

Oregon Women Lawyers Annual Report

October 2010–September 2011

From the Executive Director's Desk

Oregon Women Lawyers' 22nd year was a busy one. Your volunteerism and ideas continue to expand programming that supports your colleagues in their professional and personal growth. It is a pleasure to watch ideas spark into standing-room-only events, thanks to the hard work of OWLS members.

Volunteers from all ten OWLS chapters provide countless hours on top of their busy professional and personal lives to offer excellent programs and events for women and minorities in the legal community.

OWLS' programs strive to support professionals in their journey toward leadership and public service and are supported by the generosity of law firms and businesses from around the state.

OWLS' staff looks forward to another eventful year working with you and our colleagues in minority bars and community organizations to support the OWLS mission and values.

Warmly,



Linda Tomassi
OWLS Executive Director

Networking Opportunities and Leadership Initiatives

Inter-professional Networking Events

The OWLSNet committee, in its fifth year of collaborating with other professional women's organizations, held events in Newport, Eugene, and Portland. These unique career development events bring OWLS members and friends together to network with accountants, bankers, mortgage brokers, real estate agents, and other professionals.

Leadership Forums

Leadership Forums, formerly called Leadership Empowerment Gatherings (LEG-Ups) were coordinated throughout the year by OWLS' leadership committee volunteers. These educational and networking events featured speakers who shared their experiences and expertise regarding professional and personal development. Topics included "Over-Zealous Advocacy"; "Starting Your Family, Keeping Your Career," in conjunction with the Multnomah Bar Association's Young Lawyers Section; "They're LGBT, You're Not, Now What?" to address legal and advocacy issues for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender clients; and practical style, presented in a workshop to help with professional and personal attire.

Mentoring Circles

The OWLS leadership committee organized, promoted, and participated in two

successful mentoring circles. Markowitz, Herbold, Glade & Mehlhaf led a rainmaking mentoring circle in cooperation with Buchanan Angeli Altschul & Sullivan and OAPABA member Carol McCoog of K & L Gates. A family law mentoring circle took place over the course of the year at Gevurtz Menashe, which offered valuable, no-cost CLE credit for the first time.

Political Leadership Lecture Series

For the third year, this nonpartisan series offered lectures designed to equip OWLS members to take on leadership roles in the political arena. Panelists coached participants on the judicial election process and the machinations of the state budget and how it affects Oregon's courts.

The Road to the Bench

OWLS' "Road to the Bench" presentation, now in its fourth year, was held this year in Bend. These discussions are part of an ongoing effort by OWLS to encourage women and minorities to seriously consider judicial careers. Speakers discussed the importance of increasing diversity in the judiciary—to reflect the communities served and provide a full range of viewpoints on the bench. Speakers also offered advice on how to prepare to apply for judicial openings.

At the Courthouse

OWLS co-sponsored the popular April Courthouse Connection with the Multnomah County Circuit Court, celebrating

Take Your Kids to Work Day, which was coordinated by Judge Julie Frantz. The children held mock trials, taking different roles in the courtroom, and they learned about the importance of jury trials. The annual Federal Courthouse Connection and ice cream social was hosted again in June by Chief Judge Ann Aiken.

Judges You and Tennyson started a "first-generation professionals group" to foster conversation about the experiences of those who are the first in their families to go to college, get a professional degree, or become a lawyer.

Contract Lawyers Listserve and Lunches

OWLS supports contract lawyers and sole practitioners through a listserv and monthly brown-bag lunch gatherings in downtown Portland. Lawyers in solo practice discuss issues and acquire practice skills from similarly situated professionals.

OWLS Listserve

Serving as a resource for the majority of OWLS members, the members-only listserv is one of our most-utilized membership services. OWLS members use this tool



Left to right: Top photos: Adrian Brown, Chief Judge Ann Aiken, Tom Perez, Mike Williams, Justice Rives Kistler; Middle photos: Lauren Charles, Erin Olson, Andrea Anderly, Emilie Edling; Bottom photo: 2011 Roberts-Deiz Dinner Committee: Christy Doornink, Amber Hollister, Cass SkinnerLopata, Lisa Hunt, Jodie Ayura, Stephanie Corey, Rose Alappat, Kristin Sterling, Angela Franco Lucero, Hon. Julia Philbrook. Photos by Jodee Jackson and Linda Tomassi.

as a unique resource for a wide variety of professional and nonprofessional issues, including legal referrals, advice, service recommendations, job postings, and discussions.

Additional Activities

OWLS partnered with the US Attorney's Office twice during the year—first for a social at the Brasserie in downtown Portland and second, in partnership with the Federal Bar Association and the Oregon Hispanic Bar, to welcome Assistant Attorney General Tom Perez to Oregon.

Mr. Perez leads the Civil Rights Division at the United States Department of Justice, and he discussed the division's critical work around the country. OWLS also co-sponsored the MBA Diversity Social at Ater Wynne in June.

Play Groups in Portland and Salem are active again, thanks to OWLS volunteers who brought attorney parents and their kids together for regular play and social time in homes and parks.

Conferences and Continuing Legal Education

OWLS' 2010 Fall CLE, entitled "Women at Work: What Is the Measure of Our Success?" featured keynote speaker Patricia

Ireland, who then served on a panel with Judge Anna Brown moderated by OWLS President Concetta Schwesinger.

OWLS and the Community

OWLS members raised money and volunteered for Habitat for Humanity Women Build, collected books for the Coffee Creek Correctional Facility library, raised funds and professional clothing and accessories for Dress for Success, contributed generously to the Campaign for Equal Justice, and worked to alleviate hunger in Marion County. OWLS co-sponsored the Oregon Attorney Assistance Program's fourth annual Women's Wellness Retreat at the Oregon Garden Resort in April, and donated to the OMLA, the OWLS Foundation, and law school silent auctions.

Awards

Roberts-Deiz Awards Dinner

In March, 450 guests attended another sold-out dinner, honoring Oregon Court of Appeals Judge Darleen Ortega as the recipient of the Judge Mercedes Deiz Award and Oregon Secretary of State Kate Brown as the recipient of the Justice Betty Roberts Award.

Workplace Leader Award

The OWLS Workplace Leader Award recognizes innovative legal employers with programs that work to maximize opportunities for women and minorities to succeed in the workplace and advance to positions of influence and leadership. OWLS presented the fifth annual award to Disability Rights Oregon.

OWLS Chapters

OWLS' ten chapters throughout the state continued to offer members and friends events that tie together professional enrichment and networking. These events, coordinated by local volunteers committed to the OWLS mission, included new-admittee lunches, CLEs, networking and holiday socials, summer picnics, and an evening at Mahonia Hall with Oregon's first lady. Please visit www.oregonwomenlawyers.org to see a calendar of upcoming events.

The OWLS chapters are Cascade Women Lawyers (Bend), Clackamas Women Lawyers, Josephine County Women Lawyers, Lane County Women

Many thanks to our 2010–2011 sponsors:

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Lawyers, Linn-Benton Women Lawyers, the Mary Leonard Law Society (Salem), Queen's Bench (Portland), the Rebecca J. Bloom Chapter (Umatilla and Morrow Counties), Rogue Women Lawyers (Ashland/Medford), and Washington County Women Lawyers.

The Dragonflies

The OWLS dragon boat team, the Dragonflies, enjoyed a challenging season this year, competing in four races, two in Portland and the others in Tacoma and Kent, WA. The team is recruiting new members. For more information, please see the back page of this newsletter and www.owlsdragonflies.org.