? What if Gideon's Promise was the norm and better indigent defense was provided? What if we had more social workers than police? What if

Continued on page 6



President

Angela Franco Lucero

Vice President, President-Elect

Amber Hollister

Secretary

Hon. Allison Boomer

Treasurer

Megan Burgess

Historian

Maya Crawford

Board Members

Jacqueline Alarcón

Maya Crawford

Sara Kobak

Katharine Lozano

Hon. Valeri Love

Aruna Masih

Jennifer Nicholls

Kathryn Olney

Yumi O'Neil

Susan Pitchford

Adele Ridenour

Kristin Sterling

Amanda Thorpe

Val Tomasi

Gloria Trainor

Past Presidents

Laura Craska Cooper

Elizabeth Tedesco Milesnick

Kendra Matthews

Kathleen Rastetter

Megan Livermore

Heather L. Weigler

Concetta Schwesinger

Gwyneth McAlpine

Heather Van Meter

Laura Caldera Taylor

Kellie Johnson

Norma S. Freitas

Kate A. Wilkinson

Jennifer K. De Wald

Sarah J. Crooks

Elizabeth Schwartz

Lori E. Deveny

Debra Pilcher Velure

Marilyn E. Litzenberger

Teresa M. Kraemer

Patricia L. Heatherman

Julie Levie Caron

Phyllis Chadwell Myles

Helle Rode

Diana Craine

Kathryn M. Ricciardelli

Agnes Sowle

Katherine H. O'Neil

Executive Director

Linda Tomassi

executivedirector@

oregonwomenlawyers.org

Editor

elise.gautier@comcast.net

www.oregonwomenlawyers.org

President's Message



Angela Franco Lucero

Happy New Year! I hope you and your families had a wonderful holiday season.

2017 proved to be a challenging year for many. Headline news

has often left me feeling discouraged, frustrated, and sometimes helpless. As I look back on the events of this past year, however, I remain optimistic and hopeful for the year ahead. I am optimistic for our future because of the tremendous work that has been done this year by the Oregon legal community and OWLS members. While my optimism may appear naïve, I think it more accurately reflects my philosophy that with struggle comes strength, courage, and perseverance.

In 2017, as a nation we witnessed the implementation of a strict seven-country travel ban, the suspension of the DACA program (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals), and rollbacks on legislation impacting women's rights and those of the LGBTQ community. These changes directly affect Oregonians and our legal community. Despite these challenges, I have witnessed our community and OWLS members unite to defend the rights of our citizens, teach acceptance, and help and inspire our fellow citizens to support and defend the rights of all Oregonians. OWLS members have devoted time and energy to help with DACA Renewal Day, Refugee Adjustment Day, and the Homeless Youth Law Clinic, and to help raise funds for the Campaign for Equal Justice to support Oregon's legal aid program, to name just a few projects.

Through the hard work of OWLS members, committees, and chapters across the state, this past year OWLS has continued to strive to meet its mission to "transform the practice of law and ensure justice and equality by advancing women and minorities in the legal profession." OWLS has offered varied programming designed to promote conversations about

equity and inclusion, and to promote the advancement of women and minorities within our profession, the political arena, and the judiciary. OWLS held several networking events throughout the state with the goal of continuing to build a legal community that is ready and willing to advocate OWLS' mission.

Statewide, OWLS chapters have invested their time and talents to build a more equitable and inclusive legal profession and educate Oregon lawyers about access-to-justice concerns. The OWLS Mary Leonard Chapter (MLC) in Salem was a leader in creating a new CourtCare program in Marion County, a service that provides childcare to people with business at the courthouse so that children are not exposed to conflict and can experience a safe, child-friendly environment at the courthouse. The OWLS MLC also partnered with the Marion County Bar Association and Legal Aid Services of Oregon to help educate and serve members of the Marion County community on legal remedies for immigrant families.

Lane County Women Lawyers recently formed a Community Building Committee designed to provide monthly low-income legal clinics to serve their local community. OWLS welcomed a new chapter this past year, located in the Columbia River Gorge. The new chapter, better known as "GrOWLS," has already proven to be a much-needed and valued source of support for women judges and attorneys working in Hood River and elsewhere in the Gorge.

Queen's Bench remains a strong fixture in the Portland legal community by offering its seminal monthly lunchtime programming throughout the year. In 2018, Queen's Bench will focus on educating our legal community on challenges affecting refugees, attorneys with disabilities, children with disabilities, women of color in politics, victims of domestic violence, and others. I look forward to attending these talks.

In sum, even though 2017 brought difficulty and disappointment, I still have much to be grateful for. I remain inspired by the OWLS membership and the great

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.

Upcoming OWLS Events

Weekend of Service with OWLS Working Parents Committee

Portland

Monday, January 15, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Community Garden Cleanup
East Portland

OWLS First Generation Professionals Discussion Group

Portland

Friday, January 19, noon
Multnomah County Courthouse
1021 SW 4th Ave., #308

Jaimie A. Fender on King City Council



OWLS member Jaimie A. Fender was appointed to the City Council of King City in October. Councilor Fender, an associate at Robinson Tait in Durham, is also the Oregon New Lawyers Division 2017 Volunteer of the Year and the chair-elect of the OSB Military and Veterans Law Section. Her City Council appointment is through 2018, and she will run for election in November.

President's Message

continued from page 2

work our members have done and continue to do to improve our community. As we embark on the new year, OWLS will continue to take the lead on holding networking and educational opportunities throughout the state so that we can continue building communities ready and willing to advocate for change. I look forward to partnering with my fellow OWLS members and specialty bar leaders to continue to create a more diverse and inclusive legal community.

Angela Franco Lucero
President, Oregon Women Lawyers

OWLS Contract Lawyers and Sole Practitioners

Portland

Fridays: January 19, February 16, March 16, 12–1:30 p.m.
OWLS Headquarters
121 SW Morrison St., Suite 1100

OWLS Mary Leonard Chapter Pay Negotiation Panel

Salem

Wednesday, February 14, 12:30–1:30 p.m.
Willamette University College of Law

OWLS Roberts & Deiz Awards Dinner & OWLS Foundation Fundraiser

Portland

Friday, March 16
Portland Art Museum

OWLS & OAAP Women's Wellness Retreat

Surfside Resort, Cannon Beach
Friday & Saturday, April 27 & 28
Registration: \$90



GrOWLS

Columbia River Gorge

First Wednesdays, noon–1 p.m.
Hood River or The Dalles
Location varies. For details, contact admin@gorgeowls.org.

Joan Seitz Law Society

Roseburg

First Tuesdays, noon
Daily Grind Café, 368 SE Jackson St.

Josephine County Women Lawyers

Grants Pass

First Wednesdays, noon
La Burrita, 1501 NE F St.

Lawyers' Association of Washington County

Hillsboro

Second Mondays, noon–1 p.m.
Aybla Grill, 180 E Main St.
Third Wednesdays, 8:30–9:30 a.m.
Insomnia Coffee, 317 E Main St.

Queen's Bench

Portland

Second Tuesdays, 11:45 a.m.–1 p.m.
Mark O. Hatfield U.S. Courthouse
1000 SW Third Ave.

— **STILL** —
THE RIGHT BANK
for your business.

Pacific Continental is now Columbia Bank.

Your bank's name might be changing, but rest assured, Columbia Bank is still the right bank for your business. Find out more about what Columbia Bank can do for you at stilltherightbank.com.

Member FDIC Equal Housing Lender

Columbia Bank
WHERE RELATIONSHIPS RULE

Political Leadership Series Features Vega Pederson and Fagan

By Joslyn Keating

On October 11, the OWLS Leadership Committee welcomed Jessica Vega Pederson, a Multnomah County commissioner and a former state legislator, and Shemia Fagan, a former state legislator and a candidate for the Oregon Senate in 2018, to lead a discussion about pathways to political leadership positions for underrepresented groups. The speakers encouraged attendees to find a cause meaningful to their lives and pursue a political path suited to championing that cause. For Commissioner Vega Pederson, the deplorable condition of her neighborhood streets and sidewalks motivated her to first get involved in her neighborhood association. Fagan was driven to run for a seat in the Oregon House by her own family experiences and her desire to help real people.

The speakers suggested that people interested in running for office could start small to build up experience and credibility, by volunteering, for example, or joining a community advisory



Commissioner Jessica Vega Pederson, former Rep. Shemia Fagan (right)

committee. They encouraged attorneys, especially women attorneys, to run for office. Women leaders help chip away at the barriers that sometimes make running for office difficult for women, like administrative practices that conflict with caring for a child. Having more women in office makes the path to leadership easier for the next generation of women officeholders. Fagan pointed out that attorneys are especially inclined toward public office because they are comfortable fighting tough battles while remaining professional. This makes them productive politicians.

Vega Pederson and Fagan emphasized that there is no perfect time to run for office, especially for legal professionals with busy professional and personal lives. But with a strong support structure, public office is attainable for any motivated candidate.

Joslyn Keating is an attorney for Cummins Goodman Denley & Vickers in Newberg. She represents employers and businesses.



Enjoying the Gorge OWLS (GrOWLS) holiday party on Dec. 6 in Hood River are (from left) GrOWLS Secretary Bernice Melamud, Treasurer Diana McDougle, and President Carrie Benson. To join GrOWLS, email admin@gorgeowls.org.

OWLS Members Appointed to Bench

In October, Gov. Kate Brown appointed OWLS member Fay Stetz-Waters to the Linn County Circuit Court, and in November, Gov. Brown appointed OWLS member Danielle Hunsaker to the Washington County Circuit Court.

Judge Stetz-Waters "brings the experience of a marine, a civil rights investigator, and an administrative law judge to the Linn County bench," Gov. Brown said. "She will be balanced, fair, and compassionate—and also tough—as a trial court judge." A graduate of Lewis & Clark Law School, Judge Stetz-Waters has served as president of Linn-Benton Women Lawyers, vice president of the Linn-Benton Bar Association, and a board member of the Center Against Rape and Domestic Violence.

Judge Hunsaker "will bring a genuine expertise in complex civil litigation to the Washington County bench," Gov. Brown said. Judge Hunsaker earned a law degree at the University of Idaho and clerked for judges on the Ninth and Tenth Circuit Courts of Appeal and the federal district court in Oregon. At the time of her appointment, she was a partner at Larkins Vacura Kayser in Portland, an adjunct professor at Lewis & Clark Law School, and president of the Washington County Bar Association.



Judge Fay Stetz-Waters



Judge Danielle Hunsaker



SUSAN M. HAMMER

Dispute Resolution Services



Creative Approaches to Complex Problems

- Best Lawyers in America® 2006–2016
- Oregon Super Lawyers® 2005–2016
- Oregon Mediation "Lawyer of the Year," Best Lawyers®
- National Association of Distinguished Neutrals®

503-222-5949

www.Susan-Hammer.com

For more information about OWLS chapters and activities, please visit www.oregonwomenlawyers.org.

Chanpone Sinlapasai Okamura to Receive OWLS Roberts & Deiz Award at March 16 Event

By Nadia Dahab

Chanpone Sinlapasai Okamura, of Marandas Sinlapasai, PC, is the 2018 recipient of the OWLS Roberts & Deiz Award. Chanpone will be honored at the 26th annual Roberts & Deiz Award celebration on March 16 at the Portland Art Museum.

Last month, we announced that 2018 marks the beginning of a new era in the OWLS Roberts & Deiz Award. Until this year, OWLS has presented separately the Justice Betty Roberts Award and the Judge Mercedes Deiz Award, recognizing one individual as the recipient of each award. That format, however, raised some concerns for us and members of our community about implicit and structural biases that the format created or allowed to persist. To address those biases in a way that we believe maintains the integrity of the awards and the spirits of both Justice Roberts and Judge Deiz, we have restructured both the awards and the nomination process. This year, and in years to come, OWLS will present a single award: the OWLS Roberts & Deiz Award. The OWLS Roberts & Deiz Award will be presented each year to one or more individuals who will be selected based upon their outstanding personal and professional contributions to promoting non-dominant cultures in our legal community.

The OWLS Roberts & Deiz Award honors the legacies of both Justice Betty Roberts and Judge Mercedes Deiz as promoters of those from non-dominant cultures, including women, people of color, LGBTQ, and those with disabilities. Justice Roberts was a leader in Oregon politics, the first woman appointed to the Oregon appellate bench, and a beloved mentor and advocate to women lawyers. Judge Deiz was a trailblazer in our legal community, as the first black woman to practice law in Oregon and the first woman of color on the Oregon bench. She overcame racial bias throughout her career, and created opportunities for those who might otherwise be marginalized by society to access career and legal resources.

As an immigration attorney, Chanpone Sinlapasai Okamura lives and breathes the mission behind OWLS and the legacies honored through this award. She has dedicated her life's work to protecting

the civil rights of some of the most vulnerable members of our society—from advocating for crime victims to fighting for immigrants and refugees throughout our state and across the country. She represents children, domestic violence survivors, and victims of violent crimes and human trafficking. Her colleagues describe her as working tirelessly to advocate for vulnerable populations of undocumented immigrants, particularly in this era of rapid change to immigration enforcement policies and practices.

Chanpone is herself an immigrant, which drives her work in Oregon's immigrant community. Born in Laos, Chanpone and her family fled their war-torn country when she was an infant and were forced to live in a refugee camp in Thailand. When she was five, Chanpone's family resettled as refugees in the United States. She grew up in Northern California, earning her undergraduate degrees from Santa Clara University. Chanpone attended Lewis & Clark Law School, graduating



in 2002 as a member of the Cornelius Honor Society.

Since graduating from Lewis & Clark, Chanpone has effected tremendous change in the communities in which she has worked. She has played a crucial role in building relationships with and between crime prevention partners and agencies, including the FBI, the United States Department of Justice, and local law enforcement agencies. She serves as

Continued on page 6



**LNS COURT REPORTING
& LEGAL VIDEO**
Witness the Difference.
503-299-6200/800-366-6201
LNScourtreporting.com

We've moved!

- new office
- new tech services
- new, improved conference rooms
- same world-class standards

Conveniently located in the historic Pacific Building

520 SW Yamhill Street, #444 . Portland, OR 97204

OWLS Fall CLE

we eliminated profit from criminalization instead of maintaining the “prison industrial complex”? What if we eliminated racially predatory practices in lending? What if we had more museums than prisons and our prisons became museums? What if we could eliminate monetary profit from bail and end debtors prisons? What if there could be real community oversight of police?

The United States has 5% of the world’s population, but nearly 25% of the world’s prisoners.¹ That prison population is disproportionately made up of racial minorities. Arnwine said that our nation has the funds to do more, but we choose to spend our money on the wrong things, building more prisons rather than focusing on prevention and social programs. “How do you intervene and change the dynamics and the system?” asked Arnwine. Her answer is to promote civic engagement and to get more involved by taking action. Arnwine encouraged the attendees to get involved, saying, “¡Si se puede!”

Arnwine regularly speaks about how to ignite change and inspire action with regard to justice and equality. She currently hosts a weekly hour-long radio show on Radio One called “Igniting Change with

Barbara Arnwine,” and she lectures at Columbia University. For more information on Arnwine’s impressive background, see the Summer 2017 issue of the OWLS *AdvanceSheet*.

Arnwine’s remarks were followed by two informative panels. The first, “Mass Incarceration: The Civil Rights Issue of Our Time,” consisted of three panelists, all of whom are with the Oregon Justice Resource Center (OJRC): Bobbin Singh, the founder and executive director; Julia Yoshimoto, director of the Women’s Justice Project, which helps provide critical reentry legal services for incarcerated women; and Kate Gonsalves, the political director.

The second panel, “Serving the Underserved: The Impact of Immigration Law and Policies on Our Citizens and Communities,” consisted of moderator and immigration attorney Chanpone Sinlapasai Okamura of Marandas Sinlapasai, PC, who is herself a refugee; and panelists attorney Helietta González Hernández, consul of protection and legal affairs for the Mexican Consulate’s Portland office; immigration attorney Anna Ciesielski of the Oregon Immigration Group; and Serena Stoudamire Wesley, the director of equity and community engagement in the Oregon Governor’s Office.

The Mass Incarceration panel emphasized the need to focus on better solutions versus more punishment in the face of a system in which “those at the margins are in the crosshairs,” as stated by Singh. According to Singh, we need to be

“smart on crime” and “embrace radical transformation” of the system. Singh said that “silence and complacency are more toxic than anything else” and that we

“must reject the politics and vernacular of fear and anger.” Echoing Arnwine’s call to action, Singh said, “If you are wondering what you would have done during the civil rights movement, you are doing it right now.”

The Mass Incarceration panelists encouraged the audience to engage with local stakeholders such as district attorneys and police, and to spread the word regarding the need to disrupt mass incarceration and create meaningful reform, including by giving power back to judges versus district attorneys and ensuring pay parity for defense counsel.

The Immigration Law and Policies panel was also extremely informative. There has been a dramatic change with the current presidential administration

Continued on page 7



Julia Yoshimoto

RACING TO CHANGE



OREGON'S CIVIL RIGHTS YEARS

OREGON BLACK PIONEERS

On exhibit January 15–June 24, 2018

Oregon Historical Society
1200 SW Park Ave.
Portland, Oregon
www.ohs.org
www.oregonblackpioneers.org



THE OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
FOUNDED 1898

Chanpone Sinlapasai Okamura

continued from page 5

a force behind Refugee Adjustment Day (RAD), an annual event in its tenth year that brings together nonprofits, volunteers, and community members to help refugees adjust their immigration status to become legal permanent residents. And, perhaps most visibly in our local Portland community, Chanpone mobilized individuals and attorney volunteers to welcome refugees to the Portland International Airport in the wake of the president’s travel ban. As noted by one of her colleagues, Chanpone’s work reflects her creed, “We lift as we climb.”

Chanpone exemplifies the qualities that we honor in both Justice Betty Roberts and Judge Mercedes Deiz. She has provided leadership, mentorship, and guidance to vulnerable populations and individuals of non-dominant cultures in our community. She is devoted to

protecting women and minorities and does so in a way that inspires everyone around her to continue to fight for the greater good. Every day Chanpone selflessly dedicates her time and energy to new lawyers, young lawyers, and future lawyers, inspiring everyone around her to advocate as best they can for basic human and civil rights.

OWLS extends a tremendously heartfelt congratulations to Chanpone, and is grateful for the work that she does, day in and day out, to help promote those of non-dominant cultures in the legal profession and in our community. It is with great honor that we present to Chanpone the 2018 OWLS Roberts & Deiz Award.

Nadia Dahab is an associate in the litigation group at Stoll Berne in Portland.

OWLS Fall CLE

from a focus on deportation based on criminal convictions to deportation of anyone with whom ICE comes into contact who happens to lack the necessary immigration status. This has resulted in a great deal of fear and anxiety within the Latino community in Oregon.

The Mexican Consulate assists any Spanish speaker, not just Mexican nationals, and can often assist if contacted immediately after ICE has detained someone. Ciesielski stated that video footage of ICE contacts can be extremely beneficial in pushing back against current ICE policies. According to Stoudamire Wesley, the Governor's Office is committed to Oregon's refugees, immigrants, and religious minorities, and Governor Brown renewed that commitment in February 2017 with Executive Order 17-04.

Following the CLE, Judge Darleen Ortega presented the OWLS Workplace Leader Award to the Reynolds Law Firm, which is located in Corvallis. Lorena Reynolds, the firm's founder, was present to accept the award with some of her colleagues. The firm is an excellent example of how a commitment to pro bono work, the representation of marginalized communities, and a workplace environment that welcomes ideas can be not only successful, but an example to the entire legal community. To read more about the Reynolds Law Firm and why the OWLS Board of Directors awarded this honor to the firm, at the recommendation of the OWLS Transformation Committee, see the article published in the Fall 2017 *AdvanceSheet*.

To conclude the afternoon's presentations, Judge Jean Maurer spoke about the legacy of women judges in Oregon. The Oregon Women Judges project, sponsored by OWLS and the U.S. District Court of Oregon Historical Society, collects, preserves, and celebrates the histories and contributions of Oregon's state and federal women judges. The project is currently in the process of creating a comprehensive website that will provide information on each of our state's past and current woman judges.

It is important, Judge Maurer said, to have a diverse bench with adequate female representation, both now and in the future. The Oregon Women Judges project is one way to inspire the next generation of women judges, just as Judge Maurer made it a point to inspire young women who visited her courtroom to believe in themselves and envision themselves as judges.

continued from page 6



The 2017 OWLS Workplace Leader Award was presented to the Reynolds Law Firm. Accepting the award on Oct. 27 were (from left) Liz Carle, Justin Wirth, Lorena Reynolds, and Jamee Asher.



At the OWLS Fall CLE (below, from left): Back row: Kendra Matthews, Ann Mercer, Liz Carle, Linda Tomassi; Front row: Maya Crawford, Angela Lucero, Barbara Arnwine, Lorena Reynolds

A reception honoring Oregon women judges followed the CLE and award presentations.

Rebecca Guptill is an attorney with the Harris Law Firm in Hillsboro, practicing primarily in the area of family law.

She is the acting chair of the Lawyers' Association of Washington County, the Washington County OWLS chapter.

1. "Commentary: The President's Role in Advancing Criminal Justice Reform," *Harvard Law Review*, 130 (January 2017): 816.



MCGAUGHEY \parallel ERICKSON
Securities Claims & Investment Disputes

503-223-7555 | 65 SW Yamhill St., Ste 200, Portland 97204 | www.law7555.com

Queen's Bench Honors Oregon's Women Judges

By Joslyn Keating

Queen's Bench honored Oregon's women judges at its annual holiday luncheon on December 12. Held at the Sentinel Hotel in Portland, the 2017 luncheon drew a larger crowd than any other in the luncheon's 27-year history.

Early in the festivities, Queen's Bench presented a gift-wrapped novelty check for \$500, representing its annual donation, to Multnomah County CourtCare.

OWLS President Angela Franco Lucero then announced a restructuring of the Justice Betty Roberts and Judge Mercedes Deiz Awards. Beginning in 2018, the two awards will be consolidated into one and titled the "OWLS Roberts & Deiz Award." It will be given to one or more individuals to recognize their commitment to promoting women and others from non-dominant cultures in our legal community. The crowd cheered enthusiastically when Chanpone Sinlapasai Okamura was announced as the 2018 recipient.

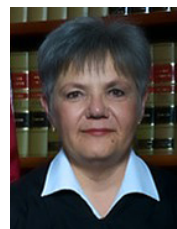
Senior U.S. District Judge Anna J. Brown, who has served as a judge in Oregon for over 25 years, was the keynote speaker. She delivered an uplifting speech that began with a reflection on Oregon's progress toward gender equality in the judiciary. She proudly announced that, as of December 12, the number of women who have served on Oregon's state and federal courts since 1859 is 147. Strikingly, 2017 also marked the first time in Oregon history that a majority of the justices

serving on the Oregon Supreme Court were women.

Judge Brown went on to venerate the careers of two trailblazing women judges. The first was the Honorable Jean Lewis, a Portland native who was appointed by Governor Mark Hatfield in 1961 as Oregon's first female circuit court judge. Judge Brown next paid tribute to the Honorable Polly Higdon, who in 1983 became the first woman to serve on the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Oregon.

Judge Brown then warmly welcomed three newly appointed judges: Judge Ulanda Watkins, appointed to the Clackamas County Circuit Court; Judge Patricia "Pat" McGuire, appointed to the Multnomah County Circuit Court; and Judge Fay Stetz-Waters, appointed to the Linn County Circuit Court. Judge Brown said that these appointments promote not only the perception of access to justice but actual access to justice. The judges are among only a handful of African American women ever appointed to the bench in Oregon. Judge Watkins is the first African American to serve on the bench outside of Multnomah County, and the first woman of color to serve in Clackamas County. Judge Stetz-Waters is the first African American judge to serve in Linn County.

Judge Brown emphasized that the legal community must continue to encourage women and minorities to pursue judicial positions. She lauded Oregon Women



Judge Anna Brown (left) gave the keynote speech. Those attending included (from left) (below) Judge Pat McGuire, Kristin Cornuelle, (bottom) Steve White, and Angela Ferrer.



Judges for its efforts to develop a website to make the stories of women judges more accessible to the public. The objective is to inspire more girls, women law students, and women lawyers to pursue judgeships. If they see women like them sitting on the bench, they may be inspired to pursue the same path.

To contribute to the Oregon Women Judges project, contact Kendra Matthews at kendra@boisematthews.com.

Joslyn Keating is an attorney for Cummins Goodman Denley & Vickers in Newberg. She represents employers and businesses.

OWLS Contract Lawyers Discuss Marketing

By Lora Keenan

Do people know who you are and what you do? Getting that message out is the heart of marketing. At its October 19 meeting, the OWLS Contract Lawyer Service discussed a variety of approaches to marketing one's services. The key to successful marketing, explained Traci Ray and Jessica Tim of Barran Liebman, is knowing what you do—and then making sure other people know it, too.

To get that message out, pick realistic, achievable goals that work for you. Traci is a fan of the "three goal" approach—choosing three goals for the next month, quarter, and year—explaining that a shorter list helps us triage among the

many options that could otherwise be overwhelming. Examples of marketing goals range from inviting people to write LinkedIn reviews to attending networking events to booking speaking engagements.

Traci also suggested "reverse engineering" your marketing efforts: think of the top three ways you'd find a contract lawyer if you were the client, and then focus your efforts on making yourself "findable" in those three ways. Another approach to finding clients is to reach out to people who do what you want to do and ask what works for them. We're lucky to work in a supportive community,

and most people are likely to be flattered to be asked.

Finally, emphasize connection and kindness. Thank your contacts and reach out to your prospects, preferably in a memorable way that reflects your personality. And don't forget to be kind to yourself. When you check off a marketing goal, reward yourself—even a small token (chocolate, anyone?) celebrates the accomplishment and encourages you to take the next step.

Lora Keenan is a legal writing trainer and coach, the writing specialist at Lewis & Clark Law School, and a freelance appellate lawyer. She co-coordinates the OWLS Contract Lawyer Service meetings.

In Praise of Mentors

When I entered Yale Law School in 1969, fewer than 5% of American lawyers were women. Fewer than one in ten of my law school classmates were female, which was typical; nationwide, women comprised only 7.2% of first-year law students. All of my classes were taught by men; only one woman served on the Yale law faculty at that time, but I did not take a class from her. Major law firms were just beginning to hire women for entry-level lawyer positions, and all partners at major law firms were men.

Now, in 2017, 36% of lawyers in the United States are women. Importantly, women have achieved near parity in participation in most (though not all) aspects of the legal profession. In law school, for example, about half of all first-year students and nearly half of the faculty are women. The same is largely true in private practice: about half of starting lawyers at law firms are women, though women hold fewer than a quarter of partnerships. Some courts have more female judges than male judges. The American Bar Association elected a woman of color as its president in 2014 and has since added to its presidential ranks two more women.

How have women become leaders in the law, and how can we ensure that diverse leadership in the profession will continue in the future? One key, in my view, lies in the role of mentors.

The very first mentor was a woman or, more precisely, as we sometimes like to think of ourselves, a goddess. In Homer's *Odyssey*, Mentor was an old man and a friend of Odysseus. When he left to fight in the Trojan War, Odysseus asked Mentor to look after his son Telemachus. The goddess Athena visited Telemachus, disguised as Mentor to hide herself from the suitors of Telemachus's mother. Disguised as Mentor, Athena gave Telemachus encouragement and practical advice about how to deal with his personal challenges. Hence the *name* Mentor became the *noun* mentor to mean someone who imparts wisdom to, nurtures the professional or personal development of, and shares knowledge with, a less experienced colleague or friend.

My own mentors were mortal but just as helpful. Their assistance and guidance have been indispensable to my career. So many wonderful people have helped and taught me along the way that I cannot possibly list all of my mentors, but several stand out.

THE JUDGES' FORUM



By Judge Susan P. Graber
Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals

My early successes came about through the mentorship of enlightened men, because so few women held positions of power. A few were close to home: My father, Julius Graber, believed that his daughters could accomplish whatever we set out to do. A family friend, Tom Reis, paid for my college and law school education because he concluded that I could make a difference in the world. My husband, Bill June, encouraged all my ambitions and retired, while I was serving on the Oregon Supreme Court, to raise our then-infant daughter as a stay-at-home dad.

While in law school, I had the privilege to become close to my constitutional law professor, Charles Black. We discussed everything from the Commerce Clause to

sonnets, music, and art. He was one of the first to encourage my secret ambition to become a judge.

Two mentors were instrumental in welcoming me to the legal professional world here in Oregon.

In the summer of 1970, Sidney Lezak hired me as the first female law clerk in the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Oregon. He introduced me to many lawyers and judges in the community and encouraged me to return to Oregon. Harry Chandler later hired me at Davies Biggs (now Stoel Rives) as the first female labor/employment lawyer, and he immediately gave me extensive responsibilities.

And two Oregon mentors were instrumental in my development as an appellate judge. Chief Judge George Joseph of the Oregon Court of Appeals and Chief Justice Edwin Peterson of the



Judge Susan P. Graber

Continued on page 10



Molly Jo Mullen

MEDIATION ■
ARBITRATION

25 years civil and criminal trial experience.

MULLEN ADR
mollyjo@mullenadr.com
503-901-6199

In Praise of Mentors

Oregon Supreme Court were more than colleagues; they truly welcomed me and took the time to advise me helpfully on everything from processing paperwork to writing to analyzing cases from the courts' perspective.

The support of female mentors, though, has played a special part in my life. My mother, Bertha Graber, encouraged education and saw no barriers to her daughters' accomplishments. The women of Oregon Women Lawyers and the Oregon Women's Political Caucus gave practical advice and moral support along the way. And of course I am ever grateful for the guidance and wisdom of the incomparable Betty Roberts, who served as the first woman on the Oregon Supreme Court. Justice Betty Roberts assisted me in many ways, from giving me courage to step onto the electoral stage, to contributing the filing fee in my first state-court judicial race, to introducing me to a diverse network of supportive lawyers, to advising me on the details of campaigning.

My own experiences arose through informal means of networking and obtaining assistance, and informal mentorships

are likely to remain a key feature of the legal profession. Many formal mentoring programs also now exist, as legal organizations such as bar associations, specialized groups, law schools, and law firms have recognized that mentorships provide an excellent mechanism for assisting with the career development of newly minted lawyers. For example, in 2011, the Oregon State Bar and the Oregon Supreme Court launched the New Lawyer Mentoring Program.

New lawyers: Whatever your area of practice, wherever you live and work, whatever you seek to attain, you will benefit from having a mentor. How can you acquire a mentor if a relationship does not grow naturally out of your situation? Ask! Don't be afraid to seek help, either on a specific matter or more generally. Experienced lawyers (and others) usually are flattered to be asked for advice.

When I was starting out in private practice in a small firm in Santa Fe, New Mexico, I found the idea of trying a case to be utterly daunting. So I requested that one of the partners teach me how. He was eager to oblige.

One of my most enduring memories

continued from page 9

during my years at Stoel Rives is of the day when a less experienced lawyer, similarly, asked if he could shadow me and learn the ropes. I, too, was eager to oblige.

Experienced lawyers: you are role models, even when you aren't aware of it. You mentor in small ways whenever you work with a less experienced lawyer and make suggestions. Be conscious of your status as a mentor; embrace it; and consider participating in, or establishing, a more formal mentoring program in your community or workplace.

I relish the opportunity to teach (and to learn from) the idealistic new lawyers who serve as my clerks. They reflect the changing face of our profession: women and men of differing ethnicity, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, age, socioeconomic background, and education. Giving to the next generation of lawyers, in whatever way fits with your position and personality, is one of the most rewarding experiences that you can have. Through it, you will impart the values of the legal profession and ensure that our profession will benefit from diverse leadership of which we all can be proud.

Thank You
for Supporting
the
OREGON
WOMEN
LAWYERS
FOUNDATION

The Oregon Women Lawyers Foundation, the 501(c)(3) sister organization to OWLS, is proud to focus on educating and supporting women and minorities in order to further their access to and participation in the justice system.

We fund the **Armonica Law Student Book Grant**, the **Vernellia R. Randall Bar Exam Grant**, the **Justice Betty Roberts Leadership Conference Grant**, and the **Janis Hardman Medical Support Grant**.

To learn more about the Foundation, our grants, or to donate, please visit owlsfoundation.org.



Mary Leonard Chapter Co-hosts Luncheon



On Oct. 31, the OWLS Mary Leonard Chapter hosted its annual New Admittee Luncheon with the Marion County Bar Association and the Willamette Valley American Inn of Court. The luncheon celebrated lawyers who were admitted in 2017 to the Oregon State Bar and provided an opportunity to network (and show off Halloween costumes). The Honorable Adrienne Nelson delivered the keynote address. Enjoying the event are (clockwise from top left) chapter President-elect Rachel Hungerford, Joel Hungerford, and new admittees Josanne Jeremiah and Kayla Wardrup.

Meet Deschutes County Circuit Court Judge Beth Bagley

By Nora Coon

The Honorable Beth Bagley's first encounter with lawyers wasn't exactly auspicious. During her final year of college, she interned at a small personal injury firm. "My internship," she recalls, "involved nothing more than being an office clerk for free. One day the filing cabinet fell on top of me and they were terrified I would sue them ... for my personal injury." Despite that painful first experience, Judge Bagley persevered, and now she is beginning her fifth year as a Deschutes County Circuit Court judge.

When Judge Bagley was growing up, her grandmother told her there were three worthwhile professions: medicine, engineering, and law. But law was hardly a foregone conclusion; rather, with a brand-new political science degree and no jobs in sight, she turned to law school "to bide more time as a continuing student." Her first two years of law school brought little clarity, as she felt out of place in the large lecture halls and frustrated that professors seemed to have no practical knowledge to impart. It was only when she first stepped into a courtroom, in a third-year trial practice class, that her path became clear: she wanted to be a trial attorney.

A California resident who traveled to Minnesota for law school, Judge Bagley came to Oregon after graduation with a U-Haul and a fellow law student who happened to be her future husband. She says it's the best decision she's ever made. Once in Oregon, Judge Bagley began her career as a trial lawyer, "practicing law before judges who were (and are) brilliant legal minds. They were also exacting, and demanded nothing short of excellence from the attorneys in their courtroom." She credits those experiences with her development as a lawyer. And it was the example of those judges that inspired her to seek judicial office. "It was plain to see that whatever their decision—big or small—it always made a difference in someone's life."

Judge Bagley says that the most meaningful moments in her judicial career are "the moments that allow me to see the difference a judge can make in the lives of others, how a judge can impact a person's view and understanding of the fairness of our judiciary." She wants the litigants who appear before her to feel that they have been heard and understood and

that the proceeding—however it turned out—was fair.

According to Judge Bagley, both Oregon Women Lawyers and the Oregon Asian Pacific American Bar Association (OAPABA) have offered her "an incredible amount of support over the years." Both organizations provided resources during her career as a lawyer, especially on her road to the bench. Judge Bagley encourages all lawyers, particularly new lawyers, to get involved with OWLS, OAPABA, and similar organizations. As a young law student in Minnesota, she lacked guidance and didn't know where to look; she says that OWLS and OAPABA are opportunities for community and mentorship that also help lawyers "form lasting professional connections and friendships."

Judge Bagley offers these words of wisdom for young lawyers:

"I think following your heart and doing meaningful work is so important. My advice to young lawyers, especially women, is to seek out and form community with others, to develop relationships with mentors—either formally through



Judge Beth Bagley

the Bar or informally with lawyers you admire and respect in your field—and to create and nurture balance in your life."

When Judge Bagley is not working, she enjoys the "bounty of outdoor recreation that Deschutes County has to offer: cross-country skiing, paddle boarding, floating the Deschutes River, trail running with friends, hiking, camping and attending my kids' sporting events all over the state."

Nora Coon is a law clerk to Judge Robyn Ridler Aoyagi of the Oregon Court of Appeals.



AMATO MEDIATION

LISA AMATO
DISPUTE RESOLUTION SERVICES

TELE 503.789.3262
EMAIL lisa@amatomediation.com
WEB amatomediation.com

MEDIATION • ARBITRATION



Lane County Event: The Art of the Possible

By Kimberly Koops-Wrabek

On October 27, Lane County Women Lawyers joined with U.S. District Court Judge Ann Aiken, the University of Oregon School of Law's Center for Career Planning and Professional Development, the UO Women's Law Forum, and the Federal Bar Association to present "The Art of the Possible: Harnessing Innovation and Creativity to Unlock Professional Potential." Designed to inspire law students and new lawyers to think creatively and use innovation to build their careers, the event featured a diverse group of lawyers from a wide range of practice areas, professions, and geographic locations. It also served to welcome and honor the two newest justices on the Oregon Supreme Court, Justices Meagan Flynn and Rebecca Duncan.

Over 180 attendees enjoyed lunch and opening remarks by Judge Aiken. Carmen Voillequé, CEO of Best Practices Media and co-founder of Strategic Arts and Sciences, served as the keynote speaker during lunch. Her address, titled "It's Your Life's Work: Make It Work for You," set an inspirational tone for the afternoon's panel presentations, which included judges from the circuit and trial court benches, law firm partners, and government attorneys focused on both civil and criminal practice. Panelists shared valuable insights on ways to attain personal and professional success while giving back to the community.

A reception followed, with remarks from Michael Callier, a nationally recognized thought leader in legal innovation, who spoke about the importance of using innovation and creativity throughout one's career. UO Law Dean Marcilynn Burke then thanked the speakers for inspiring law students and alumni to think strategically and innovatively about their careers.

Kimberly Koops-Wrabek is a public law and policy fellow and 2L at the University of Oregon School of Law.



Oregon Supreme Court Justices Rebecca Duncan (left) and Meagan Flynn address the crowd at the October 27 event in Eugene.

**Need help with a big case? Want to take a vacation?
Contact the OWLS Contract Lawyer Service. We can help!**



Contact us with project/job information. We immediately post the announcement to our contract lawyer listserve. You are promptly contacted by contract lawyers who meet your criteria. No fee to post jobs or projects. You pay the contract lawyer you hire. OWLS contract lawyers are statewide. Many levels of experience. Many types of expertise.

For more information or to post a job, contact
Cassandra Sumrall at 503.841.5720 or cassandra@oregonwomenlawyers.org.

OWLS Chapter Summit

By Jennifer Nicholls

On October 27 in Portland, 26 leaders representing seven OWLS chapters attended the fourth annual OWLS Chapter Summit. As in prior years, the summit was held immediately before the annual OWLS Fall CLE.

This year, the summit explored the topic of empowering and engaging members at the local level. The event began with a keynote address delivered by OWLS member Rima Ghandour.

Following the keynote, representatives of the Mary Leonard Chapter and Cascade Women Lawyers spoke about the success each chapter has had in recent years increasing local member engagement. Tiffany Hamilton described the Mary Leonard Chapter board's work to complete a strategic review of goals and programming. This review led to new programming that has been well received by members, as indicated by the significant increase in participation in chapter events. Kathryn Olney spoke about the efforts of Cascade Women Lawyers to increase local participation.

Kathryn and Queen's Bench member Anne Milligan then described ways that their chapters have used social media to engage members. Attendees especially enjoyed Anne's list of different ways to use Facebook to market events.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Stacie Beckerman emceed the event.

The fourth annual OWLS Chapter Summit was organized by Judge Beckerman, Ericka Langone, Rebecca Guptill, and Jennifer Nicholls, and was generously supported by the OWLS Foundation. The fifth annual OWLS Chapter Summit will be held immediately before the 2018 OWLS Fall CLE. All chapter leaders and those interested in chapter affairs are welcome to attend. For more information about chapter activities, please visit www.oregonwomenlawyers.org/chapters/.

Jennifer Nicholls, a partner at Brophy Schmor in Medford, serves on the OWLS Board of Directors.



Career Strategies for Introverts

By Susanne Aronowitz

On October 25, Perkins Coie partner Sarah Crooks joined Shari Gregory, the assistant director of the Oregon Attorney Assistance Program, for a teleconference for OWLS members titled "Career Strategies for Introverts." The program was the first to come from a new OWLS working group focused on helping introverts succeed in the profession.

According to Susan Cain, the author of *Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking*, introverts have "a preference for quiet, minimally stimulating environments. . . . Shyness and introversion are not the same thing. Shyness is the fear of negative judgment, and introversion is a preference for quiet, minimally stimulating environments."¹ Cain has observed a cultural bias that favors extroverts, and this is true for lawyers, too. "Studies show that we rank fast and frequent talkers as more competent, likable, and even smarter than slow ones."²

It may come as a surprise that Sarah Crooks, who has a complex business litigation practice and currently serves as the managing partner of Perkins Coie's Portland office, identifies as an introvert. After describing her career trajectory from legal aid to several judicial clerkships to her work at Perkins Coie, she revealed several strategies she uses to support her long-term success.

Sarah has developed several ways to create the space she needs to concentrate on her work and replenish her energy. When she's in trial, she prioritizes walking alone between the courthouse and her office in Portland's Pearl District as a way to clear her mind and prepare for the day's work and then to decompress at the end of a court day. When she attends networking events, she focuses on having a few meaningful conversations rather than "working the room." Nevertheless, she's developed a few tactics to make crowded events as comfortable as possible: she'll position herself with her back to a pillar or wall near the periphery of the room to avoid the crowds that typically form near the bar, and she'll wear eye-catching jewelry that invites others to initiate conversation with her.

As managing partner, Sarah has found that being an introvert has helped her cultivate an effective leadership style. She is deliberate in her decision making, listens carefully to understand an issue,

and considers all the options. She tends to exude a sense of calm during times of crisis, which likely instills a sense of confidence in those around her.

Sarah also described some routines that she relies on to recharge her energy on the weekends. She has a Sunday morning ritual of enjoying tea while reading the *New York Times*, and she also attributes exercising, listening to podcasts, and reading books as a way to reclaim some much-needed solitary time.

Shari Gregory expanded on Sarah's strategies by discussing additional approaches introverts can use in challenging work and networking situations. She reminded us to have compassion for ourselves; rather than becoming frustrated when we feel drained or overwhelmed, we should treat ourselves with more grace and understanding. All of us operate on a continuum between introversion and extroversion, and our own preferences might fluctuate depending on the situation.

If you find yourself feeling stressed at work or at networking events, Shari recommended a few simple relaxation

techniques, such as relaxing your gaze, which signals to your brain that you are not under threat, or focusing on your breathing. Both of these techniques can be done discreetly and help you regain your equilibrium quickly.

Shari reminded participants to recognize the strengths they bring as introverts to their organizations and their clients. In her experience, people who identify as introverts are seen as more deliberate and thoughtful with their words and actions, and are effective listeners. As lawyers, this ability to earn the trust of colleagues, clients, judges, and opponents is invaluable.

The OWLS Introvert Working Group is considering additional programs for OWLS members. If you are interested in getting involved in the group, send a message to OWLS at admincoordinator@oregonwomenlawyers.org.

Susanne Aronowitz is a career coach based in Portland.

1. Susan Cain, "Are You Shy, Introverted, Both, or Neither (and Why Does it Matter)?"
2. *Id.*



New Year, New Leadership

We are thrilled to congratulate Kirstin Abel as Bodyfelt's new managing partner! Kirstin's legal talent, determination, and passion for leadership will serve us all well. A huge thank you to Deanna Wray for guiding the firm for the past five years. In 2018, Deanna (and Kirstin) will continue to stand up for people and try cases.

BodyfeltMount.com / 503.243.1022

BODYFELT / MOUNT
attorneys at law

Six OWLS Members Receive Awards from Oregon State Bar

By Teresa Statler

Six OWLS members received awards from the Oregon State Bar at its annual awards luncheon held on November 8. Each year, the OSB honors a select group of lawyers and judges who have made outstanding contributions to the community and the profession. OSB President Michael Levelle presided and gave out the awards.

The **President's Membership Service Award** was given to Erin N. Dawson. Erin practices at the Portland firm Parsons Farnell & Grein. Erin was nominated for this award by the Honorable Jill Tanner, who said that Erin "epitomizes the ideal volunteer" and that she has a "can-do attitude [and] brings out the best in others." Erin has been an active volunteer with several bar groups since she was a law student, including the OWLS Mary Leonard Chapter, the OSB's New Lawyer Mentoring Program, the Marion County Bar Association, and the Campaign for Equal Justice.

Sheryl Balthrop and Theresa Hollis both received the **President's Public Service Award**. Sheryl, a family and business lawyer in Eugene, was honored for her extensive involvement in helping those in need. She has volunteered with Shelter Care in Lane County since 1992 and has provided services to the city's homeless through her involvement with the Eugene Mission, including serving on its board of directors. She received the Lane County Bar Association's Pro Bono Award in 2012.

President Levelle described Theresa Hollis as "the volunteer every organization wants." Theresa has provided "hands on" pro bono legal services in the area of elder law since 1999. She is a partner at Fitzwater Meyer Hollis & Marmion in Portland.

Marion County Circuit Judge Mary Merten James, on behalf of the Oregon Bench & Bar Commission on Professionalism, presented the **Edwin J. Peterson Professionalism Award** to Julia Hagan. Julia, who practices family law at Gevurtz Menashe in Portland, was honored for being "the model of an exceptional lawyer," someone who holds herself to the "highest level of professional standards in law and life," Judge James said. Julia mentors younger lawyers through OWLS' Family Law Mentoring Circle, and Judge James noted Julia's "calming influence" on both her clients and other lawyers. Julia also does pro bono work, is an active church and school volunteer, is an OSB House of Delegates member, and has served on bar committees. Julia received a standing ovation from the luncheon crowd.

Rima Ghandour and Diane Schwartz Sykes were both awarded the **President's Diversity & Inclusion Award**. President Levelle noted Rima's long history of advocating for the most vulnerable members of our society and her focus on promoting diversity and ensuring that minority voices are heard in our communities. He lauded her organizational skills in getting lawyers to respond to the Trump administration's January 2017 Muslim travel ban by going to the Portland International Airport to meet people as they arrived. Rima is also an active volunteer with the Arab-American Cultural Center. She practices construction law, real estate, and business litigation at Ghandour Law in Portland.

Diane was recognized for her many years of legal work, both at the Oregon Department of Justice and in private practice, for disenfranchised people of color



Clockwise from top left: Rima Ghandour, Diane Schwartz Sykes, Sheryl Balthrop, Theresa Hollis, Erin Dawson, Julia Hagan

in Oregon. President Levelle described her as always "poised and confident" and noted that she "practices what she preaches." Diane has also served on various OSB committees, including the Diversity Committee. She, too, has her own law practice in Portland.

OWLS congratulates these six women on these well-deserved awards.

Teresa Statler, chair of the AdvanceSheet Committee, has a solo law practice in Portland emphasizing immigration law.



Above: The OWLS Working Parents Committee met for lunch before the Fall CLE in Portland on Oct. 27. From left: Jennifer Meisberger, Lee Pritchard, Maya Crawford, Adrian Brown, Lindsay Kearl, and Charlotte Hodd.

Right: OWLS board members, staff, students, and new friends enjoyed the OGALLA Gala on Oct. 20.



Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption

By Bryan Stevenson
(Spiegel & Grau, 2014, 336 pages)

Book Review by Bridget Budbill

There is no shortage of books confronting critical questions of fairness, prejudice, and the ways in which the legacies of slavery, segregation, and racial and class disenfranchisement have stained the criminal justice system. What sets *Just Mercy* apart is attorney Bryan Stevenson's capacity to address these questions through the lens of an individual's humanity. To this end, Stevenson extols the ideas that the "true measure of our character is how we treat the poor, the disfavored, the accused, the incarcerated, and the condemned" and that "the opposite of poverty is not wealth; the opposite of poverty is justice."

Perhaps no story better evokes those threads than that of Walter McMillian. McMillian was an African American man from Monroe County, Alabama, (the fictionalized setting of Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*) who was wrongfully convicted of murdering an 18-year-old

white woman in 1986, despite having a dozen witnesses place him at a church fish fry 11 miles from the crime scene when the murder took place. A jury sentenced McMillian to life in prison. The judge (named Robert E. Lee Key) overrode the jury's sentencing verdict and imposed the death penalty. By the time Stevenson won McMillian's exoneration through a series of post-conviction appeals, McMillian had spent more than six years on death row for a crime he did not commit. During the appeals, Stevenson brought to light that prosecutors had withheld exculpatory evidence, and the state's witnesses had lied on the stand.

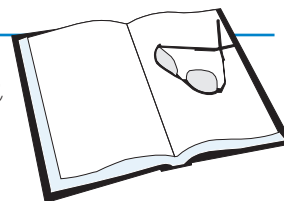
When *Just Mercy* was published, three states—Delaware, Florida, and Alabama—allowed judicial override of a jury's life sentence, though the practice occurred with regularity only in Alabama. In the years since, all three states have ended that practice. McMillian, who died

in 2013, was one of the more than 125 wrongly convicted people on death row for whom Stevenson and his colleagues at the Equal Justice Initiative have won relief.

Many other stories in *Just Mercy* chronicle Stevenson's tireless work to reform, among other practices, how child offenders and the intellectually disabled are treated while incarcerated. These passages are no less poignant or powerful.

Though ostensibly a memoir, *Just Mercy* shares relatively little information about the parts of Stevenson's life not tethered to his social justice work. That such advocacy is constant and consuming is clear. But after 30 years, Stevenson's work has just begun. For those who seek humanity in the justice system, *Just Mercy* will ring like a clarion call.

Bridget Budbill is a natural resources attorney in the Office of General Counsel of the Bonneville Power Administration.



OWLS Dragonflies Bring Home Medals

By Lindsey Craven

The OWLS Dragonflies is a team of legally connected women paddling dragon boats and enjoying each other's company. We had an amazing 2017 race season, lining our walls with medals from all over the Northwest.

Following an excellent recruitment early in the year, we started the season strong with a second-place finish at the St. Martin's University race in Olympia, Washington, and a first-place win at the Rainier Dragon Boat Festival in Tacoma, Washington. We then braved the heat of a 100-degree day in Salem to bring home yet another first-place win in the World Beat Festival.

In July we again pulled out a win at the Kent Cornucopia Days festival, bringing home gold medals in the B Division. During August, the team took to dry land and put together a Hood-to-Coast walking group, while a few other members traveled to Eastern Oregon to paddle in the Seven Wonders Cup at Wallowa Lake.

In September, at the major home race in downtown Portland, the 'Flies pulled out a surprising fourth-place win, putting up a competitive showing against premier and internationally competi-



The Dragonflies in Olympia, Washington, April 29, 2017

tive teams. We wrapped up the season with a trip to Las Vegas, participating in the Rose Regatta race, a fundraiser for Nevada-area hospitals and breast cancer screening programs. Once again, gold bling was added to the Dragonflies' sparkly collection!

Practices will start up again in late January, as the team hits the water in anticipation of another great season, which will include paddling in the Portland

Rose Festival races in June. Any women interested in coming out to see what all the fun is about may contact team captain Lindsey Craven at lindsey.e.craven@gmail.com.

The Dragonflies would like to thank our families, friends, and sponsors for yet another wonderful season!

Lindsey Craven runs the appellate department at Schneider, Kerr & Robichaux, a Social Security disability firm in Portland.

Meet OWLS Board Member Susan Pitchford

By Stephanie Engelsman

OWLS board member Susan Pitchford, a partner at the Chernoff Vilhauer law firm in Portland, is also a runner, a soccer mom, and a woman dedicated to community service. Susan believes that it is incumbent on us to do our best to improve the practice of law, improve ourselves, and help others. "Be grateful—and do something helpful" is a motto by which Susan lives.

In 2001, while working as a family law attorney with Gevurtz Menashe in Portland, Susan decided to go back to school and took night classes at Portland State University in electrical engineering. She also prepared for and passed the patent law bar exam. When Susan joined Chernoff Vilhauer in 2004, she was one of only a few female lawyers in field of patent law, and she is pleased to see more women becoming patent attorneys. "I am very grateful for the supportive attorneys, men and women, who encouraged me along the way."

When Susan and her husband decided to start a family, the firm had no official family-leave policy, so she worked

to enact one. When she took leave to bond with her newborn son, Chernoff Vilhauer supported her and made her a partner. Her boys are now in the 3rd and 4th grades and enjoy swimming, soccer, and Cub Scouts, and her youngest loves golf (which is a total surprise to Susan, as neither she nor her husband play). The firm's dedication to the independence of each partner means that Susan has the flexibility to arrange her schedule to accommodate volunteering, family, and work.

Susan credits her extremely supportive husband, Michael Beaty, as a reason she can do as much as she does. As a lawyer himself, he understands the demands of the profession. Michael is the son of a single mom, and he learned, early on, the need to navigate the various schedules, demands, and pressures of parenthood and full-time work.

Susan has been an OWLS board member for three years. She serves on the Community Service and Leadership Committees. She is also on the board of the Oregon Chapter of the Federal Bar Association (FBA)

and is president-elect of the FBA's Federal Litigation Section.

Susan's advice to young women lawyers is to remember that you are responsible for

creating the life you want. "No one thought going from family law to patent law was going to be easy. It wasn't, but it wasn't impossible either. It took hard work to prepare for a new area of law and to find allies who could help open doors. For their help, I am truly grateful. And I want to be that ally for other women."



Susan Pitchford

Stephanie Engelsman is an attorney with the Metropolitan Public Defender in Portland. She is part of its major felony unit and also does "crimmigration" work with MPD's Padilla Project.

Thank You

OWLS thanks these OWLS members for renewing at an enhanced level.

Mary Anne Anderson (Portland)
Kelly Battley (Portland)
Kathryn M. Belcher (Salem)
Hon. Allison Boomer (Salem)
Adrian Lee Brown (Portland)
Michele Buck-Romero (Portland)
Megan K. Burgess (Bend)
Carmen M. Calzacorta (Portland)
Sally Rose Claycomb (Eugene)
Christine Coers-Mitchell (Portland)
Laura Craska Cooper (Bend)
Maya Crawford Peacock (Portland)
Christy Amber Doornink (Portland)
Dana M. Forman (Portland)
Tiffany R. Hamilton (Salem)
Susan M. Hammer (Portland)
Stephanie M. Harper (Portland)
Meredith Holley (Eugene)

Amber A. Hollister (Tigard)
Sara Kobak (Portland)
Edie Lander (Portland)
Elizabeth M. Large (Portland)
Angela Franco Lucero (Lake Oswego)
Tamara Maher (Portland)
Aruna Masih (Portland)
Kendra M. Matthews (Portland)
Linda Meng (Portland)
Christine N. Moore (Portland)
Molly Jo Mullen (Portland)
Marsha J. Naegeli (Portland)
Jennifer Nicholls (Medford)
Emily Oberdorfer (Portland)
Leslie W. O'Leary (Eugene)
M. Kathryn Olney (Bend)
Susan Pitchford (Portland)
Kathleen Profitt (Clackamas)

Kathleen J. Rastetter (Oregon City)
Adele Ridenour (Portland)
Meagan Robbins (Portland)
Nicole Schaefer (Portland)
Candice Wilson Stayer
(Lake Oswego)
Kayla Steindorf (Eugene)
Kristin H. Sterling (Portland)
Laura Caldera Taylor (Portland)
Hon. Katherine E. Tennyson
(Portland)
Amanda C. Thorpe (Grants Pass)
Heather J. Van Meter (Salem)
Edie Van Ness (Rogoway)
(Portland)
Stephanie Vardavas (Portland)
Hon. Nan Waller (Portland)
Dr. Genevieve Weber (Milwaukie)

