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In This Issue

[President's Message](#)

[Advocating for people with cognitive decline](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Meet Oregon Court of Appeals Judge Anna Joyce](#)

[Bunch & Bedazzle](#)

[Suleima Garcia - OWLS Foundation Board President](#)

[Stupasky to receive Chief Justice Martha Walters Award](#)

[OWLS appointments](#)

[Meet OWLS Board member Emily Brown-Sitnick](#)

[Shortlisted: "A Promise Kept"](#)

[OWLS chapter news](#)

[Renew your OWLS membership](#)

[OWLS Online exposes topic of family in two sessions](#)

Happy Anniversary!



Former and current Queen's Bench presidents at the 75th anniversary celebration March 14. From left, Elizabeth Ballard Colgrove, Nicole DeFever, Hon. Beth Allen, Kristin Sterling, Trudy Allen, April Stone, Hon. Stacie Beckerman, Veronica Rodriguez, and Mary Dougherty.

By Trudy Allen

Queen's Bench is the Multnomah County chapter of Oregon Women Lawyers, but it predates OWLS by over 40 years. We know that Queen's Bench started in 1948, but the actual date is lost in the mists of time. My research has narrowed it down pretty closely to March 1948. Queen's Bench has been meeting regularly ever since then.

In March this year, we started cel-

75 YEARS

Queen's Bench has rich history of boosting women in the legal profession

brating our 75th anniversary, and we'll continue the celebration at our December luncheon.

To understand how Queen's Bench got started, it helps to know more of the background before 1948. This brings me to the fact that there was another significant date to note this past March: a 100th anniversary. The first organization in Oregon that was

Continued on page 18

Dragonflies take fun seriously

OWLS paddlers wrap up season with first-, second-, and third-place medals

By Kendra Summers

The OWLS Dragonflies finished another fun and successful race season, traveling twice to Washington state for races in Tacoma and Kent, once to beautiful Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, and wrapping up with the Portland Dragonboat Festival here on our own stomping grounds.

Continued on page 16



The Dragonflies wrapped up another season, finishing with an array of medals and having fun the entire time. Interested in joining them? Now is the perfect time as they head into the off-season and welcome new paddlers.



President's Message

I recently attended a multi-day conference where I was reminded of the importance of centering DEI issues within our legal community and particularly with respect to CLEs or other legal educational programming.

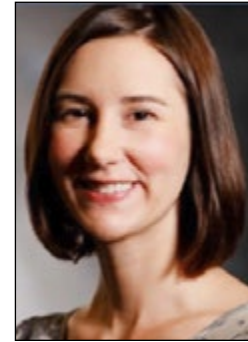
What started as an inspiring conference, filled with powerful, personal stories from female attorneys from across the country, all of whom I deeply admire, ultimately left me perplexed and disappointed. The source of my angst was the conference's final segment — a moderated panel featuring an all-male, majority white group of attorneys. The lack of racial and gender diversity among the conference's final group of speakers, along with the content of this panel, should have raised alarms.

For nearly 45 minutes, a room full of women attorneys and bar leaders from across the country listened while this panel espoused the virtues of identifying male mentors to help advance one's career and suggested that complex issues surrounding systemic racism and sexism, which for decades have perpetuated problems surrounding female recruitment and retention, might be easily solved if more female attorneys were to join their company's DEI and hiring committees.

The longer the segment went on, the more questions I had, including: Who thought this was a good idea? How in the world is a room full of female attorneys the target audience for this programming? How quickly can I escape to the bathroom and just not return?

I had many other issues with this conference's final segment, but the above story serves as a jumping-off point of what should be a broader discussion within OWLS, our chapters, committees, and legal community at large. When we find ourselves in positions of creating content, whether it be CLEs or other programming for fellow attorneys and the greater community, we need to ask ourselves some fundamental questions, and always through a DEI lens:

1. What is the goal I am hoping to achieve with this content/programming?
2. Who is going to be served/not served by this content/programming?
3. Who is the intended audience to receive this content/programming, and who am I marketing the content/programming to?
4. Who is doing the planning, and do they faithfully represent the voices and/or interests of those



on the receiving end? (Who is *not* at the table?)

5. Who is doing the speaking, and do they fully represent the community we live in and the interests of those most impacted by the content/program?

6. How equitable are the logistics of the event/program?

- a. How accessible is the event/program's location to public transit?
- b. What is the cost of the event/program?
- c. Is the cost prohibitive to certain income levels?
- d. Can a sliding scale registration fee be used, or are ample scholarships available? How is this being promoted?
- e. What time of day is the event/program, and does it provide an opportunity for all who want to attend to do so?
- f. Is the event space ADA accessible?
- g. Will there be closed captioning?
- h. Does the registration page have sections indicating accommodation needs?

7. Who is benefiting from the registration for this event/program, and who might be impacted?

- a. Who is providing space for the event/program?
- b. Who is providing refreshments and other ancillary services?

8. Does a model code of conduct exist for all patrons participating in the event/program?

9. Do the organizers have a plan to interrupt racist or discriminatory behavior that may occur at the event/program, and has that plan been effectively communicated to all involved in the planning?

If we stop for a moment to ask questions like these, hopefully, we can recognize areas for improvement or course correction. OWLS is always looking for ways to improve our programming to fulfill its mission. I encourage our members and the greater community to advise us when we can and should do better.

Adele J. Ridenour

Adele Ridenour,
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.

Advocating for people with cognitive decline

Attorneys must hone their skills to help those with diminished capacity function to the best of their ability



By Amanda Lamb

The Queen's Bench Monthly Speaker series on Sept. 12 featured a discussion on how attorneys can, and should, represent older adults experiencing cognitive impairments. The sessions featured Ann McQueen, who worked for the Office of Aging and People with Disabilities in the Oregon Department of Human Services, and Ashley Carson Cottingham, the deputy director for the Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman for the State of Oregon.

Both speakers used their extensive experience in working with and building programs to serve older adults to help participants address inherent bias and ageism, reframe their understanding of dementia and other cognitive impairments, and build skills to serve older adults with cognitive decline.

Defining cognitive decline

American culture places a series of labels on people experiencing cognitive decline: confused, repetitive, angry, dangerous. While 6.7 million Americans (approximately 10% of adults over 65) have some form of dementia, our understanding of how to interact with them is often based on ill-informed stereotypes. As McQueen explained, dementia is an umbrella term for loss of memory and other abilities, rather than a specific disease in itself. For instance, Alzheimer's is a type of dementia. The most common symptoms are relatively well known: memory loss, difficulty completing complex tasks, confusion, and disorientation.

But these symptoms do not replace the humanity of the individual. As both speakers stressed throughout the presentation, people with dementia have the same basic human needs, including the need to feel safe and to build relationships. Understanding how



Ann McQueen



Ashley Carson Cottingham

to meet those needs requires assuming that people with dementia are acting rationally based on their own perceptions, beliefs, and desires. It may require some detective work to understand their perspective, but relating to people where they are is how human connections are built.

As the speakers transitioned to providing specific guidance for lawyers on working with people experiencing cognitive decline, they noted the need to focus on building a connection with the individual, rather than just seeing them through the lens of dementia.

A lawyer's ethical obligation

Oregon's Rules of Professional Conduct provide some guidance to answer the question of whether a lawyer can represent an individual experiencing dementia or memory loss (see RPC 1.14). The simple answer is yes. But how to manage that relationship when dementia complicates representation or poses a risk to your client is more difficult.

Like most rules, RPC 1.14 does not provide specific guid-

ance about what a lawyer should do if they know or suspect a client might be experiencing dementia. While RPC 1.14(a) states that a lawyer should "maintain a normal client-lawyer relationship" if the client has diminished capacity, 1.14(b) says the lawyer

"may" take protective action if the lawyer "reasonably believes" the client has diminished capacity and is at substantial risk of harm. Potential "protective" actions include notifying family members, all the way to more extreme solutions such as guardianship and institutionalization.

According to Carson Cottingham, an Oregon ethics opinion states that if a lawyer expects the behavior putting the client at risk can be addressed by raising the issue with a family member (spouse, sibling, child), seeking a more extreme solution, like guardianship, may be unethical. Ultimately, the lawyer should aim not to overreach into the client's life, while also mitigating the risk of physical harm or financial exploitation.

In some ways the attorney-client relationship is no different if the client is experiencing dementia. The attorney offers advice, and the client chooses whether to accept that advice. If the client is experiencing dementia, that client still has the agency to accept a lawyer's advice or not.

As Carson Cottingham stated during her presentation, "people are allowed to make bad decisions." The problem is that most people treat older adults or people with disabilities differently. The line for when that individual's bad decisions cross into "unsafe" decisions is different. For example, if a middle-age able-bodied person leaves their front door unlocked, they are merely forgetful. But if an older adult does the same thing, it might be seen as a sign they are unable to live independently.

Practical tips for representing people with dementia

The main takeaway from this training was not to infantilize older adults or people with dementia. Instead, provide easy-to-implement accommodations that promote

If the client is experiencing dementia, that client still has the agency to accept a lawyer's advice or not.

Continued on page 5

UPCOMING EVENTS

Queen's Bench Monthly Luncheon

Nov. 14, noon-1 p.m.
Multnomah County Courthouse,
1200 S.W. First Ave., Courtroom 13C,
Portland & WebEx
Queen's Bench Presentations are on
the second Tuesday of the month.
Queen's Bench Presentations are
the second Tuesday of the month.
Lunch can be ordered in advance on
the [Queen's Bench website](#). No cost.
[Register online](#) for November.

Queen's Bench Welcomes New Admittees

Tuesday, Oct. 17, 2023, 5:30-7 p.m.
10 Barrel Brewing, 1411 N.W. Flanders
St., Portland
The Queen's Bench and Lewis & Clark
are hosting a celebration for new
bar admittees and bar takers. You
are invited to celebrate and network
with members of the local OWLS
community / Queen's bench.
All are welcome. RSVP is highly
encouraged, but drop-ins are more
than welcome. If you are unable to
attend and have RSVP'd, we kindly ask
that you notify lawalum@lclark.edu or
call 503-768-6890.
[Register online](#). No cost.

Lawyers Association of Washington County – New Admittee Social

Wednesday, Oct. 18, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Loyal Legion, 4500 S.W. Watson Ave.,
Beaverton
Join LAWC for a New Admittee Social
at the Loyal Legion. Registration is
recommended, but not required.
Inquire with chapter co-chairs
for questions: Kay Teague, kay@ktlawoffice.net or Amanda Thorpe,
athorpe@thecaublefirm.com.
[Register online](#). No cost.

Cascade Women Lawyers Monthly Luncheon

Wednesday Oct. 25, Jan. 31, noon-1
p.m.
Old Towne Pizza 118 N.W. Greenwood
Ave., Bend
The chapter meets the last Wednesday
of the month from noon to 1 p.m.
No RSVP necessary.

Gorge Women Lawyers (GROWLS) Monthly Luncheon

Wednesday, Oct. 25, noon-1 p.m.
Riverside, Hood River Inn, 1108 E
Marina Drive, Hood River
The chapter meets the last Wednesday
of the month. Luncheons alternate
between Hood River and The Dalles.
RSVP requested. [RSVP here](#).

OWLS Annual Chapter Summit

Thursday, Oct. 26, 10-noon
In person and virtual
University of Oregon, White Stag
Building, 70 N.W. Couch St., Portland
The Lawyers' Association of
Washington County and the OWLS
Membership Committee are co-
hosting the annual Chapter Summit,
a hybrid event in Portland before the
Fall CLE.
The summit will feature a roundtable
discussion of strategies to create a
culture of welcome and belonging.
Additional topics will include:
Centering diversity, equity, inclusion,
and accessibility (DEIA) in programs
and events to recruit, retain, and
support a diverse legal community;
and committee presentations about
planning special events, including
the Road to the Bench CLE in a
Box to promote local discussion,
transparency, and advice about
navigating the judicial selection
process.
[Register online](#). No cost. Lunch
included.

OWLS Fall CLE

Thursday, Oct. 26, 1-4:30 p.m. in
person and virtual, reception to
follow at 4:30 p.m.
University of Oregon, White Stag
Building, 70 N.W. Couch St., Portland
Topic: Qualified Immunity
Keynote speaker is Lauren Bonds,
National Police Accountability Project
executive director; introductory
remarks by Professor Joanna
Schwartz, author of "Shielded: How
the Police Became Untouchable"
followed by a panel discussion.
Reception Sponsor PDW Legal. Title
Sponsor Brownstein Rask. Contact
linda@oregonwomenlawyers.org
for sponsorship opportunities. More
[details available here](#). [Register online](#).

Josephine County Women Lawyers Monthly Luncheon

Wednesday, Nov. 1, Dec. 6, Jan. 3,
noon-1 p.m.
La Burrita Restaurant, Grants Pass
The chapter the first Wednesday of
each month for networking, discussing
court situations, and the like.
No RSVP necessary.

CLE presented by OWLS Leadership Committee

Friday, Nov. 3, noon-1:15 p.m.
Zoom only
Topic: "Pay Up: Negotiating Your Worth"

Join the OWLS Leadership Committee
and guest speakers Anne Milligan
from the City of Portland, Molly
Honore from Markowitz Herbold,
and Elisa Dozono from CLEAResult
for a panel discussion moderated by
our Leadership Committee member
Mallory Beebe discussing how to
negotiate your worth in today's
employment landscape.
Registered attendees will receive a
link by email. [Register online](#).

Mary Leonard Chapter – New Admittee Luncheon

Wednesday, Nov. 8, noon-1 p.m.
Mission Mill Museum, 1313 Mill St. SE,
Salem
Join Mary Leonard Chapter, Marion
County Bar Association, and The
Willamette Valley Inns of Court for
a new admittee welcome event
featuring keynote speaker Chief
Justice Meagan Flynn.
Registration details to come.

First Generation Professionals Discussion Group

Wednesday, Nov. 8, Jan. 10, noon-1
p.m.
Multnomah County Circuit Court,
1200 S.W. First Ave., Portland, Room
12A
Are you the first in your family to go
to college? Get a professional degree?
Become a lawyer? If you think it would
be helpful to talk with others who
have had the same life experience,
join Judge Alarcón on the second
Wednesday of the month for that

Continued on page 5

Upcoming events

Continued from page 4

discussion. Snacks provided. Bring your lunch. No cost. Law students and legal professionals welcome.

[RSVP to Judge Jacqueline Alarcón.](#)

Lawyers Association of Washington County Monthly Luncheon

Wednesday, Nov. 15, Dec. 20, Jan. 17, noon-1 p.m.

Portland/Beaverton/Hillsboro

The chapter meets the third Wednesday of the month. Please see OWLS Website for rotating location information.

Inquire with chapter co-chairs for questions: Kay Teague, kay@ktlawoffice.net or Amanda Thorpe, athorpe@thecaublefirm.com. No RSVP necessary.

Chief Justice Martha Walters Award

Friday, Nov. 17, 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m.

The Gordon Hotel, 555 Oak St., Eugene

Lane County Women Lawyers invites you to attend the fifth annual presentation of the Chief Justice Martha Walters Award to Tina Stupasky. The award recognizes a Lane County attorney who has demonstrated leadership in the pursuit of equal justice for all. This year's celebration is being underwritten at the Lady Justice level by Johnson, Johnson, Lucas & Middleton and at the Scales of Justice level by Hershner Hunter, Hutchinson Cox and Watkinson Laird Rubenstein. Reserve a spot no later than Nov. 9. Event ticket \$40, or Equal Justice ticket \$75. [Register online.](#)

Queen's Bench Annual Holiday Luncheon Honoring Women Judges

Tuesday, Dec. 12, noon-1 p.m.

Details to come. Save the date!

OWLS office closed

The OWLS office is closed for the holidays Dec. 22-Jan. 1.

Cognitive decline

Continued from page 3

clear communication and meet everyone's needs. Specifically,

- ensure you meet with clients at the best time of day for them and with ample time for a relaxed, not rushed, conversation;
- choose a meeting location that is quiet and free of distractions;
- if the meeting is remote, turn on captioning;
- ask questions to ensure understanding;
- do not use "elderspeak," which is usually slow, oversimplified communication, with patronizing words like "sweetie;"
- do not use the word "dementia" unless the client has a specific diagnosis;
- when speaking with someone with dementia, do not sit across the table from them. Instead, sit next to them at the head of the table, ideally on their dominant side (usually the right side).

Conclusion

The overarching theme of the training was to avoid stereotyping older adults or those

with dementia and seek to help clients maintain their identities and agency. As McQueen stated, people with dementia are not those who have lost themselves; the person is still there even if the memories are lost.

This training provided professional guidance on working with clients with a specific kind of diminished capacity. But perhaps more impactful than the "pro tips" were the stories coming from the trainers and training participants. It seemed everyone in the room's lives had been touched by dementia. Some had been direct caregivers while others had observed professionals caring for their loved ones. Each person noted the challenges of watching family members experience dementia, but many shared stories of finding hope and joy in those experiences.

So while society may still view dementia negatively, those coming away from this training felt a sense of empowerment in having the tools they need to assist people with dementia maintain their sense of power and identity.

Amanda Lamb is a civil rights attorney with the Oregon Justice Resource Center.



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Meet Oregon Court of Appeals Judge Anna Joyce

By Ayla Ercin

Judge Anna Joyce was appointed to the Oregon Court of Appeals in January 2022 by Gov. Kate Brown, and has been in the role for almost two years.

The shine has clearly not worn off with familiarity, however, and Judge Joyce describes being an appellate judge as the best job in the world: The work is challenging, her colleagues are exceptional, and she can do work in service of the people of the state that she has lived in her entire life.

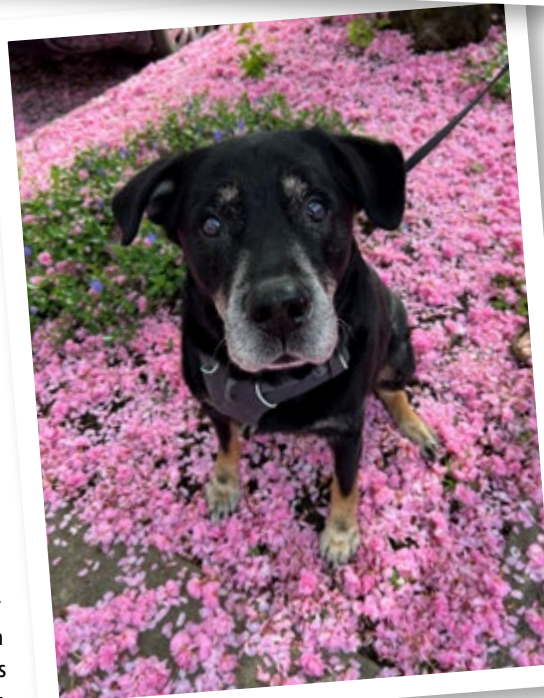
The cerebral aspects of the job clearly appeal to Judge Joyce, who describes the role as more dynamic and more varied than people think, but always tied together by the thread of interesting ideas animating interesting work. Judge Joyce grew up loving books and reading and vividly remembers the smell of the hardbound law books in her father's office. It was those books that she recalled when asked when she decided to become a lawyer. Her father had a solo law practice, often doing personal injury and DUI defense work, and she grew up spending a lot of time in his book-filled office.

Judge Joyce made good on her childhood interest in becoming a lawyer – graduating at the top of her class from the University of Oregon law school, and going on to clerk for then Oregon Court of Appeals Judge Rives Kistler. She describes him as so smart,



Judge Anna Joyce is an animal lover. Here, she hugs Sparkle Pony, who was with her through thick and thin, including the judicial appointment process.

Judge Joyce and her partner, Tami, rescued Maverick, below left, from the Oregon Humane Society when his owner could no longer take care of his medical needs.



and at such a high level of practice that her standard for what she thought it took to be a judge was so incredibly high that it took her a long time before she thought she might be qualified to become one someday.

Judge Joyce did not think she was ready until she had been in practice for almost two decades and had amassed years of experience in both public service and private litigation. Judge Joyce ultimately spent 12 years working in the Appellate Division of the Oregon Department of Justice, including serving as Oregon's Solicitor General from 2012-15, and more than six years in private practice at Markowitz Herbold.

When asked what makes a good appellate attorney, Judge Joyce said excellent research and writing skills are

Continued on page 7

Judge Joyce

Continued from page 6

essential but highlighted as more important the ability to have a discussion with the court. Unlike in a trial, the narrative is less controlled by the lawyers and more driven by judicial questioning — which is not where many trial lawyers feel most comfortable. Judge Joyce, on the other hand, considers those judicial questions and the back-and-forth flow of appellate discourse to be a gift of insight into the concerns and perspective of the court, and an opportunity to directly address those concerns to make a more convincing argument.

In her years at the Oregon Department of Justice, the case that stands out for Judge Joyce as the most important of her career was the same-sex marriage case brought before Judge Michael McShane.

In 2014, Judge McShane of the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon ruled that Oregon's ban on same-sex marriages was unconstitutional and discriminatory. In her role at the Oregon Department of Justice, Judge Joyce would have been in the position of defending the state against the lawsuit that had been filed by same-sex couples challenging the marriage ban; ultimately, however, the state's answer was that the ban could not be defended and could not stand scrutiny under any test. That case legalized same-sex marriage in Oregon and allowed Judge Joyce and her partner to get married.

Judge Joyce would stay at the Oregon Department of Justice for another year, leaving to join private litigation firm Markowitz Herbold in 2015. She rose to become the firm's managing shareholder and head of the firm's appellate practice, and worked there until her appointment to the bench in 2022.

While Judge Joyce clearly has an intellectual bent, she also has a finely tuned appreciation for popular culture. When we talked, we spent a surprising amount of time discussing the power and significance of prominent women in music today — and I learned that even appeals court judges go to pop concerts, such as Taylor Swift, in Seattle this summer. We also caught up on her interest in English Premier League soccer, where she roots for Liverpool, while her wife is a fan of Tottenham. Judge Joyce is also an animal lover, with three cats and as many as two dogs at a time, although currently they are focusing on their 11-year-old dog, Maverick,



Judge Anna Joyce, right, and her partner, Tami, seen here with their dog Rosie Marigold, were married after the state of Oregon said the ban on same-sex marriage could not be defended.

whom they rescued from the Humane Society when his long-term owner could no longer take care of his medical needs.

Thank you, Judge Joyce, for your service to Oregon as a judge, and for your caring rescue of senior dogs that need a loving home for their final years.

Ayla Ercin is an attorney and the Executive Director of the Campaign for Equal Justice, a nonprofit that supports legal aid in Oregon.



Molly Jo Mullen

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Brunch & Bedazzle

Prepping before Pride Parade

OWLS partnered with OGALLA & Perkins Coie on July 16 to host the sixth annual Brunch & Bedazzle gathering before the 2023 Portland Pride Parade. All ages were welcome to join.

A plentiful brunch catered by Cheryl's on 12th was served, and the breakfast scene was completed with coffee and mimosa stations set up by Perkins Coie's hospitality team. Attendees also

were invited to bedazzle a T-shirt to wear while marching in the parade.

OGALLA had extra shirts with their logo on hand for a small donation, and volunteers set up a creative space with lots of bedazzling supplies, including markers, glitter paints, stickers and more.

About 40 people were in attendance to enjoy the company and crafts before hitting the streets for the parade.

*OGALLA and OWLS
members celebrate
Pride on July 16 at the
Multnomah County
Courthouse*





OGALLA and OWLS members, family, and friends headed to the Perkins Coie offices for a pre-parade brunch from Cheryl's on 12th. With T-shirts brought from home or provided by OGALLA for a small donation, young and old got busy bedazzling before marching in the 2023 Pride Parade. Attendees could unleash their creativity using markers, glitter paint, and more.



Suleima Garcia



OWLS Foundation Board President

By Diane Rynerson

In October 2014, when Suleima Garcia was in her final year as a student in Lewis & Clark Law School's evening program, she received the Oregon Women Lawyers Foundation's Armonica Law Student Grant. The grant provides a modest monetary award and matches the student with a mentor.

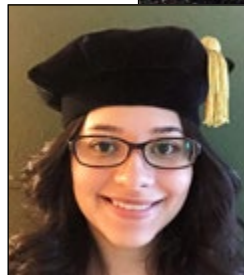
Garcia's mentor was the Honorable Youlee Yim You, then a judge on the Multnomah County Circuit Court bench, now a federal magistrate judge. Sitting down for lunch with a judge was a new and intimidating experience, but when Garcia confessed that she loved watching telenovelas — a pastime she had shared with her beloved grandmother. Judge You acknowledged that she enjoyed watching K-dramas, Korean television series.

That shared connection dispelled any nervousness Garcia felt. Her selection as an Armonica Law Student grantee made a difference to her in the validation it provided and the doors that it opened to introductions to members of the Oregon legal community.

Garcia's path to law school wasn't easy. She was born in Santa Ana, California, the eldest child of four. The family lived there until Garcia was almost 12, when her mother decided that Gresham, Oregon, where her sister lived, would be a better place to raise



Above: Suleima Garcia with her husband, Ismael Garcia, and children Leo, Julian, and Elena., Left: Garcia as a law school grad. She took the bar exam when she was 8 1/2 months pregnant.

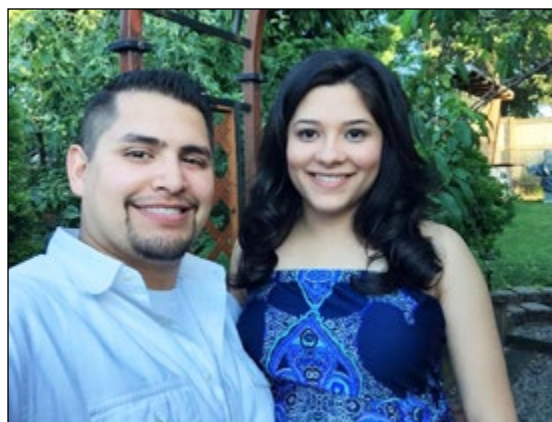


children. Garcia enrolled in Reynolds Middle School. When the family moved to Portland's St. Johns neighborhood during her eighth-grade year, she commuted for hours by bus to continue going to school with her friends.

The transition to high school was hard. Garcia bounced from her neighborhood school, Roosevelt, to Reynolds, and finally to Madison (now Leodis V. McDaniel). She cut classes and didn't study. In her sophomore

year, an English teacher took an interest in her and showed Garcia a new way of seeing her future. The teacher, who lived in Lake Oswego, drove her to school every day. Having someone with such a firm belief in her capabilities was the motivation she needed to work hard and succeed. By her junior year, Garcia was an A student. She was named to the Portland Public

Continued on page 11



Suleima Garcia enjoys spending her free time with her husband and kids, whether it's just having fun at a local park or heading to the beach at Seaside.

Garcia

Continued from page 10

Schools Board as a student representative. She became a member of a service group of young Latinas called "Las Hermanas," and took part in a weekly radio show on KBOO.

After high school graduation in 2005, Garcia attended the University of Oregon as a Ford Family Scholar. Her four years in Eugene were full of work, study, and service. She joined a Latina student group and Alpha Phi Omega, a national co-ed fraternity that provides community service opportunities and leadership development. Garcia held a work-study job in the school's Office of Student Life. In her last two years of college, she also worked as a bank teller. In 2009 Garcia graduated with a dual degree in political science and Romance languages, as well as a minor in business administration.

After college graduation, Garcia worked full time as a career adviser at Portland Community College. Her own career goal was to become a lawyer, so in 2011, while continuing to work full time, she entered Lewis & Clark Law School's evening program. Garcia's favorite class was Employment Discrimination with Professor Juliet Stumpf. While in her first year of law school, she got married. Fortunately, her mother and mother-in-law took care of the wedding planning.

Garcia took the Oregon bar exam when she was 8 1/2 months pregnant. That September she interviewed with the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office just 10 days after giving birth to her first son. Garcia was able to delay her start date until her son was 6 months old. The office continued to be accommodating as her family grew, with



Suleima Garcia, left, attends a luncheon with fellow Armonica grantee Keyra Keli'a Loo (now Wong) and Judge Janelle Whipper, right, who was a mentor that year.

another son born in 2018 and a daughter in 2022. Garcia doesn't have any special secrets for balancing parenting and volunteering with her work as a deputy district attorney in the Child Support Enforcement Division, other than having a supportive partner, but it does give her insight into the value of the Oregon Women Lawyers Foundation's Vernellia R. Randall Bar Exam Grant, which provides funds for parents sitting for the Oregon bar exam.

In 2017, when Trudy Allen invited Garcia to become a member of the Oregon Women Lawyers Foundation Board, she said yes immediately. Her own experience as an Armonica Grant recipient and her philosophy of working with others to lift up the voices of people who have been underserved made service on

the OWLS Foundation board, and later the OWLS board, the right fit. In May 2023, Garcia became the 23rd president of the Oregon Women Lawyers Foundation.

Garcia is one of 78 previous recipients of the Armonica Law Student Grant. Under her leadership, several more will be named by the OWLS Foundation for the 2023-24 academic year. With the support of generous donors and mentors, all the recipients are making a difference in achieving the foundation's mission of advancing equity, inclusion, and belonging in the Oregon legal profession and promoting access to justice for underserved people.

Diane Ryner serves on the OWLS Foundation Board of Directors.

A promotional graphic for the Oregon Women Lawyers Foundation (OWLS). It features a purple background with lavender flowers. The OWLS logo is at the top, followed by the text "Oregon Women Lawyers FOUNDATION". Below this, it says "The Oregon Women Lawyers Foundation, the 501(c)(3) sister organization to OWLS, seeks to advance and enhance equity, inclusion and belonging in the Oregon legal profession and to promote access to justice for underserved people." At the bottom, it says "To learn more about the Foundation, our grants, or to donate, please visit" followed by the website "www.owlsfoundation.org" in a purple box.

OWLS
Oregon Women Lawyers
FOUNDATION

The Oregon Women Lawyers Foundation, the 501(c)(3) sister organization to OWLS, seeks 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

Stupasky to receive Chief Justice Martha Walters Award

By Hon. Debra E. Velure

Lane County Women Lawyers (LCWL) is pleased to announce the fifth annual Chief Justice Martha Walters Award recipient is Tina Stupasky. The award recognizes a Lane County attorney who has demonstrated leadership in the pursuit of equal justice for all.



Tina Stupasky

Stupasky has practiced law in Lane County for over 37 years. Throughout that time, she has served as an advocate for people who have suffered harm or injury and who otherwise may not have a voice in the justice system without her representation.

Prior to becoming an attorney, Stupasky served the community for 11 years as a nurse at Sacred Heart Medical Center. Her day-to-day work with people in vulnerable situations in her early career set her compass squarely toward compassion, fairness, and equity.

Stupasky's leadership and commitment to equal justice for all can be seen in her dedication to mentoring attorneys, educating her peers through conference presentations on trial practice, elder abuse, and other legal training, including as a teacher for the University of Oregon School of Law Trial Practice seminar.

She makes a point of sharing her expertise with law students and newer attorneys on the topics of starting your own practice, preparing and taking depositions, and other trial skills CLEs.

Stupasky's work in support of the local and statewide bar associations and various specialty committees is extensive. Her commitment to the community is evident from her years of service on the HIV Alliance Board and her service on a statewide task force regarding adverse health care incidents, where she was appointed by Gov. Kate Brown in 2020.

Throughout her incredible career spanning four decades, Stupasky has been a champion of the Campaign for Equal Justice, and gives her time and expertise readily on many subjects.

LCWL invites you to attend a luncheon honoring Stupasky on Nov. 17 at The Gordon Hotel, 555 Oak Street, Eugene. The event begins at 11:45 a.m. with a reception before the program starts at 12:15 p.m.

This year's celebration is being underwritten at the Lady Justice level by Johnson, Johnson, Lucas & Middleton and at the Scales of Justice level by Hershner Hunter, Hutchinson Cox, and Watkinson Laird Rubenstein.

Tickets are \$40, or you can choose to support the event with an Equal Justice ticket for \$75 to cover the actual cost of attendance. Anyone who chooses the Equal Justice option will receive recognition in the event program.

Reserve your spot by visiting [Chief Justice Martha Walters Award | Oregon Women Lawyers Membership](#) no later than Nov. 9.

Hon. Debra E. Velure serves on the Lane County Circuit Court bench.

OWLS appointments

Masih appointed to Oregon Supreme Court

On Aug. 16, Gov. Tina Kotek announced the appointment of Aruna Masih to the Oregon Supreme Court. Masih was sworn in on Sept. 1.



Aruna Masih

Masih was a partner at Bennett Hartman in Portland and has over 25 years of experience as a labor and civil rights attorney.

She serves on the boards of the Multnomah County Bar Association and Oregon Women Lawyers Foundation and is a former OWLS board member.

Masih will be the first South Asian and Indian American justice on the Oregon Supreme Court.

OWLS congratulates Justice Masih on her appointment.

Zimmerman appointed to Marion County Circuit Court

On Aug. 24, Gov. Tina Kotek announced the appointment of Natasha Zimmerman to the Marion County Circuit Court effective immediately.



Natasha Zimmerman

Prior to the appointment, Judge Zimmerman was a hearings referee at the Marion County Circuit Court, presiding over criminal cases and cases in the Juvenile Department.

Before that, she worked for the City of Salem as an assistant city attorney, then deputy city attorney; a staff attorney for the Workers' Compensation Board; and an associate attorney engaged in general practice.

OWLS congratulates Judge Zimmerman on her appointment.

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Meet OWLS board member Emily Brown-Sitnick



By Michelle Yang

Leading the charge as a fearless trail-blazer, OWLS board member Emily Brown-Sitnick seeks to challenge the status quo.

After graduating from the University of St. Thomas School of Law in 2014, Brown-Sitnick began her career at Legal Aid Services of Oregon as a receptionist and interpreter. Since then, she has worked as a family law litigator serving marginalized communities throughout Oregon.

Brown-Sitnick witnessed firsthand that marginalized individuals lack access to the legal system and face bias when seeking justice. The disconnect between justice and a flawed legal landscape is what drives Brown-Sitnick to disrupt the current system.

Brown-Sitnick also currently serves as co-chair of the Oregon Hispanic Bar Association (HBA). She recognized how important it is to support affinity bar organizations like OHBA in order for the BIPOC community to become more visible in the legal space. She also is involved with the Oregon Judicial Diversity Coalition (OJDC), taking an active role in engaging affinity bar organizations with the judicial application process, one that may not always be transparent when viewed through an equity lens. In her work with HBA and OJDC, Brown-Sitnick wants to deconstruct tradition if it no longer fits contemporary purpose.

Brown-Sitnick also has worked with survivors of domestic violence and is aware how much an attorney can vicariously experience the client's trauma. She's passionate about moving away from a "sterile practice of law that discourages attorneys from feeling the appropriate emotions about a case." Brown-Sitnick emphasizes the importance of balance and self-care that allows lawyers to be better advocates for those who need them. She thinks mental health is an overlooked component within the practice of law that allows attorneys to be seen as genuine people.

Brown-Sitnick aims to cast light on the

current legal system while allowing lawyers' authenticity to shine. Although change doesn't happen overnight, she is hopeful that lawyers will speak up about the injustices that are prevalent in our communities. Brown-Sitnick hopes others will join her in helping change the way the legal system operates from the ground up. She believes that "transparency is key to incorporating equity within the legal system."

As a native Portlander, Brown-Sitnick has seen growth and progress within the local community. Largely invisible for a long time, she sees the BIPOC community and allies coming together in an organized way to get in touch with their racial and ethnic identities. She also has seen a shift and innovation for finding spaces that are validating and accommodating. Brown-Sitnick says there is more buzz around the perception of what a lawyer is supposed

to look like, and she celebrates these change-makers through her activity with OHBA.

She encourages her colleagues to forge a path for future generations to continue the work of making the legal system more equitable and accessible for everyone.

Brown-Sitnick says there is much work to be done to remove "deeply entrenched biases within the legal system." She believes that being a leader does not mean having all the answers but having the courage to ask more questions that lead to legal practices that are more inclusive and accessible to everyone. She believes we can all rise to be these leaders and contribute in ways to push the needle.

Michelle Yang is an estate planning attorney at Draneas Huglin & Dooley in Lake Oswego.

THE DOCTRINE OF QUALIFIED IMMUNITY: ITS ORIGINS & IMPACTS

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Lauren Bonds

Executive Director of the National Police Accountability Project



Introductory Remarks:
Joanna Schwartz

UCLA Law School Professor & Author of *Shielded: How the Police Became Untouchable* (2023)









Local Leadership Panel Discussion

Juan Chavez, Oregon Justice Resource Center; **Athul Acharya**, Public Accountability; **B. Andrew Jones**, Deputy County Attorney with the Multnomah County Attorney's Office
Moderated by J. Ashlee Albies

Shortlisted

A Promise Kept: The Muscogee (Creek) Nation and McGirt v. Oklahoma

By Robert J. Miller and
Robbie
Ethridge
(University of Oklahoma Press,
2023, 289 pages)

Book Review by Teresa Statler

"On the far end of the Trail of Tears was a promise."

With these words, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch began the court's legal opinion in the Indian law case of *McGirt v. Oklahoma*. Robbie Ethridge, professor of anthropology at the University of Mississippi, and Robert J. Miller, Oregon State Bar member, Lewis & Clark Law School graduate, and now professor of law at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University also have used this sentence to begin their book, a comprehensive and thought-provoking assessment of *McGirt*, one of the most important U.S. Supreme Court cases in recent years, and one referred to by Miller, a professor of Indian law, as a "bombshell."

McGirt concerned whether Oklahoma state courts had jurisdiction to try a citizen of the Creek Nation for criminal matters. On July 9, 2020, the court held in a 5-4 ruling that under the Indian Major Crimes Act, lands reserved for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) in eastern Oklahoma constituted Indian country because the Creek reservation had never been diminished. As a result, the state of Oklahoma could not legally try *McGirt*, a MCN citizen, for criminal conduct that occurred on lands that remained part of the reservation, even though these lands had long not been recognized as such by state authorities. The ramifications of the case, as the authors explain, are far-reaching and call into question "much about state and tribal jurisdiction over resource rights, criminal law, and civil law in Indian country." The authors also believe that "*McGirt* increases the ap-

plication of federal law in those areas, increases the involvement of the federal government in traditional state affairs, and increases the sovereign authority of Indian nations."

The book is divided into two sections. The first is a detailed history of the MCN, presumably written by Ethridge. The authors believe that in order to "fully understand the import and impact of the case, and the promise made and kept, one must begin the story with the origins and consolidation" of the tribe. The book goes into an exhaustive (sometimes too exhaustive) history of the tribe, detailing the various bands of the Creek people, who their leaders and the "other major players" were, and where the MCN people originated, the area that today is in Georgia and Alabama. After

various skirmishes, battles, and the essentially forced signing of treaties by several tribes in the Southeast, the Indian Removal Act became law in 1830. It made a promise: In return for relocating, the U.S. government would give the removed Eastern tribes (including the Creek people) the title to lands set aside for them in the West, most of which were located in what is now Oklahoma. In 1836 and 1837, the Creek people were "removed" to their new lands in Oklahoma, with many suffering and dying en route.

In the first part of the book, the authors also carefully lay out the details of the various treaties the MCN conducted with the U.S. government over the years. They also discuss other policies and laws enacted by the U.S. government that negatively affected the MCN. One of these was that of allotment, the policy of dividing communally held Indian tribal lands into individually owned



private property, which the authors deem a "catastrophe" for the tribe. Allotment was the culmination of the U.S. government's attempt to destroy tribes and their governments and to eventually allow for open Indian lands to be resold, thus permitting settlement by non-Indians and development by the railroads. Allotment, court decisions, and other policies and legislation in the late 19th and early 20th

centuries essentially permitted the state of Oklahoma to encroach on MCN lands. This "trend" toward state jurisdiction over Indian lands went unchallenged. All these things set the stage for the *McGirt* case.

In Part 2, Miller begins by giving some legal background: an analysis and summary of the case law preceding *McGirt v. Oklahoma*. This reader found this chapter the most interesting, allowing for a better understanding of *McGirt* and giving some context for the reasoning set forth in Justice Gorsuch's opinion. These cases make it apparent that in order for an Indian reservation to be "diminished" or to no longer exist, there must be clear congressional intent.

The following chapter is Miller's detailed analysis of the *McGirt* case itself, and it begins with a quote by the governor of Oklahoma that says it all: "I don't think there's ever been a bigger issue that's hit a state before." A later chapter examines the "consequences" of *McGirt*, including those that have occurred and those that haven't yet. These include not only jurisdictional issues, but political, legal, and economic ones. In the book's conclusion, the authors give a "modest recommendation that the MCN, Oklahoma, and the United States begin a cooperative and mutually beneficial discussion about anticipated and emergent issues, and then once [those] have been identified, begin a flexible negotiation process through which to address them." They go on to state that the interesting issue of "what to do with those millions



"I don't think there's ever been a bigger issue that's hit a state before."

Oklahoma Gov.
Kevin Stitt

Continued on page 15

OWLS chapter news

The **OWLS Mary Leonard Chapter (Marion County)** has delayed its board elections. Current board members will continue their service.

In Lane County, Shannon L. Richard was and remains co-chair of **Lane County Women Lawyers' steering committee**, and Jeslyn Everitt will be taking over the other co-chair position, which previously was held by Kasia Mlynski.

Renew your OWLS membership

Thank you for your membership. Your ongoing support allows OWLS to continue to provide unique programming and opportunities for women and others outside the dominant culture at all stages of their legal careers.

OWLS has accomplished much in its 35-year history. We are especially proud of all that our members have achieved — leading law firms, courts, government bodies, nonprofit organizations, and more. Yet, more work remains to be done as we continue to pursue our mission to transform the practice of law and ensure justice and equality by promoting women and minorities in the legal profession.

Please be sure to check your email inboxes for a link to our online renewal system or visit <https://membership.oregonwomenlawyers.org/>. If you find that you are able to renew your

membership at an enhanced level, we would be very grateful. Now through Dec. 31, you may reactivate your OWLS membership at the Early Bird rate of \$140 for regular membership. OWLS also offers sliding scale options for those working in public service, nonprofits, and legal environments with reduced income levels.

We hope that you have found value and community through your OWLS membership, connecting you through the listserv, in-person and virtual events, programs, CLEs, committees, and statewide chapters. If so, please renew right away and encourage your colleagues to do the same.

Thank you again for your ongoing support of OWLS. Our work is important, and you are vital in helping us complete it. Together, we will continue our transformative work for another 35 years and more.

Shortlisted

Continued from page 14

of non-Natives who [now] find themselves suddenly in Creek country" requires "serious, thorough, and deliberate pondering, discussion, negotiation, and goodwill between all affected by the ruling."

The authors hope the book will convince "millions of non-Native Oklahomans and others that the Court's decision is simply an upholding of the treaty obligations between the United States of America and the MCN." This reader is uncertain if the average Oklahoman would actually seek out this excellent book to understand the *McGirt* case and what the case means. However, this

CLARIFICATION

In the book review of "Her Honor" in the Summer issue of the *AdvanceSheet*, two points should be clarified.

Betty Roberts did practice law before becoming a judge, from 1967 to 1977. At the time, the part-time nature and pay of legislative service meant that most legislators were active with other jobs. Roberts' legislative experience took center stage and overshadowed the significance of her law practice.

Also, Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin is one of a few Canadian women who received the Margaret Brent award. The first two Canadians to receive the award were in 1998 when the ABA annual meeting was held in Toronto.

important book is a must-read for lawyers interested in Supreme Court jurisprudence.

An added bonus is a fine selection of maps and a detailed bibliography, which includes

many legal case citations.

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



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In June, the Dragonflies traveled to Vancouver, British Columbia, to participate in the Concord Pacific Dragon Boat races. With nearly 200 teams competing, the 'Flies took first place in the Women's C Division.



Medals accrued this season..

Dragonflies

Continued from page 1

As usual, we put our serious faces on for the racing but our fun hats on otherwise. While the 'Flies sure do like to win, we also have a good time — both on and off the water.

For the first race of the season, in May, we headed to Tacoma, Washington, for the Rainier Dragon Boat Festival. Out of the 19 competing women's teams we came in second overall, bringing home the first medal of the season.

In June, we spent a weekend at the Con-



The Dragonflies name and colors are now permanently emblazoned on one of the Portland dragon boats.

cord Pacific Dragon Boat races in Vancouver, British Columbia — North America's biggest dragon boat race. With nearly 200 teams competing, some coming from as far away as Australia, the Dragonflies took first in the Women's C Division. Our final race prompted what will likely be our favorite phrase forever from the race announcers, who correctly described our first-place finish as a "very

impressive display of athleticism" when they watched us overtake the boat ahead to clinch our medals. ([See the video here.](#))

At the Kent Cornucopia Days Dragon Boat Race in July, we had a great time, taking third place in Division A.

We wrapped our race season with the

Continued on page 17



Photos this page: The Dragonflies race and practice on the Willamette River, affording beautiful views of the Portland skyline and its bridges.

Dragonflies

Continued from page 16

Portland Dragon Boat Festival, where we took second in the Women's Division B final. As usual, the 2,000-meter bridge-to-bridge race was a fantastic, if not chaotic, end to the first day of racing.

In other exciting Dragonflies news, our name and colors now permanently grace one of the Portland dragon boats. Take a walk down to the docks to check it out.

If you're interested in joining us, now is the perfect time. As we head into the off-season, we welcome new paddlers who want to see what the fuss is all about. We practice from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, and from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Saturdays.

Contact Captains Jean Back or Hannah



Barrington at JBack@schwabe.com and Hannah.shangraw@gmail.com, or coach Eleanor DuBay at Eleanor.dubay@gmail.com to arrange a paddle. We hope to see you on the water.

The Dragonflies thank our families, friends,

and generous sponsors for another great season representing Oregon Women Lawyers on the water. We look forward to 2024.

Kendra Summers is a judicial clerk for the Multnomah County Circuit Court.



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Queen's Bench celebrated its 60th anniversary on March 11, 2008. Attending the festivities were, from left (with their year as QB president), Barb Smythe (2006), Marja Selmann (2008), (unknown), Lillian Meyers (1970 vice president), Nanci Klinger (2003), Norma Freitas (2000), Loree Devery (1995), Trudy Allen (1986 & 1991), Nicole DeFever (2007), Hon. Betty Roberts, Nancy Moriarty (1993), Kim Kaminski (2004), and Katherine O'Neil (founding president of OWLS, 1989).

Queen's Bench

Continued from page 1

open to all women lawyers was formed in March 1923: the Women Lawyers Association of Oregon. It had a constitution, and its mission was "the advancement of comradeship and good fellowship among women members of the legal profession."

By the late 1930s, dissension arose in this group. There was serious disagreement among the members over whether to join the National Association of Women Lawyers (NAWL — which is still in existence). Some said that uniting nationally would strengthen the position of women lawyers. Others argued that when, as in Oregon, women lawyers were accepted as members of bar associations (which was not the case in all states), it would be folly to affiliate with a separate women's bar organization. Unfortunately, in the late 1930s, the Women Lawyers Association of Oregon ended up disbanding over the dissension.

There was another organization for women lawyers — and women law students — but it was not open to all: Phi Delta Delta, a "women's international legal fraternity," founded in 1911 at the University of Southern California's law school. The most active chapter in Oregon was the Xi Chapter, founded in 1922 at what was then Northwestern College of Law and is now Lewis & Clark Law School. A number of its members were also active at the national level.



Queen's Bench officers are (l. to r.) Marilyn Bishop, president; Ann Morgenstern, vice president; Shari Clark, treasurer; and Kate Brown, secretary.

These were the officers when Queen's Bench became OWLS' first chapter in 1990.

Founding of Queen's Bench

By the late 1940s there had not been any association that was open to all women lawyers in Oregon for nearly 10 years. So, it was very exciting in 1948 when Cecelia Gallagher Galey initiated the reinstitution of a women lawyers' association. She invited as many women lawyers as she could find to a dinner for Gladys Everett, to welcome her back to Oregon from China, where she had served in 1946 and '47 as a regional welfare officer for the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration. Everett was the keynote speaker at this dinner, which was held in the Crystal Ballroom at the Benson Hotel. Helen Althaus, one of Queen's Bench's founding

members, described this first meeting:

"It was an exciting and stimulating evening. The consensus was to form an association and to continue meeting regularly — at least monthly. But the old controversy arose. The biggest problem appeared to be agreement on the name."

Those against affiliation with NAWL opposed any name that would suggest such affiliation, so that eliminated the words "women" and "lawyers". Althaus knew of the women lawyers' group in San Francisco (formed in 1921) that was called Queen's Bench. When she mentioned that, the name

Continued on page 19

Queen's Bench

Continued from page 18

was happily received. Initially, it was called Queen's Bench of Oregon, and eventually "of Oregon" was dropped.

The name Queen's Bench was inspired by the name of the court in England, which is called either Queen's Bench or King's Bench, depending on the gender of the current monarch. Our Queen's Bench was founded when England had a king, so it doesn't follow that protocol — instead it emphasizes the female gender.

There were at least 24 founding members of Queen's Bench. They adopted a constitution and had officers but did not incorporate.

Our mission

In 1991, Helen Althaus gave Queen's Bench a wealth of information and documents about our history, including a copy of our original constitution, which stated the mission:

"The promotion of professional advancement, comradeship, and good fellowship among women members of the legal profession."

I was on the Executive Committee when we incorporated Queen's Bench as a nonprofit corporation in January 1988, and we had not seen this early writing, but we carried the same understanding of the mission, which



Hon. Ellen Rosenblum, speaking at the 2009 Queen's Bench holiday luncheon. She was on the Oregon Court of Appeals at the time.

had been passed down through Queen's Bench culture:

"The mission is to promote the advancement of women in the legal profession."

The mission statement has been restated by the board at least a couple times, to bring forward the original mission. The current mission is to:

"Promote the professional advancement of women and underrepresented populations, camaraderie, and good fellowship in the legal profession and in the community."

Statewide outreach

Queen's Bench originally included all the women attorneys in the state as its mem-

bers. It had an annual breakfast meeting at the Oregon State Bar Convention. Queen's Bench continued this traditional annual get-together at the OSB convention, with Lane County Women Lawyers and the women lawyers from Salem — after those groups were formed in the 1970s. At the joint breakfast at the 1988 bar convention, the decision was made to form Oregon Women Lawyers as a truly statewide organization. Thus, Queen's Bench was one of the sponsors of the first meeting of Oregon Women Lawyers.

OWLS was incorporated in 1989, and Queen's Bench became its first chapter in

Continued on page 20



From left: Hon. Janice Wilson, Hon. Julie Frantz, Hon. Jean Maurer, Hon. Nan Waller, Hon. Kris LaMar, Hon. Katherine Tennyson at the 2008 Queen's Bench holiday luncheon. All were on the Multnomah County Circuit Court. Judge Maurer was the presiding judge at the time — the first woman in that role.

Queen's Bench

Continued from page 19

1990. We're a valuable forum for lawyers — including OWLS members — to meet frequently to network, enjoy one another's company, and to exchange ideas.

Monthly luncheons

In the first couple decades, QB had a variety of patterns for meeting, sometimes for dinner and most often for lunches. In July 1972, it was decided to start meeting for lunch on the second Tuesday of each month, and that tradition has continued ever since.

Since 1988, we've had a speaker at Queen's Bench meetings almost every month. They include the many woman-judge keynote speakers at the annual holiday luncheons, and the following judges:

- Hon. Susan Graber, in 1989 when she was on the Oregon Court of Appeals. Later she was the second woman on the Oregon Supreme Court and then the first woman judge from Oregon to serve on the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.
- Hon. Ellen Rosenblum was a speaker in 1991 (while on the Multnomah County District



Hon. Adrienne Nelson (Queen's Bench president in 2002) and Kasia Rutledge at the 2018 Queen's Bench holiday luncheon. Both are recipients of the OWLS Roberts & Deiz Award: Judge Nelson in 2003 and Rutledge in 2017.

Court), 2002 (while on the Circuit Court), 2009 (while on the Oregon Court of Appeals), and in 2012 as an attorney general candidate. She is the current attorney general of Oregon, the first woman in that role. She has been a staunch supporter of Queen's Bench ever since she started coming to our meetings in the late '70s.

- Hon. Susan Leeson spoke in 1993 when she had just joined the Oregon Court of Appeals.
- Hon. Janice Stewart, the first woman U.S.

Magistrate in Oregon, spoke in 1994, 2004, and 2016.

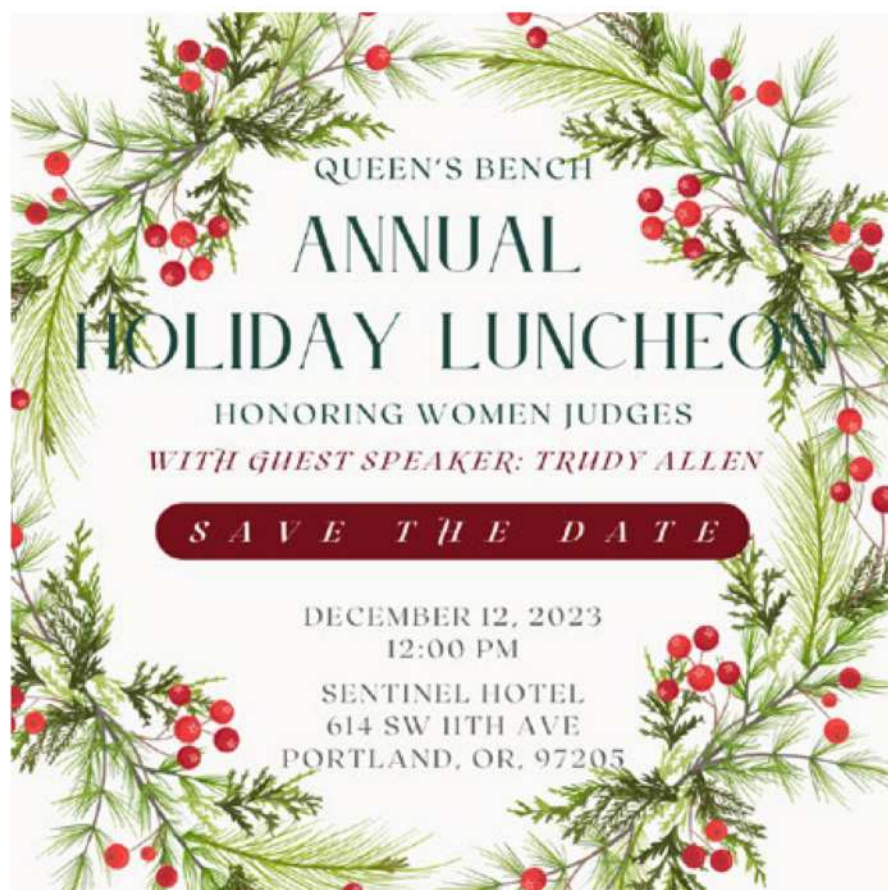
- Hon. Betty Roberts, the first woman on the Oregon Court of Appeals (1977) and the first woman on the Oregon Supreme Court (1982), spoke in November 2003, at our first luncheon welcoming new admittees.

- Hon. Cheryl Albrecht, a former Queen's Bench board member (2003-05), who is now the chief criminal judge of the Multnomah County Circuit Court, was a speaker four times (2005, 2011, 2019 and 2022).

Holiday luncheons

Queen's Bench tradition of honoring women judges started in about 1988 with a cocktail party near the holidays. The first holiday luncheon honoring judges was in December 1990. These luncheons have always been our biggest events. At this year's holiday luncheon, we're combining the celebration of our 75th anniversary with a focus on the many members of Queen's Bench who have become judges, starting as far back as 1926, including:

- Hon. Mary Jane Spurlin, the first woman appointed to serve as a judge in Oregon (Multnomah County District Court, in 1926).
- Gladys Everett, the first woman municipal judge (pro tem) in Portland in 1935.
- Neva Elliott, who became a pro tem municipal judge in 1959, then a pro tem Multnomah County judge, from 1967 to the late '80s.
- Hon. Jean Lewis, the first woman circuit court judge in Oregon (Multnomah County, in 1961).
- Hon. Merri Souther Wyatt, president of



Continued on page 21

Queen's Bench

Continued from page 20

Queen's Bench in 1989; she was a Multnomah County Circuit Court judge from 1994 to 2017.

- Hon. Adrienne Nelson, president of Queen's Bench in 2002; she became the second Black woman judge in Oregon, the first Black person on an appellate court in Oregon — as a justice on the Supreme Court — and, most recently, the first Black woman to serve on Oregon's U.S. District Court.

- Hon. Jean Maurer, who was on the Queen's Bench board in 2013. She was on the Multnomah County bench from 1996 to 2016 and in 2007 became the first woman presiding judge of the Multnomah County Circuit Court. In 2004, she was the president of the Oregon Circuit Court Judges Association.

- Hon. Stacie Beckerman, president of Queen's Bench in 2016. In 2015, she became a magistrate judge for the U.S. District Court of Oregon.

- Hon. Kate von Ter Stegge, president of Queen's Bench in 2017. She was an OSB Board of Governors member (2016-17) and since 2017 has been a Multnomah County Circuit Court judge.



Hon. Rima Ghandour,
Queen's Bench president
in 2018.

- Hon. Rima Ghandour, president of Queen's Bench in

2018. She was the president of the MBA in 2018-19 and has received several awards, including the MBA Professionalism Award in 2021 and the MBA Diversity Award in 2023. She assumed the Multnomah County Circuit Court bench in January, 2023.

- Hon. Beth Allen, president of Queen's Bench in 2021. She became a Multnomah County Circuit Court judge in 2013.

- Hon. Adrian Brown, who was on the Queen's Bench board in 2018 through 2019 and was secretary in 2019. She joined the Multnomah County Circuit Court in 2021.

- Hon. Morgan Wren Long has been on the Queen's Bench board since 2021 and has graciously hosted our luncheons in her Multnomah County Circuit courtroom since the fall of 2022.

Welcoming new members, networking

Welcoming new women lawyers has been another long-standing Queen's Bench tradition. From 2003 through 2016 and again in 2021, we had annual welcoming luncheons for new admittees. In addition to our monthly luncheons, we've had other gatherings, including summer picnics and Bridge of the Goddesses runs. Starting in 2005, for most years, we had annual mixers with law students, usually as afternoon receptions at Lewis & Clark. All of these are not only great networking opportunities, but also a powerful way to practice inclusivity, to bond with one another, and to foster a strong sense of belonging. I've seen many instances where networking among

ourselves has paid off, with work referrals and other types of benefits, both professional and social. The power of our support for one another grows exponentially.

It's gratifying that Queen's Bench has been able to pass its rich heritage on to each new generation in a way that still has meaning for all of us. Our founding members had the wisdom and foresight to institute a strong foundation

- of welcoming new members into the profession and to our meetings,

- of having a supportive and inclusive forum for networking — and finding friends — among women, and

- with a mission to advance the position of women and the underrepresented in the legal profession.

These goals are as valid as ever — 75 years later! We're proud of our strong and enduring tradition. Let's keep it going!

Coming next: Part 2 of Queen's Bench history in the winter issue of the AdvanceSheet.

Trudy Allen has been a member of Queen's Bench since 1982. She was president twice, in 1986 and 1991, and served on the Queen's Bench board from 1988-98. In the 1990s and 2000s, she chaired the Queen's Bench Historical Perspectives Committee. Since 1999, she has been on the board of the OWLS Foundation, as its historian, and since 2014, also as its secretary. She is retired from the practice of law.



Contract Lawyers Service

If you are an attorney interested in posting a project or job opportunities on the OWLS Contract Lawyers Listserv, please email the OWLS office with your posting.

Submitting Your Posting: Briefly describe the project, including the time frame, and any specific skills or qualifications required, e.g., Washington Bar membership, substantial litigation experience, and include the location info (remote work or in office, include city). Your description of the project will be posted on the listserv. Your contact will be listed unless you ask that it be anonymous. Email admincoordinator@oregonwomenlawyers.org with your posting request.

Getting Responses: Contract lawyers will contact the hiring attorney directly, providing them with a cover email, resume and references. The OWLS office does no screening nor does it endorse specific applicants. Hiring decisions, pay rates and terms are left to the hiring attorney and the contract lawyer. Oregon Women Lawyers does not charge hiring attorneys any fee

OWLS Online explores topic of families in two sessions

By Lori Hymowitz

OWLS Online presented two important programs about families on June 8 and Aug. 10.

The June 8 session was titled “Why U.S. Laws Must Expand Beyond the Nuclear Family.”

During the presentation, the December 2021 TEDWomen talk by Diana Adams was shown. Adams, an attorney and LGBTQIA advocate, believes all families deserve equal legal rights and recognition.

During their presentation, Adams explained how a more inclusive definition of family could strengthen relationships and communities. The majority of families in the United States do not fit the stereotypical nuclear family model, which means they are not eligible for the multitude of federal benefits, such as health insurance and tax benefits, bestowed on more traditional married family units.

Instead, defining family as “people committed to being there for each other no matter what,” Adams believes all families should be valued in whatever form they exist.

View Adams’ talk here:

https://www.ted.com/talks/diana_adams_why_us_laws_must_expand_beyond_the_nuclear_family?language=en

The Aug. 10 topic was “Work is Not Your Family,” presented by Gloria Chan Parker from TEDxUTAustin in March 2022. Mental wellness educator Chan Parker provided insightful exercises to help shift perspective and redraw boundaries between work and personal life.

During one exercise, Chan Parker asked audience members to think about how they are working too hard to please people by not setting boundaries, why it’s a struggle to set those boundaries, and to acknowledge the role we play when we do not set them. Chan Parker says that by establishing healthy parameters, we are empowering ourselves.

She went on to talk about how an expression often heard in the workplace — “We’re your family” — started with good intentions but breeds burnout. She says it’s imperative to establish boundaries for healthy work



Diana Adams



Gloria Chan Parker

relationships that help us identify and communicate our needs. In fact, not setting boundaries could have physical and/or mental health implications.

Chan Parker also discussed how past experiences can color how we perceive future results. For example, if someone was attempting to set boundaries but was viewed as not being a team player, they might be discouraged from establishing parameters in another setting.



View Chan Parker’s talk here:

https://www.ted.com/talks/gloria_chan_parker_work_is_not_your_family_jan_2022?language=hu

OWLS Online is held from noon to 1 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month. A brief introduction by attendees is followed by a 10- to 15-minute video presentation, with a discussion afterward. These meetings are a great way to meet virtually with members of the OWLS community.

Lori Hymowitz is a staff attorney at Stoll Berne.

OWLS ANNUAL CHAPTER SUMMIT
OCTOBER 26, 2023 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

PRECEDING OWLS FALL CLE AT 1:00PM
UNIVERSITY OF OREGON'S WHITE STAG BUILDING
70 NW COUCH ST. PORTLAND

Presented by
Lawyers' Association of Washington County
& OWLS Membership Committee

Inclusive Leadership:
Centering DEIA
Presenter: JB Kim, Director of D&I,
Oregon State Bar

Road to the Bench:
CLE in a Box for Chapters
Presenter: Jessica Price, Chair,
OWLS Judicial Workgroup

Member Engagement:
Roundtable Discussion
Facilitated by Kay Teague,
Lawyers' Association of
Washington County