

AdvanceSheet™

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OWLS members and friends had lunch at Bully's Great Soul Food Restaurant in Jackson, Mississippi, with investigative reporter Jerry Mitchell (middle), author of the book, "Race Against Time."

Look back, but ...

MARCH FORWARD

OWLS members, friends tour civil rights sites in Mississippi

By Teresa Statler

Ten OWLS members and friends toured sites in Mississippi important to America's struggle for civil rights from April 26 to May 3. Organized by Elise Gautier, former editor of the *AdvanceSheet*, and led by former Assistant U.S. Attorney Ron Silver,

trip participants visited the cities of Jackson, Philadelphia and Greenwood in Mississippi, as well as sites in and around Tallahatchie County important to the history of the murder of Emmett Till. The trip ended in Memphis with a visit to the National Civil Rights Museum.

The trip's first day, in Jackson,

started out with a visit to one of the most historic buildings in Mississippi, the Masonic Temple, which contained the offices of the Mississippi NAACP and Medgar Evers, as well as a large auditorium where over 2,000 Freedom Riders were trained

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Front view of the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum in Jackson. (Teresa Statler)



President's Message

How was your Fourth of July holiday? I didn't feel much like celebrating. The news of yet another horrific and preventable mass shooting in Highland Park, Illinois, all but sealed the deal. My husband and I had already let our relatives know days earlier that we wouldn't be joining them for their annual drink-cheap-beer, eat-smoked-meats, and blow-shit-up tradition. I think a meme I saw that weekend captured my sentiments well:

DUE TO A SHORTAGE OF ACTUAL INDEPENDENCE ON JULY 4, WE WILL BE MOVING IT TO NOVEMBER 8

Up until June 24, as your new OWLS president, and with the help of my board, OWLS staff and the Membership Committee, I had been focused on identifying ways that we could reinvigorate our chapters and committees as we emerged from the pandemic. I had already prepared a President's Message to all of you with a call to action along those lines. But since that date, virtually all of my waking hours have been obsessed with the direction in which this country is headed, wondering what we can do in the wake of *Dobbs* and the other disheartening decisions related to climate change and the Second Amendment to come out of the Supreme Court this past term.

The answer is simple and obvious, and yet has never been more true than it is now: We need to vote, and more importantly, we need to do more to safeguard the rights of historically disenfranchised voters. Some people are saying that *Dobbs* is just the beginning, but for years, the erosion of protections for all but white, heterosexual, cisgender men has been trickling out of the courts, not just the Supreme Court, and rapidly increasing in volume in the years following the former president's successful appointment of 226 judges with conservative bona fides at all levels of the federal judiciary. The Supreme Court has done little this term other than bolster the rights of gun owners and religious interests, and we should be particularly concerned that it has agreed to hear *Moore v. Harper*, a challenge arising from North Carolina's redistricting advancing the "independent state legislature" theory.

Before the *Dobbs* decision, OWLS already was planning to focus its Fall CLE on "Modern Voter Suppression." Following over a century of constitutional amendments and legislation at both the state and federal levels giving women and BIPOC individuals the right to vote, the past decade has been marred by the Supreme Court chipping away at the Voting Rights Act of 1965, undoubtedly targeted at eventually dismantling the heart of the act — Section 2 — which



broadly prohibits voting practices or procedures that discriminate based on race, color or membership in certain language groups.

On Sept. 16, we are pleased to welcome as keynote speaker Eliza Sweren-Becker of the Brennan Center, a non-

partisan law and policy institute dedicated to upholding the values of democracy. We are still working on the full schedule, so consider this an abbreviated call to action to [contact me](#) if you would like to join in the planning. I can, at the very least, say that in light of the pending *Moore v. Harper* arguments, we would be remiss if we did not examine the origins of this extremist-now-mainstream theory that would essentially give state legislatures unchecked power to gerrymander electoral maps and pass voter suppression laws. I encourage you to read more in an op-ed article recently published by Sweren-Becker [here](#).

I am fully aware that OWLS is a professional, not political, organization, but access to reproductive health care and an expectation of free and fair elections should not be partisan issues. The Supreme Court, however, is seemingly disregarding any pretext of political impartiality and has not only dismantled 50 years of precedent but also has, as *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* warned, "subvert[ed] the Court's legitimacy beyond any serious question." It pains me to have to say that at a time when I want to be focused on celebrating the historic swearing-in of Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson. It rattles me to consider that other personal liberties will almost certainly be challenged in the coming years and that we must rely on a patchwork of elected lawmakers to restore any rights that may be stripped away. OWLS is confronting these issues because they disproportionately impact women and the LGBTQIA+ and BIPOC communities. With its mission "to transform the legal profession by pursuing equitable access to the legal system and equity for women and communities who are systemically oppressed," it becomes crystal clear that these are issues of basic humanity, and if there were ever a time for OWLS to live up to that credo, that time is now.

Kristin Sterling,
President, Oregon Women Lawyers

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Our mission is to transform the legal profession by pursuing equitable access to the legal system and equity for women and communities who are systemically oppressed.

OWLS Members Win on May Ballot

By Joslyn Keating

Several OWLS members claimed victories in Oregon's May primary election or otherwise secured enough votes to move on to the general election in November. (Please see the [Spring 2022 AdvanceSheet](#) for a more comprehensive list of OWLS members who ran on the May ballot.)

In the crowded primary race for Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries, **Christina Stephenson** beat her opponents with 47% of the vote. Because no candidate in this nonpartisan race won by a majority, the top two candidates move on to the November election in a runoff race. There, Stephenson will face Cheri Holt, who won 19% of the primary vote.

With 54% of the vote, OWLS member **Jamie McLeod-Skinner** beat incumbent Kurt Schrader to become the Democratic nominee for the U.S. House of Representatives for Oregon's 5th Congressional District. She will face Republican Lori Chavez-Deremer in the November election.

In a decisive victory, **Judge Darleen Ortega** has been reelected to Position 3 on the Oregon Court of Appeals, beating her controversial opponent, Vance Day, with 62% of the vote, compared to Day's 38%. Because Judge Ortega won by a majority, she is elected in the May primary and bypasses the November general election.

Several OWLS members ran for uncontested judicial positions consistent with their positions' normal election cycles, allowing them to be reelected by a majority vote in the May primary. These included Court of Appeals **Judge Ramón Pagán**; Deschutes County Circuit Court **Judge Alycia Herriott**; Lane County Circuit Court **Judges Erin Fennerty** and **Karrie McIntyre**; Marion County Circuit Court Judges **Channing Bennett** and **Jodie Bureta**; Multnomah County Circuit Court **Judges Eric Dahlin** and **Chanpone Sinlapasai**; and Washington County Circuit Court Judges **Ted Sims** and **Miranda Summer**.

Three additional OWLS members, Court of Appeals **Judge Anna Joyce**, Marion County



Christina Stephenson, seen with husband Eric and son William, beat her opponents in the Bureau of Labor and Industries commissioner's race and will face Cheri Holt in the November primary. (Christina Stephenson)

Circuit Court **Judge Jennifer Gardiner**, and Multnomah County Circuit Court **Judge**

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Queen's Bench Monthly Presentation

Tuesday, Aug. 9, noon-1 p.m., via Zoom and Facebook Live
Big Ideas: "Climate Change Litigation: The Past, Present and Future"
No cost. [Register Online.](#) Queen's Bench Presentations are the second Tuesday of the month at noon.

OWLS Leadership Committee Sidebar Social

Takes place at Willamette College of Law Thursday, Sept. 1. 12:30-1:30 p.m..

First Wednesday

"How to Stop Fighting Against Time"
Wednesday, Sept. 7, 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m.
No cost. [Register Online.](#)

Queen's Bench Monthly Presentation

Tuesday, Sept. 13, noon-1 p.m., via Zoom and Facebook Live

Big Ideas: No cost. [Register Online.](#)
Queen's Bench Presentations are the second Tuesday of the month at noon.

OWLS Fall CLE on Voting Rights

Friday, Sept. 16, 1-4:30 p.m. followed by reception
Featuring Eliza Sweren-Becker, Voting Rights & Elections Program counsel at the Brennen Center for Justice at NYU School of Law
Location: Portland TBD

First Wednesday

"Radical Hospitality Can Change the Lives of the Formerly Incarcerated"
Wednesday, Oct. 5, 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m.
No cost. [Register Online.](#)

Queen's Bench Monthly Presentation

Tuesday, Oct. 11, noon-1 p.m., via Zoom and Facebook Live
Big Ideas: "NCAA Rule Changes and Oregon Athletes"

No cost. [Register Online.](#) Queen's Bench Presentations are the second Tuesday of the month at noon.

Queen's Bench Monthly Presentation

Tuesday, Nov. 8, noon-1 p.m.
Big Ideas: "The Case for Abrogating Qualified Immunity"
No cost. [Register Online.](#) Queen's Bench Presentations are the second Tuesday of the month at noon.

Queen's Bench Holiday Luncheon Honoring Women Judges

Featuring Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor (virtually)
Tuesday, Dec. 13
Location TBD.



Nominations for Roberts & Deiz Award Due Oct. 7

Oregon Women Lawyers is accepting nominations for the 2023 Roberts & Deiz Award. Nominations are due by 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 7. [Click here for the nomination form.](#)

Nominees must have graduated from an accredited law school and reside or do business in Oregon. Award recipients are selected based upon outstanding personal and professional contributions promoting those from outside the dominant culture in the legal profession or the community.

Examples of the kind of work OWLS hopes to recognize through this award include mentoring and providing opportunities for lawyers from outside the dominant culture to thrive, working to bridge the gap between the legal profession and those who exist outside the dominant culture, and working behind the scenes as an unsung leader to mentor and highlight the struggles of those outside the dominant culture, whether in the legal profession or the community at-large.

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OWLS Welcomes New Officers and Directors

Oregon Women Lawyers (OWLS) is pleased to announce its new officers and directors for 2022-23. **Kristin Sterling** was elected as OWLS president, having served previously as president-elect and treasurer. Sterling is a commercial attorney with Elevate Services and a longtime paddler with the OWLS dragon boat team, the Dragonflies.

Adele Ridenour was elected as OWLS president-elect, having served previously as treasurer, secretary and historian. Ridenour is a partner at Ball Janik in Portland and serves as a volunteer pro tem judge in Washington County. **Silvia Tanner** was elected secretary, having served previously as historian. Tanner is the senior sustainability analyst at the Multnomah County Office of Sustainability and serves on the board of the Oregon Hispanic Bar Association and Energy Trust of Oregon.

New to the executive committee are **Elizabeth Ballard Colgrove** and **Marisa Moneyhun**. Colgrove is assistant attorney in charge at the Oregon Department of Justice Medicaid fraud unit and is past president of OWLS Queen's Bench, Multnomah County chapter. Moneyhun was elected as OWLS historian and is a founding partner of Kehoe Moneyhun Law. All OWLS officers are members of the board.

OWLS also is pleased to announce its newly elected board member **Gizem Demirel** and newly appointed board members **Angela Polk** and **Hon. Kamala Shugar** who will fill vacant seats. Incumbent board members elected to continue board service are **Emily Brown-Sitnick**, **May Low** and **Keshmira McVey**.

With over 1,200 members, Oregon Women Lawyers is committed to the advancement of women and lawyers outside the dominant culture. To achieve this goal, we provide and support programming that includes attention to issues of gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and ability.

Election

Continued from page 2

Jenna Plank, moved forward to the general election without a primary vote, because their positions were uncontested and will be on the ballot outside the positions' normal election cycle. They will be elected by plurality in November.

On the November ballot, Marion County Deputy District Attorney **Amy Queen** and incumbent **Judge Erious Johnson Jr.**

will be vying for Position 14 on the Marion County Circuit Court. This judicial position was not contested in the May primary, because it is on the 2022 ballot outside its normal

election cycle. Under such circumstances, the candidates are considered nominated, bypass the primary, and appear directly on the November general election ballot.

Congratulations to the OWLS members who claimed victory in the May primary, and good luck to those appearing on the Nov. 8 ballot.



Judge Darleen Ortega won reelection to Position 3 on the Oregon Court of Appeals and won't have to participate in the November general election. (Judge Darleen Ortega)

Joslyn Keating is an attorney for Reinisch Wilson Weier in Portland and owner of Cake Hoopla, www.cakehoopla.com.

An advertisement for Bolywelch featuring a person rock climbing. The background is a grey wall with various climbing holds. The text "Ready for your next big move?" is at the top. Below it, three yellow boxes contain the text: "Don't sweat the small stuff.", "Our local market knowledge will take you there.", and "Now placing attorneys at all levels, in every practice area." At the bottom, the Bolywelch logo is displayed with the tagline "Beyond the resume" and the website and email address: "bolywelch.com | attorney@bolywelch.com".

OWLS Supports Full Access to Reproductive Health Care

Last September, OWLS joined an amicus brief in support of respondents in the U.S. Supreme Court case of *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health*. The brief laid out what was at stake if the Supreme Court overturned or weakened *Roe v. Wade*: "Women and their families, including women attorneys, have relied heavily on the constitutional guarantee of the ability to decide whether to have an abortion when exercising autonomy over their lives, health, families and futures. Loss of the rights guaranteed by *Roe* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* would decimate women lawyers' ability to advance their careers and achieve gender parity in the legal field."*

That much remains true, but beyond that, the June 24 decision by the Supreme Court overturns 50 years of precedent. The right to full reproductive health care is likely just the beginning of rights being taken away from all, disproportionately impacting those who are most economically and culturally vulnerable. This devastating blow to individual liberty and privacy will result in even greater hurdles to equitably accessing the legal system, attaining economic parity and supporting vulnerable families and communities. Removing the constitutional right to control our destinies, our bodies and our reproductive health is a further hindrance to living fulfilling lives and achieving economic independence.

Without access to the full range of reproductive health care, universal medical care, affordable child care or adequate legally protected family and sick leave, having no choice but to continue a government-mandated pregnancy and give birth will be devastating to those without the means to travel to a "safe" state like Oregon for health care. Not just the lawyers identified in the amicus brief, but more importantly, individuals and communities who are systemically oppressed will suffer further loss of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Access to reproductive health care, including accurate information about abortion, should not be a privilege, and should not be based on place of residence, race, socioeconomic factors, sexual orientation or gender identity.

White supremacy and xenophobia have



"The Supreme Court's decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade* is ... a white supremacist, patriarchal decision years in the making that will disproportionately impact Black, Indigenous, other people of color, and those without economic means, who already suffer the worst outcomes of the U.S. medical system."

— OWLS Board of Directors

long been part of the movement in the United States that led us to this day. One of the goals of white supremacy is to control women's autonomy over their bodies. Criminalizing access to the full range of reproductive health care supports the goals of white supremacy. The Supreme Court's decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade* is not a decision to protect the lives of women, children or fetuses. It is a white supremacist, patriarchal decision years in the making that will disproportionately impact Black, Indigenous, other people of color, and those without economic means, who already suffer the worst outcomes of the U.S. medical system, when they actually have had access to it, and whose rights to physical autonomy have and continue to be violated.

While the *Dobbs* decision is a grave step backward in the fight for equitable access to reproductive health care, OWLS will continue its support of all those systemically oppressed

and harmed by the ruling. We hope to create opportunities within our organization for members seeking ways to become more informed about what *Dobbs* means for reproductive rights under current laws and to donate time or financial resources to those who have already been leading this fight for some time as legislation moves forward about who has the authority to decide what is an acceptable risk to the health or life of a pregnant person.

— OWLS Board of Directors

[*https://womenlawyersonguard.org/2021/09/dobbs-amicus/](https://womenlawyersonguard.org/2021/09/dobbs-amicus/). It is worth noting that the term "women" used in the amicus brief was meant to include all people capable of becoming pregnant, regardless of gender identity, sexual orientation or any other characteristic. OWLS similarly intends to be inclusive of all such individuals in this statement.

Dobbs *Merely* Pushed the Issue Back to the States

Many of us are taking frantic calls from clients, friends and family who have concerns about life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Some of us are advising medical providers about changes to policies about how much harm to a patient is required by the state before an exception applies and when a police report is required after pregnancy loss. Some of us are dusting off pre-Obergfell forms and research to reestablish backup plans for same-sex married couples, and some of us are advising clients about event cancellation policies related to moving a wedding to a different state instead of inviting pregnant guests to travel to a state where doctors are not allowed to present treatment options to manage pregnancy loss. In short, *Dobbs v. Jackson* touches every aspect of our lives.

The title of this column is inspired by part of an email about same-sex marriage planning that was sent to an OWLS member, "Dobbs merely put the issue back to the states." Merely, in that context struck her like a lightning bolt. How could a colleague she respects and admires be dismissive about serious harms that have been expanded to pre-viability pregnancy loss in an email about the erosion of other fundamental rights?

She shared her thoughts: "I didn't think it was funny, but I can see how some people might. I didn't find it comforting, but I can see how some people might." And then we saw it again, different email threads in various areas of the law: criminal, constitutional, business and others. Perhaps merely is shorthand for moments when there are no words and it is time to get back to work.

As lawyers, we know that words are powerful. Words carry meaning, context, memories, trauma and more. Whether the full weight of a word is intended or implied, it hits the reader anyway. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility (DEIA) in a conversation about reproductive justice is difficult. There is no shared vocabulary, not if your audience is diverse. How are miscarriage and abortion different? Are they different? This column will be about giving contributors a platform to explain their hot buttons to find a shared understanding, or at least a set of terms that we can use in the attempt.

Share Your Opinion

This is a new column focusing on reproductive justice, and OWLS seeks contributors and editors for a series of articles that we'll publish in the *AdvanceSheet* for as long as necessary. Additional information will be forthcoming about how to volunteer to write, edit and share your point of view.

Maybe you are a person who felt relief and joy when you saw the Dobbs decision. Maybe you were angry or outraged. Maybe you haven't given much thought to the scope and reach of laws that criminalize pregnancy loss at all stages of pregnancy. Many such laws became enforceable overnight for the first time in the lives of almost everyone currently in their reproductive years who

can become pregnant. Maybe you haven't considered overcriminalization at all. We hope you will now.

The next article will focus on a shared vocabulary to bring people together to find terms that are workable. We need a diverse group of contributors and editors from across the spectrum from choice to life to provide comments about the following articles, [Abortion in America \(NACDL.org\)](https://www.nacdl.org/), [The Color of Choice \(berkeley.edu\)](https://www.berkeley.edu/), and [The Politicization of Abortion and the Evolution of Abortion Counseling \(ncbi.nlm.nih.gov\)](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/).

Please take this journey with us. Read one or more of the articles, highlight the words that feel like a punch in the gut, consider why that is, take a break for self-care, keep reading, and consider sharing your comments about the weight of those words for you. Information about how to share your contribution with or without attribution and how to submit other articles for future columns will be available in OWLS' eNews.



OWLS Speaker Series Looks at Big Changes Proposed for Portland City Council, City Elections

By Ayla Ercin

Queen's Bench, the Multnomah County Chapter of OWLS, held another installment of its "Big Ideas" series, with Melanie Billings-Yun joining the group to discuss her work on the City of Portland Charter Commission.

The Charter Commission is a 20-member, City Council-appointed group of volunteers who applied and were selected to undertake extensive research and public outreach into possible improvements to the city's form of government and elections process.

Billings-Yun is an international negotiation consultant who wrote a book on negotiation strategies and spent 16 years as an adjunct professor at Portland State University teaching negotiation and cross-cultural management. She has put her negotiation skills to good use on the Charter Commission helping it reach consensus around a package of reforms proposed for the November ballot.

The proposed reforms would revolutionize three key features of Portland government: the size of the City Council, the council's oversight responsibilities, and the voting process for electing its members. The Charter Commission came to its recommendations after extensive input from the public in the form of community listening sessions, survey outreach, public meetings and comment periods, and policy discussions with community organizations.

This community-driven process resulted in the clear conclusion that Portlanders are ready for and want change. Eighty percent of survey respondents think the current City Council structure isn't working, and broad majorities want ranked-choice voting and district-based City Council elections.

Expansion of the City Council and Creation of New Geographic Districts

The first proposal offered by the Charter Commission would expand the City Council to be a 12-member body, with city commissioners drawn from four newly created geographic districts. Each new district would send three members to the council, and voters would

only be allowed to vote for candidates in their own district. Currently, each of four commissioners (plus the mayor) is elected in a citywide vote, without reference to geographic representation. The council has not been expanded since its creation in 1913, although the number of constituents each member represents has more than tripled.



The Charter Commission believes the expansion of the City Council will give underrepresented communities a greater say in city government by lowering barriers to entry, increasing the candidate pool, and

creating more responsive commissioners able to listen and respond to a greater diversity of constituent needs.

The simultaneous move to voting by geographic district would enhance this effect, guaranteeing representation for each region of the city and preventing a continuation of the historical underrepresentation of constituents on the east side of the Willamette River.

Introduction of Professional Bureau Management

Another area in which public feedback uncovered significant desire for change was in the current allocation of authority and bureau oversight among commissioners. Overwhelmingly, the Charter Commission heard that the current structure of city government is unable to adequately handle long-term, complex issues like homelessness, public safety, economic inequality and environmental concerns, among many other issues. The public didn't believe direct management of city bureaus by commissioners was useful anymore and wanted a professional manager to create expertise, increase effectiveness, encourage shared policy goals and vision, and increase coordination among bureaus.

There was debate about the appropriate level of authority and oversight to be allocated between the mayor and the City Council, but the Charter Commission ultimately recommended a hybrid approach. A professional city manager, appointed by the mayor, would be brought in to directly manage all bureaus but would have to be approved by the City Council.

The City Council would transition to a legislative and policy focus, while the city manager would relieve them of day-to-day operation and oversight of bureaus and bureau directors.

Single Election With Ranked-Choice Voting

Finally, the Charter Commission also recommended the implementation of ranked-choice voting, which would eliminate the need for a primary.

Ranked-choice allows a voter to mark each candidate for an elected position in order of preference — first, second, third choice, etc. If a candidate wins the majority of first-choice positions, that candidate wins and the process ends. However, if there is no clear first-choice winner, the lowest-ranking candidate would be eliminated and each ballot selecting that candidate would look to the second-choice candidate on that voter's ballot instead. This process would continue until a candidate received a majority of votes.

In this system, even if a voter's first-choice candidate loses, their subsequent preferences are still taken into account. Ballots become more nuanced tools, and runoffs are no longer necessary. Finally, when all preferences are taken into account in this manner, the electorate sees fewer candidates winning with less than 50% of the vote.

The Charter Commission's recommendations have been presented to the City Attorney's Office for review and for charter amendment drafting. The drafts will then be returned to the Charter Commission to vote on a final set of proposed reforms. If at least 15 members of the Charter Commission agree on the final form of the recommendations, it will be referred directly to voters and will appear on the November ballot. If between 11 and 14 members agree, the recommendations will go to the City Council for their consideration.

Queen's Bend Treasurer and President-Elect Victoria Rodriguez facilitated Billings-Yun's presentation and led a robust inquiry into the topic based on OWLS members' questions to Billings-Yun.

Ayla Ercin is an attorney and staff member at the Campaign for Equal Justice in Portland.

The Surprising Link Between Brain Injuries, Crime

By Judge Jenna R. Plank

The Queen's Bench Monthly Speakers Series on May 4 featured a presentation on the link between criminal recidivism and brain trauma. The presentation was hosted remotely and featured a TED talk given by Kim Gorgens, a professor of psychophysiology, clinical neuropsychology and psychology of criminal behavior at the University of Denver and a specialist in traumatic brain injuries.

The talk highlighted the staggering correlation between criminal justice involvement and traumatic brain injury (TBI), citing that up to 80% of people in the justice system have a previous documented TBI. For women with prior criminal involvement, the percentage is almost 100%. The normal occurrence of TBI in the general population is 5%.

Many people with TBI suffer from long-term thinking errors. Coupled with substance abuse, these errors manifest as physical aggression, nonsensical actions and forgetfulness, frequently leading to arrests and violations of probation conditions.



Armed with this knowledge, a group in Colorado partnered with the court system to treat underlying organic causes of thinking errors in an effort to break recidivism cycles. In Colorado, criminal defendants are administered a short neuropsychological evaluation as part of their presentencing. The evaluators write two reports based on the results — one report for the court on how to manage the defendant's behaviors, and another for the defendant recommending how to better manage

themselves. Many of these recommendations are as simple as carrying a notebook to write things down, and giving probationers written instructions in addition to oral directives.

The overall program is designed to differentiate between behaviors driven by brain deficits versus those driven by defiance. Studies show the former can be corrected through changes in accommodations afforded to defendants, thus breaking the cycle of continual ineffective incarceration sanctions for certain behaviors.

In post-presentation breakout sessions, OWLS members discussed how streamlined processes for the creation of individual accommodation plans are a large part of many other systems, such as education, but seem to still be lacking in the courts. Optimism was high that as we develop a better understanding of the human brain, we may also develop a better design for our criminal justice systems.

Judge Jenna Plank is on the Multnomah County Circuit Court.

Jessica Wilcox, who works in employee and labor relations for the City of Vancouver, Washington, contributed to this story.

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The Future of Artificial Intelligence in the Legal Community

The featured speaker at the May Queen's Bench Luncheon was Bruce McEwan, the New York-based president of Adam Smith Esq., a management consultancy for other law firms. He spoke on the topic of "Artificial Intelligence and the Legal Profession."

McEwan studied economics in college and later worked as a Wall Street securities lawyer and in-house counsel for Morgan Stanley. He has published nearly 2,000 articles and has written multiple books.

McEwan's 2017 book, "Tomorrowland: Scenarios for Law Firms Beyond the Horizon," gained worldwide attention and lays out possible future scenarios for law firms.

The use of artificial intelligence in the legal profession is something many lawyers haven't considered. In the simplest terms, artificial intelligence — or AI — refers to systems or programs that mimic human intelligence to perform tasks. These systems improve themselves over time based on the



information they collect.

McEwan said technological advances should be celebrated and those in the legal profession should not be hesitant to use new technology. He dismisses concerns about artificial intelligence replacing legal jobs since innovation almost always creates new

job opportunities.

McEwan believes that using artificial intelligence would allow law firms to change their structure. Instead of only attorneys being at the top of the pyramid, law firms could move toward an intellectually diverse pool of employees who have a wide range of professional backgrounds. Artificial intelligence would require data analysts, machine learning experts, industrial psychologists, interface designers and other nonlegal professionals.

AI primarily is data analysis, and most law firms work with a substantial amount of data. Attorneys collect the facts and evidence of their case and make legal decisions and recommendations based on the totality of the circumstances. McEwan sees an opportunity for artificial intelligence to be used for this type of data analysis to help support certain legal decisions an attorney may be recommending.

It is a likely scenario for the future of the legal world, though it is unclear when specific AI programs will be ready to be deployed. While it might be theory right now, present-day attorneys should be open to the idea of this technology being used during their careers.



Laura Gardner is a family law attorney.

Meet OWLS Board Member Mary Dougherty

By Ayla Ercin

Mary Dougherty joined the OWLS Board of Directors for the 2020-23 term but has deep roots in the organization and its mission. Dougherty works and lives in Portland but grew up in Eastern Oregon where she attended a one-room school in Malheur County until fourth grade and graduated from Baker High School. "Most of my family lives in Eastern Oregon and my practice is statewide, so I try to contribute a perspective from outside Portland metro to the OWLS board," she said.

Dougherty does outreach across the state helping OWLS chapters as they plan events, encourage attendance, engagement and membership, and create leadership pipelines. She also works to amplify statewide voices, helping cast a wider net when OWLS is seeking input for awards and speakers for events and programs.

Most recently, Dougherty helped plan the May 17 OWLS Chapter Summit that brought together chapter leaders and participants across the state. Chapter support and outreach are particularly crucial now, as OWLS chapters work to return their membership and participation back to pre-pandemic levels.

Dougherty helped members stay connected through the pandemic by encouraging and exploring interest in a virtual chapter, including the First Wednesday online events, but there is a good deal of work still to be done. Chapters are returning to in-person activities while trying to remain flexible and responsive with hybrid events and the ability to pivot back to virtual events as needed.

Dougherty first became involved with OWLS leadership with encouragement from her dragon boat paddling team, the Dragonflies. She joined the board of the OWLS Queen's Bench chapter in 2010 and served as its president in 2014. She has been a co-chair of the OWLS PR Committee and currently serves as a co-chair of the OWLS Membership Committee and is a member of the OWLS Transformation Committee.

Dougherty also is active in her community through the Rotary Club of Portland New Generations, where she participates in service projects and club committees. She has been recognized by the Rotary Foundation as a three-time Paul Harris Fellow. In 2010, she co-founded the Oregon State Bar Taxation



"My practice is statewide, so I try to contribute a perspective from outside Portland metro to the OWLS board."

— Mary Dougherty

Section Mentor Program and continues to guide new lawyers through that program and through the Oregon State Bar New Lawyer Mentor Program.

Dougherty received her bachelor of science degree from Oregon State University and has continued to stay engaged as a volunteer with the OSU Austin Family Business Program and the OSU Women's Giving Circle, which brings alumni together to fund selected university programs through grants.

She is a graduate of the University of the Pa-

cific—McGeorge School of Law, with a taxation certificate and clerked for the Oregon Tax Court after graduation.

Dougherty currently works at Brownstein Rask and focuses on business transactions, tax and estate planning. She advises clients in probate and trust administration and helps both individuals and

families with their estate planning needs. Her business transaction work focuses on corporate matters, contracts, data privacy, and planning and implementing succession strategies.

When she isn't working or volunteering, Dougherty can be found gardening, knitting or watching OSU sports.

Ayla Ercin is an attorney and staff member at the Campaign for Equal Justice in Portland.



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Above: Tour leader Ron Silver at the Medgar and Myrlie Evers Home in Jackson, Mississippi.



Right: Group in front of Fannie Lou Hamer statue and memorial at her gravesite in Ruleville, Mississippi, with two local boys, Vincent and Jamerion, who joined us for our tour of the site. (Photo: Ron Silver)

Continued from page 1

and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) had a presence. In August 1964, the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party selected delegates and developed its

**PHOTOS BY
TERESA
STATLER**

party platform here, and went on to challenge the Democratic Party at its 1964 convention in Atlantic City on its seating of an all-white Mississippi delegation. We were led on a tour through the building by Frank Figgers, a local civil rights leader, who told us it also was the site of Evers' funeral in 1963.

The group then lunched with investigative journalist Jerry Mitchell, author of "Race Against Time: A Reporter Reopens the Unsolved Murder Cases of the Civil Rights Era." Mitchell, a former court reporter for the local Jackson newspaper, was inspired by the 1989 film "Mississippi Burning" to look into old civil rights cases that many thought had long since turned cold.

His investigations led to the arrests and convictions of several Ku Klux Klan members and prompted

authorities to reexamine and reopen investigations of other killings in Alabama and Mississippi that occurred in the 1950s and '60s.

After lunch, we visited the Medgar and Myrlie Evers Home National Monument and then the Hinds County Courthouse in Jackson, the site of the three trials needed to convict Evers' killer, Byron De La Beckwith. At each site, Silver gave the group a detailed history of important events that happened there and showed us numerous

**"Freedom has
never been
free."**

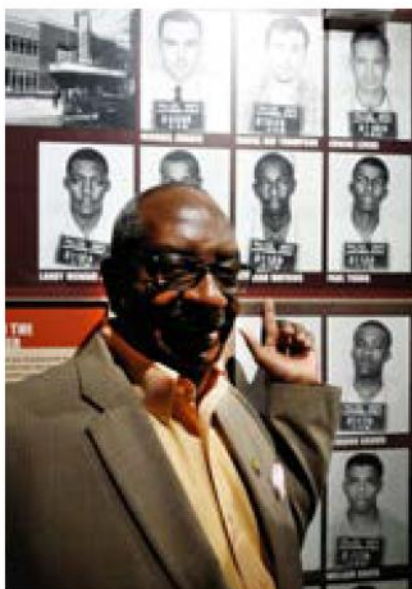
— Medgar Evers

contemporary photographs.

The following day, the group met with Hezekiah Watkins, who, as a 13-year-old in 1961, was the youngest person arrested during the Freedom Rides.

We met Watkins at the former Greyhound bus station in Jackson, the place where he and many others were arrested for trying to integrate the station's cafes and restrooms. Watkins told us his amazing and

Continued on page 13



Above: A burned Freedom Riders bus, on display at the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis.

Left: Hezekiah Watkins points out his mugshot, taken when he was 13 years old in 1961, at the Freedom Riders exhibit in the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum in Jackson, Mississippi.

Continued from page 12

sobering story, and how he had lived nearby and rode his bike to the bus station with a friend to see the Freedom Riders. His friend pushed him through the bus station's front doors, leading to his arrest and five-day detention at the notorious Parchman Farm state prison. Silver then led the group on a walking tour

"... until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a stream."

— Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

of Farish Street, the former Black commercial district, which is now, sadly, in a state of disrepair. That afternoon, Watkins was our docent on a tour of the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum, where we saw

his 1961 mugshot, as well as many other interesting exhibits on Black history and civil rights history in Mississippi. That evening, the group attended a lecture by Professor Eddie S. Glaude Jr., educator, author and political commentator, who was speaking as part of the museum's lecture series.



Ron Silver shows the group the site where three civil rights workers were killed outside Philadelphia, Mississippi, during "Freedom Summer" in June 1964.

his 1961 mugshot, as well as many other interesting exhibits on Black history and civil rights history in Mississippi. That evening, the group attended a lecture by Professor Eddie S. Glaude Jr., educator, author and political commentator, who was speaking as part of the museum's lecture series.

On Friday, April 29, the group traveled to Philadelphia, Mississippi, where we toured sites associated with the 1964 "Freedom Summer" killing of young civil rights workers James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Mickey Schwerner. Our guide for the day was LeRoy Clemons, local NAACP president, former Philadelphia City Councilor and leader of the



The view from the boarding house window from which James Earl Ray killed the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.



Left: The sign at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, where King was killed, now the site of the National Civil Rights Museum.

Above: The wreath marks the site on the motel balcony where King was shot.

Neshoba Youth Coalition. Clemons told the group about being one of the first children to integrate Philadelphia's public schools in 1970. He told us that in the 1960s, Philadelphia was considered the "racist capital of Mississippi," and he made clear the fear the Black community had then about being part of civil rights activities like voter registration or sending a child to a Freedom School. We toured the former Black business district, where a popular cafe is still in operation, patronized now by customers of all races, including members of the local Choctaw Nation.

By chance in front of the restaurant, we met Wilma Simpson, a Choctaw tribal leader and friend of Clemons' who spent some time telling us about the tribe's history in Mississippi and its current work with Philadelphia's Black community to ensure equal rights for all. The Choctaw is the only federally recognized tribe in Mississippi, composed of eight different communities.



After lunch, we visited the Mount Zion United Methodist Church, the site of an earlier church burning and the reason the three civil rights workers were in Philadelphia the day they were killed. The group was quiet, contemplative and sober when Silver and Clemons then took us to the site in the woods south of town where the Klan killed the three young men.

After spending the day in Philadelphia, we traveled to Greenwood, in the Mississippi Delta. In Greenwood, on Saturday, April 30, we spent the morning following the story of Emmett Till, the 14-year-old boy who was killed in August 1955 by two white men for whistling and "disrespecting" the wife of

Continued on page 14

Continued from page 13

one of them, when he bought candy at her store in Money, Mississippi. Emmett may have touched her hand while paying for his bubble gum. He later was kidnapped, tortured and killed. We visited what's left of the store, which is overgrown and in ruins, and then drove to the murder site, a farm shed out in the country near Drew, Mississippi. We later toured the Tallahatchie County Courthouse in Sumner, where Silver told us the story of the 1955 trial: It took 67 minutes for a jury of 12 white men to find the perpetrators not guilty. They later confessed to the crime in a magazine interview.

In Sumner, we also toured the Emmett Till Interpretive Center and learned from Jessie Jaynes, our guide for the day, that the National

**"You can
kill a
man,
but you
can't kill
an idea."**

**— Medgar
Evers**

Park Service is now interested in protecting the area's sites associated with the killing. In the afternoon, we visited the small town of Ruleville, also in the delta, the home of activist Fannie Lou Hamer. We saw her gravesite and memorial, and two young neighborhood boys joined us in learning about her life and work, from Silver's lecture and photographs.

On Sunday, May 1, the group attended services at the New Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Greenwood, where we were warmly welcomed by the pastor and the congregation. At the church, we met state Sen. David Jordan, who told us about his life as a sharecropper's son and attending school for only four months a year. He was able to attend college on a scholarship, and became a chemistry teacher and then a state senator who has met three U.S. presidents. His personal credo is that life is about making things better for others. Before leaving Greenwood for Memphis, the group visited historical sites in downtown Greenwood such as the Leflore County Courthouse, where civil rights protests and marches took place in 1962 and during Freedom Summer in 1964.

In Memphis the next day, we spent most of our time at the National Civil Rights Museum, which is located inside the shell of the former Lorraine Motel, where the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated on the motel balcony in April 1968. The museum contains extensive exhibits about Black history from the time of slavery up through the civil rights movement



The farm shed outside Drew, Mississippi, where Emmett Till was killed in August 1955.

and to the present. Also part of the museum is the former boarding house across the street, which contains exhibits about the hunt for King's killer James Earl Ray, his trial and the different conspiracy theories surrounding the killing. Visitors can look through the window through which Ray killed King with a high-powered rifle. We ended our visit to Memphis with dinner at the famous Gus's Fried Chicken restaurant, just one of many great meals we had on the trip.

Our trip was at times very emotional and moving, and it was always educational. We were grateful to share in Silver's knowledge and expertise and were honored to meet so many people who are working today for civil rights in Mississippi.



One of the exhibits at the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis.

Thank you, Ron and Elise!

Teresa Statler recently retired from her solo immigration law practice in Portland.



Group in front of a popular restaurant in Philadelphia, Mississippi's former Black commercial district, with Choctaw tribal leader Wilma Simpson (front row left) and our guide for the day LeRoy Clemons, former Philadelphia City Councilor and Neshoba Youth Coalition leader (front row, second from left). (Photo: Ron Silver)

Marion County Circuit Court Judge Jodie Bureta is Restoring the People's Court

By Jessica Wilcox

Don't worry, Judge Milian's job is safe. Although Judge Jodie Bureta loves the escape that the TV courtroom provides, what you witness with Judge Bureta is reality. She is firmly committed to reworking her court to support the people — all the people — who it is meant to serve.

Service is a through-line in Judge Bureta's life. Her father's military service shaped her childhood, serving in restaurants sustained her throughout high school and college, and law school provided the tools she sought to help those who could not help themselves. Upon graduation she began serving her community for 18 years as a prosecutor for Marion County and then the State of Oregon. For the past year, Judge Bureta has served her constituency in Marion County Circuit Court. She understands that being on the bench is essentially a customer service position, providing better access to justice. And for Judge Bureta, this is the most fulfilling work one can do.

"There are some wrongs only the law can right, so the community needs a court system that isn't frightening just by the overwhelming formality of it," Judge Bureta explained. "I see myself being an ambassador for the justice system, and I do not have any bright line rules in my court that would stop people from participating. I will accommodate those who can't afford day care if that will allow them to come to their court date. I always ask for preferred pronouns and the like without requiring them to make all the overtures. I want people to feel welcome and heard.

"Law school was the first time in my life when I was able to stop working and focus solely on school. It was such a privilege. It allowed me to cultivate a mastery of the law and a real love for it and what it can do for people when done right," Judge Bureta said. "Let's just say, I have nightmares about waiting tables again not about having a law school final the next day."

Giving a voice to the voiceless has always motivated Judge Bureta, and the sheer amount of work to be done is what still gets



"From my view on the bench, I see the glaring disparities that I didn't see as a DA. Reform isn't the right word for what we need; we need to change the way we think about everything."

— Judge Jodie Bureta

her up when she is knocked down. "From my view on the bench, I see the glaring disparities that I didn't see as a DA. Reform isn't the right word for what we need; we need to change the way we think about everything," she said.

"These systemic issues pop up everywhere. Like we need to change the languages we print our forms on. How can we hold people to the rules if they aren't in a language they understand? There are so many things that need to be done and that is what excites me about this job."

Thankfully, Judge Bureta has always seen Oregon's political ideologies, specifically its voter-driven government, as the right way to make these necessary changes. "Oregon's allows its citizens to be heard, which has resulted in nontraditional laws, things like leading the country on death with dignity,

which originally drew me to study and practice law in this state over 20 years ago. So, this overhaul won't be easy, but it is possible."

And although she never thought she would become a judge, her peers thought differently. They recommended her for the Marion County bench, and Judge Bureta now agrees that this was the natural next step.

"Being a DA was my absolute favorite job because you are only supposed to do whatever you think is right, but the subject matter weighs heavily on you. I knew that I wanted my next step to allow me to solve problems and help people in a different way, not just cleaning up the mess after the fact," she said. When asked what superpower she would want, Judge Bureta quickly eschewed flying and mind reading for time travel. "I'd want to see into the future. It is daunting to make decisions not knowing the outcome. It would be so good to know it's the right course."

Judge Bureta is very positive about the work the Marion County Circuit Court is doing for its community. "The court here is very collaborative, weaving in many different opinions. Working on a community bench is not hierarchical. We all represent our constituents, so you have to find a way to work through all sorts of issues and learn new areas of law. But we were all lawyers, so we can pick up these new topics quickly and know how to work collegially toward resolution," she said.

Beyond the law, Judge Bureta keeps busy with her family and some very diverse interests. She went dirt biking, camped and caught up on TV throughout COVID. She reads historical fiction, usually with a feminist bent, and belongs to a bowling league. She is planning a trip to Portugal this summer but will be home in time to devour the garden-grown tomatoes her husband and son planted for her on Mother's Day. Judge Bureta credits this work-life balance for being able to manage the stress of her job and better serve her community in all roles.

Jessica Wilcox works in employee and labor relations for the City of Vancouver, Washington.

Shortlisted

Vanguard: How Black Women Broke Barriers, Won the Vote, and Insisted on Equality for All

By Martha Jones
(Seal Press, 2020, 318 pages)

Book Review by Teresa Statler

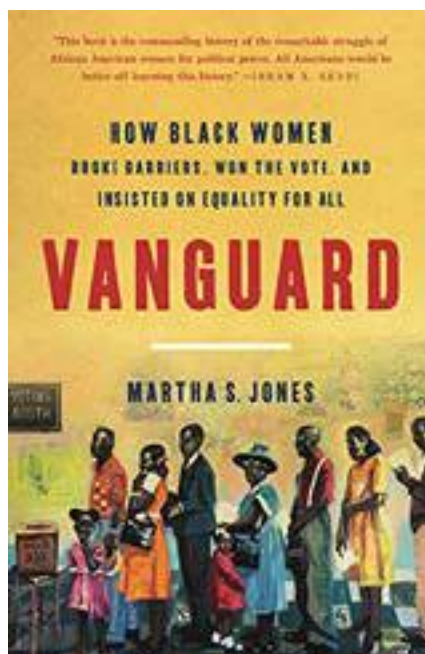
Martha S. Jones, a professor of history at Johns Hopkins University, has written an important and absorbing history of Black women, their fight for equality and suffrage, and the crucial role they have played in our nation's political history.

Jones tells us that Black women "blazed trails across the whole of two centuries ... Black women led American women, showing the way forward. Some 'first' Black women leapt out front because nothing less would get them where they aimed to go. ... As the vanguard, Black women also pointed the nation toward its best ideals."

The book gathers up their stories "in the spirit of Alice Walker's 1983 essay collection, *In Search of our Mothers' Gardens*." Walker's book celebrated the art and activism of many Black women, too many of them unknown. The women Jones profiles are also mostly forgotten, and we owe these original feminists and antiracists a great debt for their fight for the ballot and for the dignity of all people.

Jones begins her history in the early 19th century with the "colored convention movement," noting that "colored" was the then-preferred term among Black activists. Although the movement was made up predominately of men, Black women were encouraged to raise funds that built Black houses of worship (which later became incubators of the Black women's suffrage movement). Black women also published meeting minutes and kept Black newspapers afloat.

Black men, however, considered the women mere "helpmeets," which spurred many of them to activism. Women such as Jarena Lee, a Methodist preacher's wife, and Maria Miller Stewart, a lecturer, abolitionist and friend of William Lloyd Garrison, were just two of these energetic women. Other Black women of the time, such as Sarah Mapps Douglass and Black women in Philadelphia's Female Literary Association preferred to use their pens and write essays that were read aloud in



churches and meeting houses and published in Black newspapers. Jones moves on to the 1850s when a "new generation of women entered public culture, young women who had been raised in the bosom of women's activism in antislavery societies, churches and beyond." These included Barbara Ann Steward and Mary Jeffrey, the latter a friend and associate of Frederick Douglass.

In the chapter "Make Us a Power," Jones tells about Reconstruction in the late 1860s and '70s when Black men cast their ballots for the first time. During this time, however, Black women also played an important role in political meetings, which got them thinking about how they might obtain the power of the vote. Jones recounts the racism and various indignities perpetrated by the (white) women's suffrage organizations of the time, which at first declined to let Black women play a role. It was at this time that Black women's activism in their churches and their ordination as ministers put many on the road for local, regional and national church conferences where they became decision-makers. This church-based activism led to the formation of organizations like the National Federation of Afro-American Women, the National Association of Colored Women,

and other Black women's clubs. It was these groups that were motivated to fight Jim Crow laws as well as to articulate strategies for obtaining the vote. Progress was slow, but Black women leaders, like Mary Church Terrell, eventually came to collaborate with white women like Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony.

In the chapter "Amendment," Jones sets out the confrontations and risks Black women faced in the 1920s, after the passage of the 19th Amendment, to register to vote and then actually do so. They set up "suffrage schools" teaching Black women and men how to pass the various "literacy tests" and get around the "poll taxes" that were part of the Jim Crow South.

In later chapters, Jones talks about women like Nannie Burroughs, who in the 1920s and 1930s, worked with "white and colored, men and women" to enlarge the base of Black women in the Republican Party. More well-known women such as Mary McLeod Bethune dominated Black politics in Washington, D.C., in the 1940s. She inspired activists of the 1960s and '70s including Diane Nash, Pauli Murray, Barbara Jordan and Shirley Chisholm. Jones concludes the book with the political struggles of today and the crucial roles played by women like Stacey Abrams and Lani Guinier.

The history of modern democracy in our country cannot be told without the history of Black women, and Jones has done an excellent job in bringing all these stories together in a coherent and insightful chronology. The eye-opening number of women whose activism she portrays, and how they fit into the political and racial narrative of the particular time, sometimes overwhelms the reader. Nevertheless, this book remains a must-read for all Americans who care about the past and future of democracy in our country. Illustrated with photographs and black-and-white sketched portraits of the women featured, and full of detailed notes for further reading, the book also would make an excellent choice for book groups.

Teresa Statler recently retired from her solo immigration law practice in Portland.

Annual Meeting and Dinner Recognizes Service by MBA Members

By Judge Jenna R. Plank

May 10 marked the 116th annual Multnomah Bar Association Meeting, Dinner and Judges Reception. The event was well attended by members of the area's bench and bar alike and featured table sponsorship by many of Portland's firms. It was held at the Downtown Portland Hilton, and for many, marked the first in-person event they have attended in over two years.

The evening was emceed by Jovita Wang, the current MBA president and OWLS member, and featured speeches by Multnomah Bar Foundation President Victoria Blachly, Young Lawyers Section (YLS) President Kirsten Rush, Diego Gutierrez, Judge Stephen Bushong, and OWLS members Liani Reeves, Judge Ramon Pagan, and Chief Justice Martha Walters.

Several of the speeches focused on steps the courts have taken to facilitate increased access to court services and efforts being made to work through the surplus of cases on the Multnomah Court dockets. Other speeches focused on the role of attorneys in our community and the need to keep striving for increased diversity and professionalism in our work.

Four attorneys — Erin Roycroft, Jessica Schuh, Stephen Scott and Emery Wang — were honored for their extraordinary pro bono legal work on issues ranging from conviction integrity to domestic violence survivor support.

Of particular note was Oregon Attorney Robert Parker who took the stage to thank attorney Stephen Scott for the work he did in overturning Parker's 1992 denial of admission to the Oregon State Bar. Recently Parker was finally admitted to practice law in Oregon after Scott and others demonstrated his denial was racially motivated. Scott and the other recipients of the MBA 2022 Pro Bono Award were given a standing ovation for their exemplary work.

The MBA Diversity Award was awarded to Derily Bechthold in recognition of her years of sustained support of and advocacy for diversity and inclusion in the bar. Bechthold is a long-standing member and chair of the Oregon Minority Lawyers Association (OMLA)



Diego Gutierrez (above) and Chief Justice Martha Walters (below) spoke at the annual MBA event. (Multnomah Bar Association)

"It is our collective duty to promote inclusion, diversity and professionalism to achieve greatness in our profession."

— Alice Cuprill-Comas



and several other affinity groups aimed at promoting diversity in the practice of law. In accepting her award, Bechthold recounted how she and her immigrant mother forged their path after her father's death, and how that path led to her desire to give back to others through the practice of law.

The final award of the night, the MBA Professionalism Award, was given to Alice Cuprill-Comas, Port of Portland Commission president and OHSU vice president. Described as "the smartest person in the room who says the least, but is listened to the most," Cuprill-

Comas was honored for her extraordinary professionalism in advancing to leadership roles in several of our community's largest organizations. In her acceptance speech, Cuprill-Comas said the excuses heard for the lack of diversity in the bar today are the same excuses heard almost 30 years ago and she told the audience it is our collective duty to promote inclusion, diversity and professionalism to achieve greatness in our profession.

Judge Jenna Plank is on the Multnomah County Circuit Court.

Chapter Summit Returns

By Mary Dougherty and
Ashley McDonald

Three chapters — Queen's Bench, Lane County Women Lawyers, and Mary Leonard — joined the OWLS Membership Committee in co-hosting the OWLS Chapter Summit on May 17. The event was held virtually with participants from seven chapters and the virtual chapter interest group. There was no summit in 2021 due to pandemic scheduling challenges, so it was a great opportunity for chapter leaders to network and learn from one another about pandemic event success stories and challenges.

Chapter participants included several new faces as well as some experienced chapter leaders. OWLS Executive Director Linda Tomassi, OWLS Program Coordinator Lauren Smiley, and OWLS Membership Committee co-Chairs Mary Dougherty and Ashley McDonald also were in attendance.

Queen's Bench President April Stone led the gathering as each chapter introduced participants in attendance from their leadership team. OWLS President Kristin Sterling welcomed representatives from the OWLS Board of Directors, the OWLS Foundation Board of Directors, Lewis & Clark Women's Law Caucus, and the University of Oregon Women's Law Forum.

Sterling shared a few slides including images showing chapter activity statewide and highlighting areas where chapters are working to renew their presence and return to in-person networking events, which have traditionally been the primary activity of chapters at the local level.

Hon. Allison Boomer, OWLS past president (2019-20), moderated a panel to review priorities and resources available to chapters in the coming year with Sterling, OWLS Treasurer Elizabeth Ballard Colgrove, and Foundation President Julia E. Markley.

Sterling discussed a recent volunteer survey that is being conducted to identify OWLS members with interest in leadership opportunities.

Markley provided a summary of fundraising success that the Foundation had with virtual events in 2021 and 2022 and highlighted two law school grants.

Colgrove shared details about financial support for chapters and membership objectives for the coming year, as well as tips about being mindful of representation in recruiting members and in working to provide an accessible, inclusive chapter. Prior to the summit, participants were encouraged to view the video "[OWLS Guide to Chapter Development](#)," with resources available to existing chapters and members interested in creating new ones.

Hon. Debra Velure, Emily Lohman and April M. Stone each gave a brief chapter presentation. Judge Velure explained the format for the Chief Justice Martha Walters Award, which is an annual event in its fourth year for Lane County Women Lawyers and features an interview with the award recipient. The presentation will return to an in-person format on Nov. 18.

Lohman discussed Courthouse Connections and other events that the Mary Leonard Chapter hosted virtually during the pandemic. Courthouse Connections is

a recurring event for the chapter in collaboration with the Marion County Bar Association and is typically held as a lunchtime networking or CLE in a courtroom.

Stone concluded the chapter presentations with tips for fighting Zoom fatigue with outreach to members, law students and new lawyers, highlighted a Queen's Bench Chapter event, and discussed the survey results in favor of an in-person holiday luncheon on Dec. 13.

Lane County Women Lawyers Chair Chelle B. Haynes and Chair-elect Shannon Richard facilitated a roundtable discussion for the second half of the summit beginning with a brief poll to explore how chapters have adapted over the past two years and the level of interest they are seeing with hybrid events. Responses were varied and the discussion continued with conversations about collaboration with other chapters, local bar organizations, and OWLS committees with support from the OWLS office.

The OWLS Membership Committee is hard at work implementing many of the ideas shared at the summit this year, and members should keep an eye on the OWLS events calendar for in-person events. We are pleased to report that it looks like hybrid events are here to stay and that technology will bring more programs to more members than ever before.

Mary Dougherty is an attorney with Brownstein Rask in Portland. Ashley McDonald is an attorney with Slinde Nelson in Portland.

Finding Your Voice in the Courtroom

By Molly McCue

As a law student, I have been given many opportunities to listen to lawyers, judges and justices speak about their experiences. None so far have been as impactful and intimate as "Finding Your Own Voice in the Courtroom," a forum that is part of the Affinity Bar Series for new lawyers and law students. The event was co-sponsored by the Oregon Hispanic Bar Association (OHBA) and OGALLA, the LGBT Bar Association of Oregon.

I moderated the forum, which featured Justice Lynn Nakamoto, Judge Beth Allen and Judge Angela Lucero talking about some of their courtroom experiences over the course of their legal careers. I enjoyed hearing that fiercely advocating for a client does not mean yelling and being aggressive. As someone who is more reserved by nature, I'm glad to learn that I can still be a zealous advocate but in a

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Thank You, Outgoing OWLS Board Members

By Laura Gardner

The OWLS Board of Directors thanks its four outgoing board members: OWLS President **Jacqueline Alarcon** and members **Amy Heverly**, **Sara Kobak** and **Ericka Langone**.

Alarcon served on the OWLS board since 2015 and has concluded her term as OWLS president. She served on several OWLS committees, including the Nominating Committee, Transformation Committee, OWLS IN and the Roberts & Deiz Award Committee. One of her favorite accomplishments while on the board was helping organize the OWLS fall 2021 CLE titled "Reparations: The Constitution and Oregon Law." During Alarcon's tenure, OWLS updated its mission for the first time in decades.

Heverly has served on the OWLS Board since 2021 and was a Roberts & Deiz Award Committee co-chair in 2021. Every year, OWLS solicits nominations and makes recommendations for the yearly award to individuals in the legal community. Prior to becoming a board member, Heverly was involved with many OWLS events and wrote multiple articles for the *AdvanceSheet*. Kobak has served on the OWLS board since 2016. Previously, she participated in the Fall CLE Committee from 2007-12. Kobak also was involved with the Membership Committee, Awards Committee and the OWLS 30th Anniversary Committee. She will continue to serve on the 2022 Fall CLE Committee. Langone has served on the OWLS board since 2018 after being an OWLS member for many years. Langone has been on the Finance Committee since 2018 as well as the Awards Committee and Membership Committee. She especially loved working on the Awards Committee as she had the privilege of reviewing submission packets with candidates' background and accomplishments, which showed how many amazing women there are in the Oregon legal community. She will continue to serve on the Finance Committee.

We cannot thank all of them enough for their significant contributions to the OWLS board and organization. We know this is a thank you, and not goodbye.

Laura Gardner is a family law attorney.

Courtroom

Continued from page 18

way that is true to who I am.

The formalities of court can be overwhelming to a law student. Judge Allen and Justice Nakamoto both spoke about feeling more comfortable in slacks as opposed to skirts and dresses. Previously, I had thought of court as stuffy and a place where I would feel uncomfortable in my dress clothes for a few hours. I feel better knowing that my clothing choices, while still needing to be court appropriate, can fit who I am a bit more than I previously thought.

I also had never met a judge prior to law school. I was pleasantly surprised to learn that a lawyer can ask a judge for feedback once a

case has closed. I am always looking for ways to improve, and it is reassuring to know I can still receive advice after graduation and passing the bar.

As a law student, I am grateful to gain the knowledge I gleaned from this forum—from what to wear to court, how best to advocate for your client, to the reminder that judges are people too. I found the experience invaluable and hope to continue finding my own voice in the courtroom while taking some of the lessons to heart that Justice Nakamoto, Judge Allen, and Judge Lucero imparted.

Molly McCue is a rising 3L at the University of Oregon School of Law and is a law clerk for the Child Advocacy Section at the Department of Justice.

Thank you!



OWLS thanks these members for renewing at an enhanced level.

Janet Hoffman (Portland)
Jennifer Martin (Beaverton)



Kamron Graham
(2021–2022 President)



Kat Kogan
(2016–2022 Treasurer)

We thank our outgoing officers, Kamron Graham and Kat Kogan, for their dedication to advance and enhance equity, inclusion and belonging in the Oregon legal profession and to promote access to justice for underserved people.

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

‘I want the blinds down!’ ‘Well, I want the blinds up!’

Managing Emotions Related to Workplace Reintegration

By Jessica Wilcox

Canopy counselor Caitlin Plato provides trainings on the issues surrounding reintegration into the workplace. Feelings about returning to “normal” vary greatly, and Plato acknowledges that this response is common and can lead to conflict with co-workers and within ourselves. It all boils down to a loss of control and the feelings that evokes.

Here are her tips on how to navigate those feelings:

Recognize that change impacts everyone differently.

All reactions are valid even if they are not yours. Physical safety issues, role changes, increased stimuli and elapsed coping skills can lead to very real issues and should be kept in mind when wrestling with yours and others’ reactions to reintegration.

Identify how this change is impacting you.

It is not uncommon for employees returning to their old routines or reckoning with the permanence of the new routine experience: apathy, irritability, over-excitement, isolation, reduced productivity, lowered tolerance to distress or difficulty concentrating. So, consider your emotional needs because they have real implications to your work.

Loss of control = Anxiety

Feelings of anxiety arise when you feel you are losing control. Anxiety will shut down the logical brain and make it difficult to answer the simple question, “What do I need now?” Here are some ways to confront that feeling and become more focused on solutions:

■ Ask yourself, is this a response to something emotional, logistical or social? Pinpoint whether you have encountered an emotional trigger or if you need help with something tangible that is overwhelming you or if you feel disconnected from your support systems.

■ Remind yourself that you are doing your best with what you have right now. And so is everyone else. Mental agility is key



Photo courtesy Wikimedia Commons

here. Look at other perspectives to avoid black-and-white thinking. Leaning hard into what you think is the clear answer is just your brain trying to help you by being efficient. It also helps in these situations to write down alternate outcomes just to shift your way of thinking.

■ Don’t externalize your well-being, i.e. don’t wait for things to change to feel better. If you find yourself concluding that only X will fix this situation/feeling — and X is outside of your control — remind yourself that the circumstances may not be within your control but your reactions to them are.

■ Ask yourself better questions to get better answers. Instead of asking, “How do I stop feeling like this?” or “How do I prevent feeling like this in the future?” ask yourself “How do I have a different relationship with this emotion?” This prompts you to find coping mechanisms that will give you control. For instance, think about how have you handled change in the past, what feelings did change evoke? What has helped you then?

■ Weigh the pros and cons on coping better with the situation. Cons of coping: it’s tons of work, vulnerability is uncomfortable, etc. Pros of coping: I’ll feel successful at my job, my communication will be more effective, and I will get stronger over time and not have as much anxiety. Do the pros outweigh the cons?

■ Self-care matters and it is not what

you think. Here are some things you can do to help with anxiety — and, yes, you have time for them.

• **Self-advocacy:** Effectively communicating your needs is proactive, which gives you back some control. For example, “Here is one thing that would help me ...,” “Who should I talk

to about this safety issue?” “Here are my needs regarding cleaning products because of my health; can we find alternative cleaners?” “Is there a space to go to be quiet, and if not, can we make one?” or “How would you like me to prioritize my tasks?”

• **Call a friend/counselor:** Ask for help when you need it.

• **Set boundaries:** Tell people what you need from them — “I need 15 minutes alone when I get home to decompress.”

• **Build spatial distress tolerance/redirect:** Just getting up and getting some water will break up the moment and stop the spiraling. Or do a power pose or jumping jacks, whatever works for you.

• **Square breathing:** 4 seconds in, 4 seconds hold, 4 seconds out, 4 seconds hold, repeat.

• **5, 4, 3, 2, 1:** List the first five things you see around you. List four things you can physically feel. List three things you can hear, List two things you can smell or like the smell of. List one thing you are grateful for.

• **Guided imagery meditation:** YouTube has several of these, some as short as a minute.

• **Self-compassion:** Remind yourself that nothing about you needs to be fixed, you are doing your best to try and get your needs met.

Jessica Wilcox works in employee and labor relations for the City of Vancouver, Washington.

OGALLA and OWLS Bring Back Brunch & Bedazzle



After a pandemic hiatus, Brunch & Bedazzle returned to Perkins Coie on June 19. Members and friends joined for a meal and decorating prior to the Pride parade in Portland. Thank you to host and sponsor Perkins Coie and sponsor Barran Liebman for your support.

Queen's Bench Celebrates February Bar Exam Takers



OWLS board members, from left, Rima Ghandour and Emily Lohman with Queen's Bench President April Stone, and Erica Glaser.



Queen's Bench board members, from left, Isela Gonzalez Ramos, Leona Yazdidoust and Hon. Monica Herranz.

Queen's Bench hosted a celebration for the February Bar Exam takers on April 21 at Markowitz Herbold in Portland with about 20 people attending. Queen's Bench board members Isela Gonzalez Ramos, law student liaison Leona Yazdidoust and Hon. Monica Herranz participated and were excited to discuss the chapter's Holiday Lunch Honoring Women Judges, which will feature Justice Sonia Sotomayor, remotely, on Tuesday, Dec. 13, location to be announced.