

AdvanceSheet™

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WOMEN LAWYERS IN OREGON

140 Years of Success, Synergy and Surprises

By Teresa Statler

On July 28, at McMenamins Kennedy School in Northeast Portland, OWLS Foundation Board member and historian Trudy Allen presented a multimedia lecture on the history of women lawyers in Oregon.

The talk was one of a series of History Pub lectures presented to the community by McMenamins, and was co-sponsored by the Oregon Historical Society. Titled "Women Lawyers in Oregon: 140 Years of Success, Synergy and Surprises," the Kennedy School theater was full of attendees wanting to hear about an intriguing topic.

Allen began her presentation by telling the audience of nearly 120 people that some Oregon women



OWLS Foundation Board member and historian Trudy Allen gave a talk on the history of women lawyers in Oregon in July at the Kennedy School as part of the McMenamins History Pub lecture series. (Susan Allen)

lawyers took unusual paths, especially for their time. She noted the trends, and the increasing numbers of women who have joined the

profession, with some surprising visibility and achievements, including in the judiciary. Allen also talked

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Dragonflies made big splash this season

OWLS Dragonflies participated in the Seattle Dragon Boat Festival in June, placing second out of 15 women's teams.

(Kendra Summers)



By Kendra Summers

It's time for your OWLS Dragonflies' yearly wrap-up. Your favorite dragon boat team came a long way over the summer, building up strength and stamina with Technical Tuesdays and Thursday evenings on the water, and challenging two-hour practices on the weekend.

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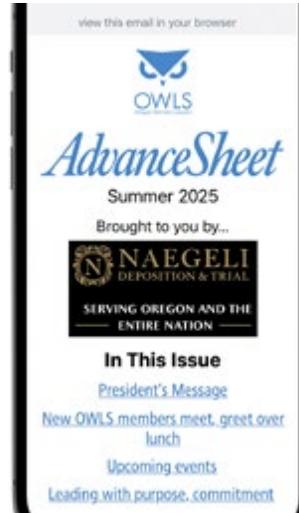
By Terri Wiley

We're excited to share that the *AdvanceSheet* is getting a fresh new look in 2026!

As OWLS grows and evolves, so too will our communications. The *AdvanceSheet* will transition from its longtime PDF/Flipsnack format into a more dynamic, clickable digital version — making it easier to read, easier to share, and more engaging for members. This new format will also allow us to:

- Streamline editing and production
- Provide insights (i.e., analytics) on which stories resonate most
- Create more opportunities for advertising revenue
- Deliver content that's more accessible and reader-friendly.

While the look and format will change, some things won't:



Illustrative sample of the new AdvanceSheet format, shown with Summer 2025 content.

- You'll still find each issue archived on our website.
- Members who prefer a printed copy can still print from email.
- Articles will remain timely, engaging, and focused on OWLS members, events, and the issues most impacting our OWLS community.

With this transition, we also extend heartfelt thanks to longtime *AdvanceSheet* editor Denise Szott, whose talent and dedication have shaped countless editions and kept our community connected. We are deeply grateful for Denise's lasting contributions. Thank you, Denise!

This Fall issue is the final edition in the current format — but not the end of the *AdvanceSheet*. A refreshed version will launch in early 2026. Stay tuned — we can't wait to share it with you!

Terri Wiley is the executive director of OWLS.

Thank you, Denise!

By JoJo Keating

For over three and a half years, the OWLS and *AdvanceSheet* Committee have had the privilege of working with the highly talented editor and designer, Denise Szott. With her professional, journalistic expertise and a keen eye for engaging design, Denise has brought a modern touch to our quarterly newsletter since her first issue in the spring of 2022.

Denise is a Portland-based editor and graphic designer who specializes in publication design, copy editing, and production. In addition to editing and designing the *AdvanceSheet*, she has held design and copy-editing roles with the Santa Rosa Press Democrat, the Portland Tribune, and the Anchorage Daily News. Her writing has

appeared in the Portland Business Journal and her portfolio reflects deep experience in turning complex information into clean, readable pages.

As the *AdvanceSheet* makes the exciting transition to a new, clickable email-style newsletter, we also mark the closure of our collaboration with Denise. On behalf of OWLS and the committee, we're deeply grateful for all she has contributed. Thank you, Denise, for your outstanding work and for being such a pleasure to work with.

If you are in need of a talented freelance editor, writer, or designer, you can reach Denise at dszott@gmail.com. We wish Denise all the best in writing, editing, designing, and everything else!

JoJo Keating is an inactive attorney and co-owner of Cake Hoopla, a DIY cake-decorating studio in Tigard.

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.

Judicial appointments

OWLS congratulates the following members for their recent appointments to the bench:

Judge Cierra Brown

Judge Cierra Brown was appointed to a new judicial position with the Clackamas County Court on April 25 by Gov. Tina Kotek. Her appointment was effective July 1. Judge Brown was previously the managing partner of Metro Law Group as a criminal defense attorney with a focus on court-appointed and behavioral health clients. Judge Brown also served as the municipal court judge for Lake Oswego since July 30, 2024, until her appointment became effective.

Judge Elisa Dozono

Judge Elisa Dozono was appointed to the Multnomah County Bench on April 25. Judge Dozono's appointment was effective immediately to fill the vacancy of retiring Judge Tom Ryan. Judge Dozono served as a judge pro tempore since 2018 in Washington County.



Judge Cierra Brown



Judge Elisa Dozono



Judge Colleen Gilmartin



Judge Adele Ridenour

She had served as general counsel and is experienced in business litigation and government law. Judge Dozono is active in the legal community including founding the Oregon Asian Pacific American Bar Association and serving as its past president. Judge Dozono is a fourth-generation Portlander of Japanese descent and is the first Japanese American trial court judge in the tri-county area.

Judge Colleen Gilmartin

Gov. Kotek announced the appointment of Judge Colleen Gilmartin to the Clackamas County Circuit Court on June 11. Judge Gilmartin's appointment was effective July 1. Judge Gilmartin had been a Clackamas County Circuit judge pro tempore since 2018, serving in the Juvenile Court, Community Court and Adult Civil Court. Prior to her judicial service, Judge

Gilmartin served as prosecutor with Clackamas County's District Attorney's Office for 15 years.

Judge Adele Ridenour

Judge Adele Ridenour was appointed to the Multnomah County Circuit Court to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Judge Beth Allen. Judge Ridenour's appointment was effective July 1. Prior to her appointment, Judge Ridenour was of counsel to Markowitz Herbold, where she continued her work in complex litigation for multiparty litigation with a focus on homeowners and affordable housing organizations. In addition, Judge Ridenour served as a voluntary judge pro tempore for Washington County and an arbitrator for mandatory arbitration in Multnomah and Washington counties. She served as OWLS president from 2023-24.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

OWLS Online: 'Say the Wrong Thing' CLE

Oct. 16, 4-5:30 p.m.

Virtual via Zoom.

Panelists: Hon. Angela F. Lucero, Stella K. Shiroma Nakama, and Hydn Park

A lot of DEI training has focused on speaking up, which is easier said than done. DEI programs and resources that emphasize listening skills and perspective-taking have been unfairly criticized as anti-white, even when white traditions and norms are the foundation for those same programs and resources. We have learned that if we wait for the perfect time or the perfect words, then we will be waiting forever. We hope you will join us for a discussion of strategies to develop inclusive leadership skills as OWLS continues to evolve as an impactful learning community. Sliding scale \$0-\$50.

[Register online.](#)

Cascade Women Lawyers Monthly Luncheon

Oct. 29, noon-1 p.m.

Olde Towne Pizza 118 N.W. Greenwood Ave., Bend

The chapter meets the last Wednesday of the month from noon to 1 p.m. Please note there will be no monthly luncheons in November or December. Stayed tuned for details about a holiday event. No RSVP necessary.

Working Parents Committee Fall Luncheon

Nov. 4, noon-1:30 p.m.

Tonkon Torp, 1300 S.W. Fifth Ave., Suite 2400, Portland

Connect with working parents and learn more about the OWLS Working Parents Committee hosted by Tonkon Torp. [Register online.](#)

Josephine County Women Lawyers Monthly Luncheon

Nov. 5, Dec. 3, noon-1 p.m.

La Burrita Restaurant, 1501 NE F St., Grants Pass

The chapter meets the first Wednesday of each month for networking, discussing court situations, and more. No RSVP necessary.

LAWC Monthly Luncheon

Nov. 19, noon-1 p.m.

Bethany Public House, 4840 N.E. Bethany Blvd., Portland

Join us on third Wednesdays. RSVPs are not required. Chapter co-chairs are Amanda Thorpe and Kay Teague.

OADA + OWLS Online: Disability 2.0 CLE and New Admittee Welcome

Nov. 20, 3-5 p.m.

Virtual via Zoom

Discussion goup: Barbara Diamond, Karla Marquez, Debika Finucane, Alison Ecker

Neurodiversity and disability are cutting-edge issues for Oregon lawyers. This presentation will consider ideas about disability identity, inclusion, and how the practice of law is evolving to be more welcoming for everyone. Leaders from Oregon Attorneys with Disabilities Association (OADA) will cover the evolution from reasonable accommodation to the promise of universal design. New lawyers will talk about the culture shift taking place among newer lawyers from stigma to disability identity. [Register online.](#) Sliding scale \$0-\$50.

Chief Justice Martha Walters Award Luncheon

Nov. 21, 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m.

The Gordon Hotel, 555 Oak St, Eugene

Join Lane County Women Lawyers in celebrating recipient Jodie Mooney, chief legal and risk officer at St. Charles Health System and Oregon Court of Appeals senior judge. Standard ticket \$40, Equal Justice

ticket \$75. [Register online.](#)

Nominations for 2026 Roberts & Deiz Award

Please submit nominations using these guidelines by Dec.1. [OWLS 2026 Roberts & Deiz Award Nomination Form.](#)

Queen's Bench Holiday Luncheon Honoring Women Judges

Dec. 9, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Sentinel Hotel, 614 S.W. 11th Ave.,

Join us in celebrating the remarkable achievements of Oregon's women judges. The festivities will begin at 11:30 a.m. with live music, and the program will begin at noon, paired with a holiday-inspired lunch. Tickets on sale soon. RSVP link coming soon. Sponsorships available [here.](#)

First Generation Professionals Discussion Group

Dec. 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 discussion. Snacks provided. Bring your lunch. No cost. Law students and legal professionals welcome. RSVP to Judge Jackie Alarcón.

OWLS Office Closed for Winter Break

Dec. 25-Jan. 4

SAVE THE DATE

2026 Roberts & Deiz Celebration is Friday, June 5

Judge Mooney to receive Chief Justice Martha Walters Award

By Judge Debra E. Velure
Lane County Women Lawyers
Steering Committee

Lane County Women Lawyers is pleased to announce Judge Jodie Mooney as the recipient of its seventh annual Chief Justice Martha Walters Award.

Judge Mooney, chief legal and risk officer at St. Charles Health System and Oregon Court of Appeals senior judge, made her way to Oregon from Wisconsin, graduating from the University of Oregon Law School in 1988.

After 17 years of practice as a trial attorney defending medical and hospital negligence claims, Judge Mooney spent seven years in-house at PeaceHealth as the director of risk management. Then after 24 years of practice, in August 2011, she was appointed to the Lane County Circuit Court. Her time as a trial judge included assignment to the Juvenile Court where Judge Mooney made a difference by shepherding a youth mental health summit and revamping the processes and procedures Lane County used to review guardianship cases where human error had allowed cases to slip through the cracks.



Judge Jodie Mooney

Judge Mooney sought appointment to the Court of Appeals because she loves to write and was successful in May 2019, where she served until retirement in October 2024. Like many members of the LGBTQIA2+ community who sought to create a safe and positive home for themselves, Judge Mooney and

her wife found a community that was built on millions of small, daily acts of visible existence that took courage and risked danger.

During her time on the Oregon Court of Appeals, Judge Mooney authored *In the Matter of Hollister*, 305 Or App 368 (2020), which requires courts to affirm a person's gender identity whether male, female, or nonbinary. Judge Mooney, along with many other LGBTQIA2+ judges and attorneys in Oregon, created an invisible but inescapable pull that bent the historic arc of our profession and state in the direction of greater opportunities and more equal justice.

The Chief Justice Martha Walters Award presentation will be held from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, Nov. 21, at the Gordon Hotel in Portland. Registration is open now at <https://membership.oregonwomenlawyers.org/civicrm/event/info?reset=1&id=286> LCWL encourages early registration as this event has sold out in past years.

Please join LCWL in thanking the underwriters for this year's event: Hutchinson Cox; Watkinson Laird Rubenstein; Hershner Hunter Attorneys; Larwick Law Firm; and Johnson Johnson Lucas & Middleton.

Bobadilla to receive OSB award

OWLS member Melissa Bobadilla will receive the President's Membership Service Award at this year's Oregon State Bar awards on Oct. 22.

Bobadilla graduated from Lewis & Clark Law School and has been practicing personal injury law for 20 years. She is a member of many associations, including the American Association for Justice, the American Immigration Lawyers Association, and the Hispanic Metropolitan Chamber. In her professional life, Bobadilla is dedicated to fighting for the rights of people, not the insurance companies, helping victims achieve justice through the legal system.

Read about other OWLS members receiving OSB awards in the next issue of *AdvanceSheet*.

— Ashley Fraley



Melissa Bobadilla



Some of the 2025-26 OWLS Board of Directors from the recent board retreat. (Terri Wiley)

Join OWLS Board — open year-round

Are you passionate about advancing justice, equity, and leadership in the legal profession?

The OWLS Board is now accepting board member applications on a rolling basis. Whether you're ready to lead now

or want to be considered for future opportunities, we want to hear from you.

Terms begin May 1, but midyear appointments may be made as openings arise.

To learn more or apply, click [here](#).



Meet Oregon Supreme Court Justice Aruna Masih

By Kalina Lovell

Justice Aruna Masih joined the bench two years ago as the newest member of the Oregon Supreme Court. She was appointed by Gov. Tina Kotek in 2023 and reelected to her current six-year term in 2024.

Justice Masih initially pursued joining the bench in 2021 after suggestions from colleagues for years to apply for openings. Justice Masih said the turning point that compelled her to pursue a judicial role began during the COVID pandemic and turmoil of 2020, when she thought about how to support community at a higher level. With that goal in mind and the recent retirements of some state Supreme Court justices, she applied to two open positions in 2021 — one on the Court of Appeals and one for the Supreme Court.

Like many others, Justice Masih was not accepted on her first try. In 2023, she submitted an application for the position on the Oregon Supreme Court vacated by her former colleague Judge Adrienne Nelson, who joined the federal bench that year. Justice Masih had litigated a number of specially assigned, Public Employee Retirement System (PERS) constitutional challenges and original jurisdiction, election law cases before the Supreme Court during her legal career. Therefore, an appointment to the Oregon Supreme Court felt like the best fit with her prior appellate experiences.

Justice Masih says the most difficult aspect of joining the bench was the requirement to remove herself from many of her community engagement activities. Two years in she still finds the reduced community involvement the most challenging aspect of being an Oregon Supreme Court justice. Nonetheless, there are meaningful opportunities for community engagement. A recent event to introduce the Oregon Supreme Court to more Oregonians involved justices traveling to Eastern Oregon University. Students from high schools around the region were invited, allowing a wide range of Eastern Oregon residents to meet and engage with the Oregon Supreme Court.

Early life experiences led Justice Masih to realize the importance of being part of a broader



Justice Aruna Masih with her husband, Bill, in the Wallowa Mountains in eastern Oregon. (Photos courtesy of Justice Aruna Masih)



Class photo in India. Justice Masih is seated in the front row, center.

community. Born in New York, Justice Masih and her family returned to India when she was 6 months old, after her father completed medical training in the United States. In India, her father served in one of the country's mission hospitals. When Justice Masih was a teenager,

the family returned to the U.S., to Queens, New York. Her father suffered a medical crisis, which kept the family in this country for years, and Justice Masih relied on the South Asian community to help her find her place in an American high school.



Justice Aruna Masih with her husband, Bill, at her swearing-in ceremony.

Those community connections led to developing a surrogate relationship with another family from India living in Boston when she started her undergraduate studies at Wellesley College. The mother of this family attended Justice Masih's investiture last year, a testament to their deep connection. Her father's medical crisis taught Justice Masih how quickly a disability can arise and the importance of access for all. That understanding helped throughout her legal career in civil rights and worker rights and continues as she develops her judicial approach to evaluating cases.

Given the importance of community to her, Justice Masih continues to engage and serve with community groups where she is able. This includes Justice Masih's support developing an understanding of fundamental legal principles in youth by serving as a coach for the McDaniel High School Constitution team, with a focus on the separation of powers and federalism. In addition, she maintains roles with legal professional groups, such as serving on the boards of the OWLS Foundation and South Asian Bar Association. Justice Masih also serves on the advisory board of Recovery Cafe Roseway, which provides a safe space for people in all forms of recovery to connect. It is located at Calvary Presbyterian Church, where Justice Masih is a member. The justices of the Supreme Court, both active and retired, have also created a welcoming community for Justice Masih.

Twenty-five years ago, after completing her JD at Creighton University in Nebraska, Justice Masih and her husband picked Portland as the city to pursue their legal careers. They believed Portland would provide a good mix of small-



Justice Aruna Masih, far right, with SABA Board members, from left, Nida Hasan, Sunny Kakwani, Hon. Mustafa Kasubhai, and Somya Kaushik.

town feel with big-city amenities and was close to nature. After sitting for the Oregon Bar, Justice Masih established a career as a civil rights and worker rights attorney, mostly at Bennett Hartman. Justice Masih continues to enjoy the accessibility of nature within the city on trail hikes and with views of the mountains, including in her own neighborhood, to keep herself centered and connected to her God. Justice Masih feels blessed as an Oregonian to have such a welcoming and supportive legal community.

For those considering the leap from practicing attorney, Justice Masih encourages involvement in the various affinity bar associations and their judicial pipeline programs, including the OWLS Road to the Bench and the Oregon Judicial Diversity Coalition. Ultimately, you are still serving the community, just in a different way, and that allows one to connect purpose with passion.

Kalina Lovell is an associate attorney at SBH Legal.

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The Dragonflies paddle to a second-place finish in Seattle in June. (Kendra Summers)

Dragonflies

Continued from page 1

We finished our race season with the Portland Dragon Boat Festival, where we

placed fourth out of 32 women's teams. We're pretty pleased with ourselves, and we have some shiny new medals to show for it.

The 'Flies started the race season in May at the Rainier Dragon Boat Festival in Tacoma,

Washington. While the team made it into the Division A/B semifinals, we didn't progress beyond that, which made us sort of grumpy. So, we put on our serious hats and got to work practicing for our next race — the Seattle Dragon Boat Festival in June. In Seattle, we placed second out of 15 women's teams, after which we were less grumpy.

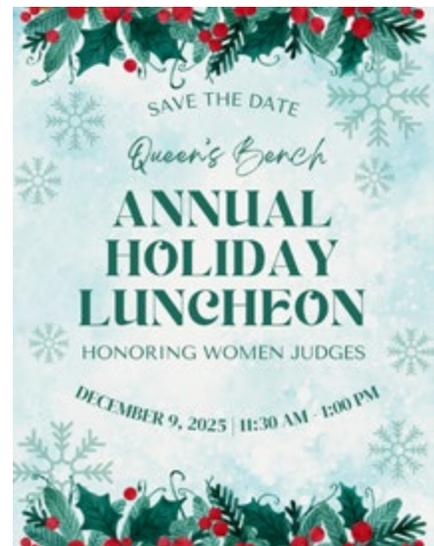
In July, the 'Flies traveled to beautiful Polson, Montana, for the third race of the season. Flathead Lake is gorgeous, and we thoroughly enjoyed our time there. The boats were a little wobbly, but we stayed upright long enough to take third place.

At the beginning of August, we took two teams to Paddle for Life in Ridgefield,

Thank You

2024-2025 OWLS ENHANCED MEMBERS

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Medal from the Portland Dragon Boat Festival held in September. The Dragonflies placed fourth out of 32 teams. (Kendra Summers)



The Dragonflies traveled to Polson, Montana, in July to compete on Flathead Lake. They took third place. (Kendra Summers)

Washington, a fundraising event supporting women in Clark County who have experienced breast cancer. Paddle for Life uses 10-person boats instead of the 20-person boats we are used to, so it's a fun challenge for a good cause. Dragonflies Blue made it to the Division B semifinals.



The end of the race season is always a little bittersweet. As we move into the off-season, we go from three to two practices a week for as long as we can until the chill of December kicks us off the water. But we're back as soon as we can stand it — usually in early February.

If you're interested in joining, let us know! 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. Starting in October, we drop Thursday nights and practice Tuesday nights and Saturdays from 8:30 to 10 a.m.

Contact 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 2026.

Kendra Summers is an attorney at Maune Raichle Hartley French & Mudd.

Paddle power

The Dragonflies always welcome new members. Contact Coach Eleanor DuBay at Eleanor.dubay@gmail.com for more information about joining the team.



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



Multnomah County Circuit Court Judge Patricia McGuire

By Judge Jenna Plank

Multnomah County Circuit Court Judge Patricia (Pat) McGuire is the embodiment of flourishing where she's planted. An Oregonian through and through, Judge McGuire was born and raised in Portland, attended Grant High School, Oregon State University, and then Lewis & Clark Law School.

At a young age, Judge McGuire was exposed to our local legal systems. She was placed in foster care as a child before ultimately being adopted. She credits her adoptive parents with quite literally changing the trajectory of her entire life.

Citing them as the most influential people in her life, Judge McGuire's adoptive parents embodied the sacrifices people make for their kids and demonstrated just how hard and how

long people must be willing to fight to adopt children in the foster system. This may be why Judge McGuire loved practicing, and now loves presiding over, family law matters.

Appointed to the bench by then-Gov. Kate Brown in 2017, Judge McGuire presently serves as a family law judge on the Multnomah County Circuit Court. Judge McGuire initially studied graphic design in college, but after observing that lawyers were paid to read, write, and think, she concluded "I'd like that job."

Having no preconceived notions of what type of law she wanted to practice, Judge McGuire started her legal career as a general civil litigator at Davis Wright Tremaine. For a while she practiced many different types of law — from contract to product liability to bankruptcy. Eventually she moved to Wardinsky Bobzien and began practicing family

law — and loved it.

Judge McGuire initially applied for appointment to the bench after considering how being a judge could allow her to help people in a different kind of way.

While she loved practicing family law, she loves being a family law judge even more. Specifically, being a judge as opposed to being an advocate allows her to help people get through tough family issues together, communicate better, manage their co-parenting better, and ultimately improve the relationships they have with their children.

If you've ever appeared before Judge McGuire you would know that she is a champion listener, that she is well-versed in the law, and that she finds it wholly unproductive when people are unkind or unhelpful to one another. Less known is that she's recently obsessed with soul line dancing, she has a passion for quilting, and she does not cook. At all.

Judge Jenna Plank serves on the Multnomah County Circuit Court.

*Lane County Women Lawyers
invites you to attend the 7th Annual*

**CHIEF JUSTICE
MARTHA WALTERS
AWARD**
presented to
JODIE MOONEY

NOVEMBER 21, 2025 AT 11:45 A.M.

for a luncheon at **THE GORDON HOTEL** located at **555 Oak Street, Eugene, Oregon**. Event tickets are \$40 or you can choose to support the event with an Equal Justice Ticket for \$75. The Equal Justice Ticket covers the actual cost of attendance. Anyone that chooses the Equal Justice option will receive recognition in the event program. Tickets are available for purchase at <https://tinyurl.com/CJMWA-2025> or use the QR Code by November 14th :




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A whirlwind year for Queen's Bench

Here's what has kept them busy

By Leona Yazdidoust

In line with Queen's Bench's 2025 theme of Connection, we have had the pleasure of hosting a diverse lineup of featured guests at our monthly get-togethers this year. These informal gatherings brought legal and nonlegal professionals from a wide range of backgrounds to connect with one another and hear from our distinguished speakers.

Past featured guests include the Hon. Ellen Rosenblum, the Hon. Judith Matarazzo, the Hon. Aruna Masih, Crag Law Center Executive Director Courtney Johnson, the Hon. Cheryl Albrecht, Councilor Candace Avalos, Professor Joanna Perini-Abbott, and former Gov. Kate Brown. Each of these accomplished guests have generously shared their unique perspectives, career insights, and inspiring words of wisdom. We welcomed our final speaker of the year, Lindsey Norlander, executive director of Dress for Success, on Oct. 14 at the Multnomah County Courthouse.

Outside of our monthly Connections, Queen's Bench has also been busy hosting a variety of fun and engaging social events. We celebrated Galentine's Day at the Portland Night Market in February, co-hosted a networking event spotlighting women in law and technology in March, volunteered with Rose Haven in April, participated in the Rose Haven Reigning Roses Walk in May, cheered on our Portland Thorns in June, connected over Happy Hour in July, had some family fun at our Picnic in the Park in August, and celebrated recent bar takers at our celebratory Happy Hour in September.

It's been a packed and fulfilling year, and we're excited to keep the momentum going



There was a big turnout for the Sept. 9 Queen's Bench Connections with former Gov. Kate Brown, bottom row, third from left, at the Multnomah County Courthouse.

into the next one! Have an idea for a fun social event? Know someone you'd love to see featured at a future Connections? We'd love to hear from you. Email us at owlsqueensbench@gmail.com.

Save the Date

Mark your calendars for our annual Holiday Luncheon in Honor of Women Judges on Dec. 9, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Interested in sponsoring the event? Sponsors will receive recognition in the program slideshow, on our website and social media, and in our email newsletter. We offer two sponsorship tiers: Platinum at \$500 and Gold at \$300. Please note that sponsorships do not include tickets to the event. If you have any questions or are interested in sponsoring, email us at owlsqueensbench@gmail.com.

Leona Yazdidoust is an associate attorney at Elevate Law Group and Queen's Bench president-elect.



Clockwise from front left: Emily Komie, Maddie Russell, Aubrey Carter, Daniel Moltke, Karla Márquez enjoyed Picnic in the Park at Willamette Park on Aug. 17.



Queen's Bench has had a busy year hosting fun and engaging social events. In April, they volunteered at Rose Haven, photo far left, and in March they co-hosted a networking mixer at Klarquist law firm, left, highlighting women in law and technology.



Brunch & Bedazzle

OWLS co-hosts annual event with OGALLA

By Terri Wiley

OWLS was proud to once again co-host the annual Brunch & Bedazzle event in partnership with OGALLA, Oregon's LGBTQIA+ bar association, during Portland's Pride weekend July 19-20.

Generously hosted by Stoel Rives in downtown Portland, the gathering brought together approximately 75 attendees — including LGBTQIA+ legal professionals, friends, family members, and allies — for a joyful morning of food, community, and

[Continued on page 13](#)



Left: Heather Decker, Kamron Graham, and Terri Wiley took part in the annual Brunch & Bedazzle event put on by OWLS and OGALLA before the Portland Pride Parade.

Above left: An example of kids' craftiness at the event.

Above right: Crafting tables were set up at host Stoel Rives' offices with brunch provided by Cheryl's Catering.

(Photos by Terri Wiley)

Member Advancement Committee does lunch



On Aug. 14, the OWLS Member Advancement Committee hosted a casual luncheon at Pine Street Market in Portland, where members connected over lively conversation, community-building, and great food.

The OWLS Member Advancement Committee enjoys lunch at Pine Street Market in Portland. From left: Sonia Montalbano, Mary Talamantez, Sun Kim, Ashley McDonald, Mary Dougherty, and Kristianne Cox.

(Sonia Montalbano)



creativity. Guests enjoyed a catered brunch from Cheryl's Catering while decorating T-shirts and signs in preparation for the Portland Pride Parade.

OWLS' continued co-sponsorship of this event reflects its ongoing commitment to intersectional equity and creating affirming spaces for all members of Oregon's legal community.

Special thanks to Stoel Rives for their generous hospitality and event support, the Brunch & Bedazzle planning committee, and OWLS members who volunteered to support with set-up for this meaningful annual event.

Terri Wiley is executive director of OWLS.



Above from left: Kelly Fitzpatrick, Hon. Cierra Brown, and Hon. Adele Ridenour, and below, Michael Hsu and Hon. Aruna Masih enjoy Brunch & Bedazzle festivities at the Stoel Rives offices before the Portland Pride Parade.



Above: A poster of Sylvia Rivera, a veteran of the 1969 Stonewall Inn uprising in New York and a gay liberation and transgender rights activist.

Tax Section networking event

On Sept. 24, the New Tax Lawyer Committee (NTLC), Miller Nash, and Oregon Women Lawyers came together for a networking event at the Miller Nash office that was attended by more than 40 attorneys and law students from around the state.

Mary Dougherty spoke about the creation of NTLC in 2010 and its impact on advancing diversity in the tax bar with the support of experienced tax attorneys who have been generous with their time to mentor new tax attorneys.

Andrea Moore presented Justin Hobson with the Mentor of the Year Award from the OSB Taxation Section. Hobson was recognized for creating a welcoming law firm culture, adapting information to diverse learning styles, coaching new lawyers to display legal knowledge, and educating new lawyers about marketing strategies in the Pacific Northwest.

Hobson shared advice for law students and new tax lawyers about the value of connection among tax practitioners in Oregon.

— Andrea Moore and Mary Dougherty



Justin Hobson offers his insights to law students and new tax lawyers. Hobson was named Mentor of the Year from the OSB Taxation Section. (Miller Nash)

Thank You to our inaugural 2025 Wisdom of OWLS Enhanced Annual Sponsor.
We deeply appreciate your support of OWLS and across Oregon communities statewide!

Wisdom of OWLS Sponsor 2025

Meet OWLS Board member Taylor Hale



By Heather Busby

We recently spoke with OWLS Board member Taylor Hale. In that role, Hale provides strategic direction, oversight, and helps shape the future of OWLS programs and policies. Keep reading to learn more about Hale and her background.

Q: Where did you live before moving to Portland?

A. I was born and raised in Las Vegas. I went to undergrad in Reno, Nevada, and then moved to Portland for law school.

Q: Where do you work and what kind of work do you do?

A. I work at Peterkin Burgess, a civil litigation firm in Bend. I do complex civil litigation with a focus on construction defects and real estate contracts.

Q: What did you do before your current job?

A. I started my legal career as a criminal defense attorney. I was a certified law clerk for Gilroy Napoli Short in Portland and then moved to their Bend office.

Q: That's a big difference from what you do now. What led to the switch?

A. My mentor in the criminal defense firm, Judge Alycia Herriott, was leaving. As a young female attorney, I loved having a strong female mentor. In Bend, I found another strong mentor: Megan Burgess.

Also, I've always seen myself working in civil. The criminal defense work had an emotional component that I was taking home every day. I knew I wanted to start a family eventually, so I needed more work-life balance.

Q: What did you do before law school?

A. I went to law school part-time, working during the day and going to classes at night. I worked at the Oregon Department of Justice Child Advocacy Department as an office support specialist, then I became their first full-time law clerk.

Q: What motivated you to get a law degree?

A. In Las Vegas there's a program for youth



Taylor Hale, with her husband, Chris Hale, and son Hudson. Hale started her legal career as a criminal defense attorney in Portland and now works at Peterkin Burgess in Bend doing complex civil litigation with a focus on construction defects and real estate contract.

(Photos courtesy of Taylor Hale)

— Justice By Peers — and I participated in middle school through high school.

Students go to a mini law school over the summer, take a mini bar exam and get to represent in court real youth accused of petty misdemeanors. The sentences for the youth included serving on future juries in the program, doing community service, or writing essays.

We were able to be creative, but the purpose of the program was for these kids to see their peers doing the program and be inspired to get involved in something like that. The program connected me with the legal community at a young age. I liked the people in the program and was inspired by them.

Q: What are some of your interests and

activities outside the law?

A. I have an 18-month-old son, so I've taken a step back, working part-time at the moment, mostly remotely. We live in Central Oregon, so we love to get outside. We love our hikes. I'm a novice skier and love to get up to the mountain. We like to travel, always going to the coast and exploring around Portland.

What I love most about living in Oregon is that we can drive 30 minutes and get any type of scenery.

Q: You mentioned female mentors you've had in your legal career. What impact have they had on you?

A. They have shaped the type of lawyer I am. The legal profession can be a male-dominated workforce, and seeing these



After having her son, Hudson, Taylor Hale decided to work part-time. Outside of work, she and her family enjoy the outdoors, whether hiking, skiing, or traveling to the coast.

(Photos courtesy of Taylor Hale)

women be such strong, confident, passionate lawyers and pay so much attention to ethics, places such an emphasis on ethical duties. Their ability to work closely with their clients has truly shaped what type of attorney I am.

Q: What do you love best about your work?

A. What I love best at every job I've had is working collaboratively with my clients. No matter what legal issue they're facing, it is one of the hardest, most stressful times in their lives. I love being able to work with them closely to ease their stress and help them through the situation.

Q: What involvement have you had with OWLS and in your community?

A. I serve on the board of the local chapter of Cascade Women Lawyers. I'm also chair of the Deschutes County Bar's Access to Justice committee. We run Lawyer in the Library and strategize on ways to increase access to justice in our community.

Lawyer in the Library is a free program run out of Deschutes County. It's a place for individuals to come and ask lawyers questions. It provides access to lawyers that people wouldn't usually have. They get a free, 30-minute consultation, and there are family law and general law sections. The program is aimed at people who don't qualify for Legal Aid, but can't afford an attorney.

Q: What inspired you to become an OWLS board member?

A. I think it's important to be engaged with our legal community. It makes us better lawyers, more capable of representing our clients, and providing the best legal advice and support. Because I work in the private sector,

it allows me to give back to the community. Because OWLS has so much representation in the Portland area, it was important for me, specifically, to contribute to the OWLS board to help the rest of the state.

Q: What most excites you about serving on the OWLS board?

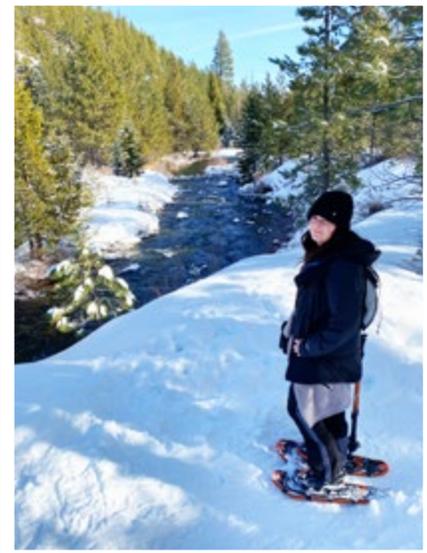
A. I'm excited about recognizing standout people in our community and putting on exciting CLEs to empower women and people in minority communities.

Q: What advice would you give to aspiring lawyers, particularly young women?

A. Be confident in your voice. You can be the smartest person in the room, even if you are a young female attorney, and the most important part is being prepared. If you're prepared you're already ahead of 70% of everyone else in the room.

Q: What is your hope for the future of women in the legal profession?

A. My hope is to continue working toward equity. I hope that women continue to pursue their passion within our legal community,



succeed, use their voice, and become leaders.

Heather Busby is an attorney and executive director of the nonprofit Youth, Rights & Justice.

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We deeply appreciate your longstanding and continuing support!

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OWLS history

Continued from page 1

about the synergies found through women lawyers' organizations, these organizations' challenges, and the ongoing efforts to make progress in the profession for women and others from underrepresented communities.

Diane Rynerson provided very helpful illustrations for Allen's presentation with many PowerPoint slides, mostly photographs of women like Mary Leonard, who was the first woman admitted to the Oregon bar in 1886. Another pioneer was Florence Olson Ledding, who was admitted in 1897, only the fifth woman in Oregon. In 1898 she became a bankruptcy referee, the first woman to be a referee in Oregon. She later married Herman Ledding, and she is still commemorated today: The Ledding Library in Milwaukie is



Above: Nearly 120 people turned out for the McMenamins History Pub lecture at the Kennedy School, which focused on the history of women lawyers in Oregon.

Left: Hon. Janelle Factora Wipperfurth, from left, OWLS' founding president Katherine O'Neil, and Julia Elizabeth Markley.

(Photos by Susan Allen)

named for her and her husband.

Other "firsts" were achieved by Manche Langley, a beloved mentor and a true matriarch for Oregon women lawyers, who was

the first woman lawyer to run for the Oregon State Legislature; Grace Smith who was the first Oregon woman to argue before the U.S. Supreme Court; and Dorothy McCullough Lee, admitted to the bar in 1924 and the first woman mayor of Portland in 1949. Early women lawyers in Oregon often met resistance in finding fulfilling employment. Some went into practice with family members when law firms would not hire them, others became deputy district attorneys, and still others practiced part-time while raising families.

Allen presented many interesting statistics, such as:

- In 1910, there were 558 women lawyers in the U.S. (about 1% of all lawyers), and 20 women lawyers in Oregon.
- In 1920, there were 1,700 women lawyers

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*Above: Manche Langley was the first woman lawyer to run for the Oregon State Legislature. (Susan Allen)
Below right: OWLS founding president Katherine O'Neil and History Pub presenter Trudy Allen. (Teresa Statler)*

in the country and 65 in Oregon. By 1953, 180 women had been admitted to practice law in Oregon.

- In the 1970s, in Oregon, as in the rest of the country, there was a huge surge in the number of women admitted to the various state bars. In Oregon, there were 27 new admittees in 1973, 50 in 1975, and more than 70 in 1997.

- Today, Oregon has over 6,200 female active lawyers, which is roughly 43% of the total Oregon State Bar membership.

- As of August 2025, 208 women have been judges in Oregon, including in January 2018, five women — a 71% majority — on the Oregon Supreme Court.

Allen went on to discuss Oregon women lawyers of “modern” times, such as Norma Paulus (first woman secretary of state), Kris Rogers (the first woman U.S. Attorney for Oregon from 1994-2001), and other names most Oregonians know and recognize today. These include Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (U.S. congresswoman), Ellen Rosenblum (Oregon Court of Appeals judge and recent Oregon attorney general), and Kate Brown (former governor).

Allen went on to present the many “firsts” for Oregon women who became judges, such as Helen Frye as the first U.S. District Court judge, and Betty Roberts, the first woman on the Oregon Supreme Court. Women also became leaders in the Oregon State Bar, including Christie Helmer as the first woman on the OSB Board of Governors, and Julie Frantz as the first woman president of the OSB in 1992.

Allen also talked about the various organizations through the years for Oregon women attorneys. These include: Phi Delta Delta (women’s law fraternity), Women Lawyers Association of Oregon, and three

that are still with us: Queen’s Bench, Lane County Women Lawyers, and the Mary Leonard Law Society (now all chapters of OWLS). Of course, Allen also gave a brief background of the founding of OWLS. She recognized OWLS’ founding president, Katherine O’Neil, who was in the audience.

Along with photos of many trailblazing women, the slide show also included some historical photos of OWLS board members and OWLS members at various

events since the organization’s founding in 1988. Many thanks go to Trudy Allen for an interesting, detailed, and inspiring presentation on the history of women lawyers in Oregon.

Teresa Statler retired from her solo immigration law practice in Portland in November 2021.





OWLS 2025-2026 Membership Renewal Information

BECOME A MEMBER

➔

- The new member year begins on **October 1**
- Firms or organizations renewing multiple memberships may contact erika@oregonwomenlawyers.org
- Early bird renewal letters will be sent to your inbox beginning in late **September**
- Enhanced membership options are available at **4 levels of support**
- Contract lawyer service is an **optional add-on**

Shortlisted

'Lawless: How the Supreme Court Runs on Conservative Grievance, Fringe Theories, and Bad Vibes'

By Leah Litman
(Atria/One Signal,
2025, 320 pages)

Book review by Kalina Lovell

As a fan of the "Strict Scrutiny" podcast co-hosted by Leah Litman, I was excited to have the opportunity to read and review her new book, "Lawless," which was published in May.

This book does not disappoint. Litman's writing is approachable for people no matter their legal background and is not reserved for legal experts reviewing the Supreme Court. In fact, her writing is the opposite of the Supreme Court's jargon-filled decisions, which Litman describes as suggesting, "Well, you normies just don't understand, so leave it to us law wizards."

"Lawless" will help anyone understand that the high court rulings in 2024 were not just an anomaly but a multi-decade effort to reverse progress on individual rights.

Litman divides the book into five sections, each discussing a different topic related to the Supreme Court and covering the trajectory of court opinions and court appointments that brought about the realities we face today.

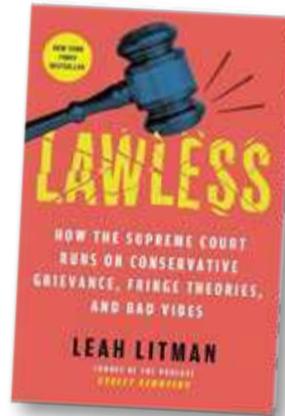
She deftly discusses the historical path for five critical areas of the Supreme Court's jurisprudence and the efforts bringing about the

current legal statuses: "The Ken Surrection," women's rights; "You Can't Sit With Us," diversity, particularly the LGBTQ+ fights; "Winter is Coming," voting rights; "There's Always Money in America," money in politics; and "The American Psychos of the Supreme Court," the administrative state.

Litman weaves in stories of real life, along with the impact of jurisprudential opinions and analyses of the most important decisions. Her analysis in each section solidifies the idea that the high court's decisions in the past few years were part of a long-term project by conservative politicians to appoint justices who would not moderate their conservative ideas once appointed to the bench.

Litman crafts a compelling historical analysis of how the court decisions have more often impeded the rights of underrepresented communities rather than championing them.

She leads the reader to an understanding of how the court wielded the power of judicial review, asserted in *Marbury v. Madison*, 5 US 137 (1803), with jurisprudential theories that ultimately continue to negatively impact Americans who were not considered citizens in 1791 when the U.S. Constitution



was drafted.

This book is recommended for those trying to understand how we got to a position where the Supreme Court is ruling in favor of nearly unlimited executive power and has diminished the power of the courts in determining how the government is run.

The decisions of the court in the past four to five years are part of the design and not merely an anomaly. It is critical

that accessible analyses of these projects are available to all Americans, and this book is a very approachable breakdown of the efforts to overturn expansion of rights beyond the rich, monied, propertied white males who drafted the original Constitution.

True democracy requires education of Americans about the repeated historical efforts to limit participation in our democratic republic.

Litman demonstrates repeatedly how the current court, with its recent disregard for *stare decisis*, is actively accelerating efforts to limit rights that individuals have repeatedly fought for over the past 250 years.

Kalina Lovell is an associate attorney at SBH Legal.



Nominations are due
Dec 1, 2025 for the
2026 Roberts & Deiz Award

Save the Date:
2026 Roberts & Deiz Award
Celebration, June 5, 2026

Lorena Reynolds,
Managing Attorney,
The Reynolds Law Firm,
2025 Roberts & Deiz Award recipient

