



# MULTNOMAH LAWYER ANNUAL PRO BONO ISSUE

October 2024  
Volume 70, Number 9



## Access to Justice Across Oregon

by Jill Mallery  
Statewide Pro Bono Manager, Legal Aid Services of Oregon

Oregon's Portland metro area attorneys are effectively increasing access to justice for low-income communities across the state through pro bono representation. Many rural Oregonians live in a legal desert, a rural community with limited, if any, options for legal

assistance caused by a shortage of lawyers in the area. According to the National Center for State Courts, one factor that indicates a barrier to legal services is the limited number of attorneys compared to the population of the county. It is a stark statistic that more than 66% of Oregon State Bar members are located in the Portland metro area (Multnomah, Washington, Clackamas, and Yamhill counties). This illustrates a pressing need to bring legal resources to Oregon's legal deserts, communities that face barriers to legal services due (in part) to the limited number of attorneys compared to the population of the county. Metro attorneys have been helping reduce this barrier to legal assistance by volunteering with Legal Aid Services of Oregon (LASO).

Pro bono attorneys have been making a real difference in the lives of low-income Oregonians experiencing critical legal issues. Pro bono attorneys have advocated on behalf of low-income tenants facing wrongful eviction, represented survivors of abuse in contested restraining order hearings, and assisted low-income debtors discharge their debt through Chapter 7. All assistance is provided remotely by a Portland metro attorney to a client located in a rural area of the state. Jeremy Aliason, Executive Director of LASO, describes the important role of pro bono attorneys in increasing justice, "without the dedication of our pro bono attorneys and staff, many low-income Oregonians would face the legal system alone. Their work ensures that access to justice is available to all, regardless of location or financial means. We are deeply grateful for their commitment to serving those in need."

**Pro bono attorneys have been making a real difference in the lives of low-income Oregonians experiencing critical legal issues.**

LASO is fortunate to work with amazing private attorneys, supportive bar sections, and dedicated law firms across the state that utilize their knowledge and expertise to help low-income people with their legal issues. Of special note are outstanding law firms that have long-standing partnerships with rural LASO offices dedicated to expanding legal assistance in the community: Tonkon Torp LLP sponsors a general civil virtual clinic with LASO's Roseburg office, Miller Nash LLP partners on a virtual legal clinic with LASO's Bend office and the Oregon Law Center (OLC) Coos Bay office, and Davis Wright Tremaine LLP collaborates with OLC's Ontario office on a criminal expungement clinic.

LASO is grateful for the many justice partners it collaborates with to increase services to those unable to pay for an attorney. Attorneys such as Mick Harris, Tonkon Torp LLP, who has shown true dedication to pro bono service displayed by many volunteer hours,

volume of cases, and strong determination to make a difference. Mick participates in both the LASO Roseburg Clinic and LASO's Housing Notice Clinic. He has been a strong advocate for low-income people in Douglas County and Oregon renters facing eviction. Mick's pro bono work has primarily focused on representing clients located in rural areas of the state with few, if any, resources. Thanks to Mick's excellent representation and incredible commitment to his pro bono clients, tenants receive the benefit of having quality legal counsel. Tenants' rights are enforced, safe housing is preserved, and people feel supported. Mick describes his volunteer experience, "It has been a tremendously rewarding and humbling experience to assist Legal Aid in their mission to bridge the justice gap in rural areas. There is no doubt that Legal Aid empowers communities to navigate complex legal challenges and access high quality advocacy. At the end of the day, Legal Aid's commitment to equity and justice is unparalleled and deeply needed in our society."

Another excellent pro bono partnership is the Miller Nash Virtual Clinic. The clinic assists individuals with clearing criminal and eviction records in Central Oregon and along the Southern Oregon Coast. John Clarke, partner at Miller Nash, has been a pro bono leader for the firm and Jollee Patterson, partner at Miller Nash, was instrumental in developing and launching the clinic model. John is a champion of pro bono work and has set a high bar through his demonstrated commitment to pro bono service. As the co-chair of Miller Nash's pro bono committee, John also encourages firm-wide participation in the clinic. The assistance provided through the clinic is truly life-changing as it improves the lives of his clients by removing barriers to housing, employment and education. John describes the goal of the clinic, "Miller Nash is proud to partner with Oregon Law Center and Legal Aid Services of Oregon to lead a virtual volunteer attorney clinic to assist rural, low-income Oregonians with expunging eligible criminal convictions and dismissals. Many Oregonians lack access to legal services and face barriers in obtaining employment, housing, and education due to past minor criminal convictions and dismissals. The clinic aims to remove those barriers, giving Oregonians a fair opportunity to make a living, take care of their families, and fully participate in their communities."

Continued on page 8

**...if we focus on the client need and not location, together the legal community can make real progress towards expanding services across the state.**

## mba | CLE

See details on p. 3. Visit [www.mbabar.org/cle](http://www.mbabar.org/cle) and input your OSB number to register at the member rate.

### OCTOBER

10.2 Wednesday  
**Managing Corporate Clients: How to Keep In-House Counsel Happy**  
Derily Bechthold  
Joanna Brody  
Megan Crowhurst  
Amber Hollister

10.9 Wednesday  
**2024 Bar Update: Ethical Issues and Trends Affecting Oregon Lawyers**  
Nik Chourey

10.23 Wednesday  
**Mandatory Elder and Child Abuse Reporting**  
Dani Huck

10.29 Tuesday  
**Licensed Paralegals: What You Need to Know**  
Hon. Maureen McKnight

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[www.mbabar.org](http://www.mbabar.org)



## mba | EVENT

### Multnomah Bar Association Absolutely Social

Tuesday, October 15  
5-7 p.m.  
Multnomah Athletic Club  
1849 SW Salmon Street

Drop in after work and catch up with friends and colleagues.

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# The Senior Law Project: Meeting the Legal Needs of Multnomah County's Growing Senior Population

by Brett Cattani

Pro Bono Coordinator, Legal Aid Services of Oregon

The senior population in Multnomah County is growing rapidly, with the US Census Bureau recently reporting that the Portland metro area's population of adults aged 65 and older is growing at a faster rate than the national average. With this demographic shift, the legal needs of the senior community will continue to expand. Many seniors face diverse civil legal issues, including housing stability, estate planning, financial security, and protection from fraud. For many seniors, these legal services are essential to maintain their independence and protect their rights.

Legal Aid Services of Oregon's Senior Law Project (SLP) has been a critical resource in addressing these needs. As the longest-running pro bono program in Multnomah County, SLP offers much-needed civil legal assistance to seniors who might otherwise be left without help. With 25 clinics a month held at nine senior centers, volunteer attorneys meet with up to six clients per clinic (in-person or remote consultations), providing advice and support on a range of civil legal matters such as wills, powers of attorney, advance directives, housing, and consumer rights.

Since its inception, SLP has been a lifeline for many in the senior community, filling a gap where affordable legal services are scarce. SLP volunteer attorneys make a tremendous impact. Their dedication and generosity ensure that seniors can access the legal support they need. Whether advising on how to draft a will or helping resolve a consumer dispute, the support offered by SLP volunteer attorneys can provide peace of mind and help seniors maintain their dignity and autonomy.

Senior center staff and center volunteers also play a pivotal role by serving as a bridge to connect seniors to essential resources, including legal aid assistance. They help ensure that legal assistance is within reach for seniors who might otherwise be

unable to afford it or know where to seek help. Seniors can apply by phone or in-person at any of the following locations:

### The Community for Positive Aging (formerly Hollywood Senior Center)

www.communityfpa.org  
1820 NE 40th Ave., Portland  
503.288.8303

### Friendly House

www.fhpdx.org/for-adults-seniors  
4610 SE Belmont St., Portland  
503.721.6760

### Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization (IRCO)

www.ircoco.org  
740 SE 106th Ave., Portland  
503.484.6371

### Impact NW

www.impactnw.org  
1737 NW 26th Ave., Portland  
503.224.2640

### Neighborhood House

www.nhpdx.org  
688 SW Capitol Hwy., Portland  
503.244.5204

### Urban League Multi-Cultural Senior Center

www.ulpdx.org/programs/senior-services  
5325 NE MLK Blvd., Portland  
503.280.2600

### YWCA-East County

www.ywcapdx.org  
600 NE 8th St., Room 100, Gresham  
503.721.6771

As the senior population in Multnomah County continues to grow, so too does the importance of programs like the Senior Law Project. The demand for pro bono legal services will only increase, making it more critical than ever for attorneys to volunteer their time and expertise.

A heartfelt thank you to all volunteers for your commitment to providing pro bono services. If you are interested in volunteering with the Senior Law Project, please contact [brett.cattani@lasoregon.org](mailto:brett.cattani@lasoregon.org).

# Calendar

## OCTOBER

8 Tuesday

Campaign for Equal Justice  
FAPA CLE and Pro Bono  
Appreciation Event  
[www.cej-oregon.org](http://www.cej-oregon.org)

10 Thursday

DEI and Judicial Nominations  
Details on p. 11

15 Tuesday

Absolutely Social  
Details on p. 1

16 Wednesday

Campaign for Equal Justice  
Party Under the Stars  
[www.cej-oregon.org](http://www.cej-oregon.org)

18 Friday

OGALLA Annual Gala Dinner  
[www.ogalla.org](http://www.ogalla.org)

20 Sunday

Pumpkin Patch Social  
Details on p. 10

## NOVEMBER

13 Wednesday

Bench Bar & Bagels  
[www.mbabar.org](http://www.mbabar.org)

14 Thursday

Pro Bono Bingo Fundraiser  
Details on p. 11

## mba|EVENT

### Bench Bar & Bagels

Wednesday, November 13

7:30-8:30 a.m.

Tonkon Torp

888 SW 5th Avenue, Suite 1600

The MBA is hosting the 15th annual "Bench Bar & Bagels" event on Wednesday, November 13, 7:30-8:30 a.m. at Tonkon Torp, 888 SW 5th Ave. Ste. 1600. Please join your colleagues and members of the judiciary for a light breakfast and coffee. This event is offered at no cost to MBA members and judges. Non-members: \$10.

Special thanks to our sponsor and host:



Please RSVP to Kathy Modie,  
[kathy@mbabar.org](mailto:kathy@mbabar.org)

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Family Abuse Prevention Act Pro Bono Training

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CLE will be followed by a pro bono appreciation event for current or interested pro bono volunteers



Stoel Rives LLP 760 SW 9th Ave, Suite 3000  
Tuesday, October 8th, 2024 from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

## Thank you for your support in 2024

Please remember the Multnomah Bar Foundation as you budget for next year! Your charitable contribution to the MBF increases the public's understanding of the legal system, promotes civic education and respect for the law, and improves access to justice.

[www.mbabar.org/mbf](http://www.mbabar.org/mbf)





Visit [www.mbabar.org/cle](http://www.mbabar.org/cle) to register online or scan this QR code.



The MBA will apply for general OSB MCLE credit unless otherwise noted; Washington credit may be obtained independently. Registrants who are unable to attend will receive a link to the archived webcast and written materials. Registration fees are non-refundable.

Unless otherwise noted, all classes are held online.

### Managing Corporate Clients: How to Keep In-House Counsel Happy

A joint event sponsored by the MBA and the Oregon Chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel

Wednesday, October 2

CLE: 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Social hour: 4:30-6 p.m.

Wells Fargo Tower, 1300 SW 5th Ave, Tenant Lounge

Members \$35/Non-Members \$55

Please join us for a one-hour discussion on managing the corporate client relationship. **Derily Bechthold**, Senior Managing General Counsel, Portland General Electric; **Joanna Brody**, Director, Litigation, Risk & Employment, Vestas-American Wind Technology, Inc.; **Amber Hollister**, Deputy General Counsel, Planar; and **Megan Crowhurst**, Shareholder, Littler Mendelson, will share insights about how outside counsel can provide the best legal services to in-house counsel. They will cover topics including:

- What criteria does in-house counsel use to retain new law firms?
- What factors does in-house counsel consider in selecting current counsel for new matters?
- How does in-house counsel evaluate rates and review invoices for legal services?
- And more!

Following our CLE panel discussion, the Multnomah Bar Association and the Oregon Chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel will host a joint happy hour.

**For more information:** Contact Paul Cirner, Littler Mendelson, at 503.889.8853. For registration questions, contact the MBA at [mba@mbabar.org](mailto:mba@mbabar.org).

### 2024 Bar Update: Ethical Issues and Trends Affecting Oregon Lawyers

Wednesday, October 9 12-1 p.m.

Remote attendance only via Zoom

Members \$35/Non-Members \$55

*Note: The MBA will apply for one hour of Ethics OSB MCLE credit*

This CLE will cover the ethical issues and trends the Oregon State Bar is encountering through inquiries and complaints, as well as other pertinent ethical topics. **Nik Chourey**, Deputy Counsel for the Oregon State Bar, will present this informative CLE.

**For more information:** Contact the MBA at [mba@mbabar.org](mailto:mba@mbabar.org).

### Mandatory Elder and Child Abuse Reporting

Wednesday, October 23 12-1 p.m.

Remote attendance only via Zoom

Members \$35/Non-Members \$55

*Note: The MBA will apply for one hour of Abuse Reporting MCLE OSB credit*

This program will help lawyers meet their legal responsibilities as mandatory reporters, while maintaining their ethical obligations to clients. **Dani Huck** of the Oregon State Bar will present this dynamic and practical discussion on:

- Recognizing elder and child abuse;
- Complying with mandatory reporting requirements; and
- Protecting confidentiality.

Dani is an Assistant General Counsel and Client Assistance Office Attorney at the Oregon State Bar. In that role she addresses ethics complaints about attorneys and responds to calls from lawyers on the bar's Ethics Helpline.

**For more information:** Contact the MBA at [mba@mbabar.org](mailto:mba@mbabar.org).

### Licensed Paralegals: What You Need to Know

Tuesday, October 29 12-1 p.m.

Remote attendance only via Zoom

Members \$35/Non-Members \$55

Associate members of the Oregon State Bar may now represent clients in rule-defined family law and landlord tenant matters, including some types of court appearances. Join us for a session on what Licensed Paralegals (LP) can and can't do in Oregon, and what to expect if you are becoming, working with, or opposing an LP in your practice. The presenter is the **Hon. Maureen McKnight**, Chair of the Oregon State Bar Committee on Paralegal Assessors and former Multnomah County Circuit Court Chief Family Law Judge.

**For more information:** Contact Richard Slottee, Attorney at Law, at 503.702.1577. For registration questions, contact the MBA at [mba@mbabar.org](mailto:mba@mbabar.org).

## FREE CLE LIBRARY

### Recently Refreshed for 2025 Members

The Free CLE Library now features 60-plus hours of MCLE-accredited video webcasts recorded during the Fall 2023-Spring 2024 program year.



Renew your membership for 2025 and start watching now at

[www.mbabar.org](http://www.mbabar.org)

# PRO BONO BINGO

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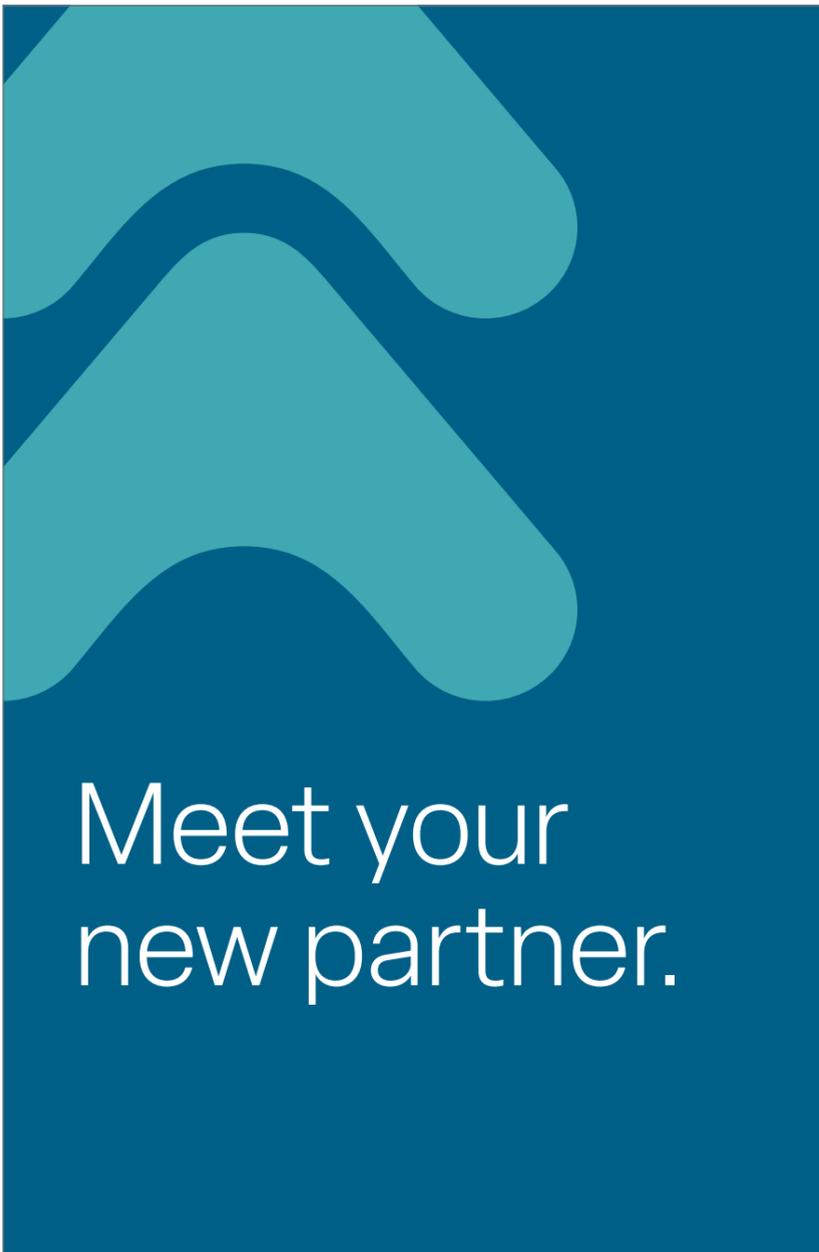
### Volunteer for the Night Clinic

**Date:** Every Wednesday night  
**Time:** 6 p.m. with consults starting at 6:30 p.m.  
**Location:** St. Andrew Legal Clinic  
 2950 SE Stark Street, Suite 200, Portland

Night Clinic is a critical resource in our community. Clients who have been screened for conflicts and general subject area meet one-on-one with a volunteer attorney for a 30-minute consultation to learn their rights, general court procedure and estimated costs of their family law matter.

Volunteers do not need to be a family law attorney. Volunteer attorneys are supervised by a SALC staff attorney who consults on every consultation to ensure completeness and accuracy of advice and to quote fees.

**For more information:**  
 503.281.1500  
[Maxine Tuan, mtuan@salcgroup.org](mailto:mtuan@salcgroup.org)



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## mba | ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 2025 MBA Award Nominations Due November 1

To learn more about the Diversity, Professionalism, Merit and Pro Bono awards and propose nominees for this year's award selection processes, please complete and return the nomination form(s) available at [www.mbabar.org](http://www.mbabar.org) or contact the MBA at [mba@mbabar.org](mailto:mba@mbabar.org). Nomination forms are due November 1. The MBA will present the recipients of the Diversity, Professionalism, Merit and Pro Bono awards at the MBA Annual Meeting on May 22, 2025.

### Resources for Contested Multnomah County Judicial Election

Learn about the five candidates running for the vacancy created when Judge Amy Baggio was appointed to the federal bench. The League of Women Voters of Portland invited the candidates to participate in a Voter Forum which will be available to view in early- to mid-October on [www.lwvpx.org](http://www.lwvpx.org). The candidates were also invited to participate in the League's comprehensive nonpartisan resource, [www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org).

### Multnomah CourtCare

Free drop-in childcare for children six weeks to 12 years of age is available at the Central Courthouse, Monday-Friday, from 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. This MBF-funded program is for parents and legal guardians who are actively conducting business at the Central Courthouse, federal courthouse, or Justice Center in downtown Portland. Reservations are encouraged, but not required (503.988.4334, [courtcaredropin@voaor.org](mailto:courtcaredropin@voaor.org)).

### Pro Bono Opportunities in Multnomah County

Find the opportunity that is right for you by browsing the list of pro bono providers at [www.mbabar.org/probono](http://www.mbabar.org/probono). Many of the programs listed provide training materials and mentors to assist new volunteers.

### Assist with the 2024 Election

The American Bar Association is organizing to offer attorneys a variety of opportunities to get involved before, during and beyond election day. Initiatives include working the polls, educating the public, defending the right to vote and protecting election officials. Visit [www.bit.ly/aba-election](http://www.bit.ly/aba-election) for details.

### Virtual Mindfulness Sessions

The Mindfulness in Law Society (MILS) Oregon Chapter invites you to practice mindfulness while connecting with lawyers from around the country. Two virtual sittings are offered each week - one on Mondays at noon, and one on Wednesdays at 2 p.m. Attendance is free even if you are not an MILS member. Visit [www.mindfulnessinlawsociety.org/virtual-sits](http://www.mindfulnessinlawsociety.org/virtual-sits) for details and to participate.

### Not Receiving MBA Emails?

Members are encouraged to opt in to ensure that they successfully receive MBA email communications. Visit [www.mbabar.org/opt-in](http://www.mbabar.org/opt-in) to confirm your email status.

### Noontime Rides

Join all ages of bicycle riders for noontime hill climbs on Mondays and Thursdays. Assemble at noon at the SW corner of Pioneer Square and leave together at 12:15 p.m. Rain or shine. Frequent regroupings. Mondays include rotating paceline around SW Fairmount; Thursdays go up through Forest Park. E-bikes okay. Great repeating interval workouts. Contact Ray Thomas, 503.228.5222, if you are a new rider or for additional details.

## Find the Pro Bono Opportunity Right for You

Pro bono opportunities and resources for Oregon attorneys volunteering with civil legal aid to provide critically needed legal help to low-income communities.

[www.probonooregon.org](http://www.probonooregon.org)

The MBA website features a list of Portland metro-area pro bono service providers. Many of the programs listed below provide training materials and mentors to assist new volunteers.

[www.mbabar.org/probono](http://www.mbabar.org/probono)

The OSB website's Volunteer Opportunities Directory lists programs offered statewide, as well as information on pro bono reporting and the Oregon Pro Bono Aspirational Standard.

[www.osbar.org/probono](http://www.osbar.org/probono)

## Ethics Focus



## RPC 2.4(b): Oregon's Unique Lawyer-Mediator Rule

by Mark J. Fucile  
Fucile & Reising LLP

noting (at 2) that although a lawyer-mediator could draft a settlement agreement, "Attorney could not ... then endeavor to represent one or both spouses in placing the agreement of record with the court."

In 1997, however, the Legislature created the Oregon Family Law Legal Services Commission to, in relevant part, develop ways to better assist litigants of modest means in the family law area who were often representing themselves pro se. The Commission worked with the OSB to develop an amendment to DR 5-106 in 1998 that permitted lawyer-mediators to file an agreed order or judgment with the court concerned to implement a settlement. In 2001, this provision was reframed to extend beyond simply a stipulated order or judgment to encompass "documents" more generally - but remained tethered to the idea that the "documents" involved reflected or implemented the agreement reached through mediation.

When Oregon moved from the old "DRs" to the RPCs in 2005, former DR 5-106(B) was carried over as RPC 2.4(b). It has remained unchanged since.

### Tasks Permitted by the Rule

RPC 2.4(b) reads:

A lawyer serving as a mediator:

- (1) may prepare documents that memorialize and implement the agreement reached in mediation;
- (2) shall recommend that each party seek independent legal advice before executing the documents; and
- (3) with the consent of all parties, may record or may file the documents in court.

Reflecting these changes, the parallel OSB opinion was renumbered and updated in 2005. The opinion is available on the OSB website as Formal Opinion 2005-101 (rev. 2022).

RPC 2.4(c) adds that subsection (b)(2) does "not apply to mediation programs established by operation of law or court order."

Although RPC 2.4(b) originated in the family law context, there is nothing on its face limiting it to that setting.

Most Oregon RPCs are based on their ABA Model Rule counterparts. Oregon RPC 2.4(b), however, is not one of them. Under Oregon's unique rule, a mediator is allowed to both prepare documents implementing a settlement reached through mediation and file them with the court. Neither ABA Model Rule 2.4 nor corresponding versions regionally in Washington, Idaho, and Alaska incorporate that additional authority.

The Oregon rule traces its roots to an effort in the late 1990s to address the unmet legal needs of pro se litigants - principally in family law. Oregon's rule has evolved since then but still provides a useful tool in that context. At the same time, lawyer-mediators using this tool need to remain sensitive to the line between the relatively limited follow-on tasks permitted by RPC 2.4(b) and the very real conflicts they face if they go beyond those boundaries.

In this column, we'll first briefly survey the history of Oregon RPC 2.4(b) for context. We'll next outline the tasks permitted by the rule. We'll then conclude with a discussion of the conflict risks involved if a lawyer-mediator crosses the boundaries set by RPC 2.4(b).

### Historical Context

The origins of RPC 2.4(b) help explain what is - and what is not - permitted by the rule.

As originally adopted in 1986, former Oregon DR 5-106 allowed lawyer-mediators to draft settlement agreements reflecting the resolution reached during a mediation but not related implementing documents. Similarly, because DR 5-106 classified appearing in court as a representational activity, it prohibited mediators from filing resulting documents with a court. OSB Formal Opinion 1991-101 (1991) summarized this approach by

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**Around the Bar**



Ashley Korkeakoski-Sears

**Barran Liebman LLP**

The firm is proud to welcome **Ashley Korkeakoski-Sears** to the firm. She recently graduated with her JD from Boston University School of Law and has since served as a judicial law clerk for the Honorable Judge Adrienne Nelson within both the US District Court for the District of Oregon and the Oregon Supreme Court. Through these roles, Korkeakoski-Sears gained a wealth of legal research and case analysis experience that she looks forward to incorporating into Barran Liebman's employment advice and litigation practices.



Barbara J. Duffy  
President, Lane Powell



Peter V. Michaud  
Chair, Ballard Spahr

**Lane Powell and Ballard Spahr** Lane Powell, which has a 49-attorney office in Portland, will combine with Ballard Spahr effective January 1, 2025.



Tania Manners

**Manners Law Firm**

**Tania Manners** has opened the Manners Law Firm in downtown Portland.

Providing high-level representation with a personal touch, the Manners Law Firm handles personal injury cases, medical negligence and nursing home abuse matters, and general litigation.

Manners can be reached at 503.468.7937 or [tm@mannerslawfirm.com](mailto:tm@mannerslawfirm.com). Manners Law Firm offices are located in the US Bancorp Tower ("Big Pink") at 111 SW 5th Avenue, Suite 3150, Portland. The firm's website is [www.mannerslawfirm.com](http://www.mannerslawfirm.com).

Manners will continue serving as an arbitrator in UM/UIM cases and on the Arbitration Service of Portland panel.

Manners is a member of the MBA Board of Directors, and is past chair of the MBA's Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Committee.

*The Around the Bar column reports on MBA members' moves, transitions, promotions and other honors within the profession. The submission deadline is the 10th of the month preceding publication or the prior Friday if that date falls on a weekend. All submissions are edited to fit column format and the information is used on a space-available basis in the order in which it was received. Submissions may be emailed to [mba@mbabar.org](mailto:mba@mbabar.org).*

**In Memoriam**

**Thomas W. Brown**  
MBA President, 2007-08  
MBA Professionalism Award Recipient  
March 19, 1952- August 20, 2024

Thom earned his bachelor's degree in radio/television/film from the University of Texas in 1974 and his law degree from the night school program at Northwestern School of Law, Lewis & Clark College, in 1980. Thom then served as a clerk to Judge William L. Richardson of the Oregon Court of Appeals before joining Cosgrave Vergeer Kester in 1981, where he remained an integral part of the firm until his passing. Thom served as Cosgrave's managing partner for 16 of those years, overseeing sustained and consistent firm success.

Thom was also a preeminent appellate lawyer. Along with recognitions and awards too numerous to list, Thom was selected as a fellow in the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers in 2000

and as a fellow in the Honorary Trial Society of Litigation Counsel of America in 2008. On appointment by the Oregon Supreme Court, Thom served monthly as a pro tem judge in Multnomah County Circuit Court for more than 13 years.

Throughout Thom's career, he was highly involved in many professional organizations. He was a member of the Board of Directors of ALFA International. He was closely involved with the Civics Learning Project (fka Classroom Law Project), including serving one term as Chair of the Board of Directors, a board on which he served for 17 years. Thom was extensively involved in the Multnomah Bar Association (MBA) and served as the MBA President for the 2007-08 term. Thom served on the board of the Multnomah Bar



Thom Brown

Foundation (MBF) from 2012-13 and was MBF Secretary and Treasurer in 2013. In 2013, Thom was honored with the MBA Professionalism Award, which recognizes an attorney who exhibits the "highest ethical standards and exemplary conduct in the practice of law"

Thom was one of a kind. He was a gifted speaker with a sharp and insightful sense of humor, that no matter how biting, always yielded to genuine warmth, kindness, and humility. He was a mentor to young lawyers, and a true friend to all who knew him.

Thom will be dearly missed.

**In Memoriam**

**Colin George Andries**  
August 26, 1980 - September 7, 2024

Colin Andries, Black Helterline LLP, was well known to the MBA for his volunteer involvement and leadership that spanned a number of years. Colin was an active member of the Young Lawyers Section and chaired its YLS Membership Committee. He also served on MBA committees and chaired the Events Committee.

Colin passed away at home on September 7 after a two-year battle with Non-Hodgkin lymphoma. He

leaves behind his wife, Evyan, their young sons, Jack and Hudson, as well as beloved family members, and numerous friends and colleagues.

Colin's positivity, optimism and love of life were felt by everyone who encountered him. Evyan writes that Colin "approached his life with infectious joy and boundless enthusiasm that radiated well past his inner circle and poured out onto everyone he encountered."

His family shares that "Colin's passion for life and love for others



Colin Andries

was unmatched, and we will miss his light and his energy every day."

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to his sons' college funds at [www.bit.ly/colin-george-andries](http://www.bit.ly/colin-george-andries)

**SAGE Honors Former MBA President**  
**Ward Greene**  
Chocolate Cake and a Dream Come True

Ward Greene is an experienced commercial lawyer with the law firm of Farleigh Wada Witt who served as MBA President from 1998-99.

On October 10, the nonprofit organization, Senior Advocates for Generational Equity (SAGE) will honor him with their SAGE Award. Members of the bar are invited to celebrate with Ward at the SAGE Awards event at

the World Forestry Center in Portland.

In 2011, Ward woke from a vivid dream that he was late for a SAGE meeting. But SAGE didn't exist! Over the years, Ward and other leaders of the organization have worked to make his dream a reality. SAGE inspires and supports people over 50 to give forward with their time, money, and voice so that younger and future generations can thrive.

Ward served as president of SAGE for 12 years, co-creating and hosting numerous programs and events, while baking his grandmother's famous chocolate cakes for SAGE's first events. He has volunteered over 7,500 hours and led SAGE with all his heart, enabling SAGE to engage over 20,000 people in their work. He believes in and supports others as they pursue their own dreams.



Ward Greene

Ward's efforts to promote generational equity inspire us all. Learn more about SAGE and purchase tickets at [www.WeAreSage.org/awards](http://www.WeAreSage.org/awards).

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**Stoll Berne**



**We are pleased to announce that Carsen Nies has joined our team.**

Carsen is an associate in the firm's litigation group where she focuses on complex litigation matters.

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LARKINS VACURA KAYSER

Larkins Vacura Kayser welcomes  
**BEN CALLEROS AND ELIZABETH PARKER**  
[LVKLAW.COM](http://LVKLAW.COM)




**BEN CALLEROS**

Ben joins Larkins Vacura Kayser with a background in high-stakes commercial litigation, debtor-creditor matters, and water law, including water rights litigation and regulatory advice. His skill, diligence, and creativity have obtained positive results for clients navigating complex and novel legal issues across a range of practice areas.

Elizabeth has represented clients across the country in a variety of civil litigation and white collar matters involving class actions, contract disputes, fraud, and internal investigations. She brings with her a wealth of experience in all aspects of litigation, from motions practice, discovery, and trial through appellate review.



**ELIZABETH PARKER**

## Tips From the Bench

# Transitions on the Multnomah County Family Law Bench

by Chief Family Law Judge Patrick Henry  
Multnomah County Circuit Court



There have been several significant changes to the Multnomah County Family Law Department since last year. With the retirements of Judge Michael Loy, Judge Kathryn Villa-Smith, and Judge Susan Svetkey the court has lost approximately 50 years of judicial wisdom and insight. We are fortunate, however, to welcome Judge Pamela Haan, Judge Christine Martin, and Judge Michael Riedel, each of whom has a wealth of experience either litigating or serving as judicial officers in family law cases. They have all made a remarkably smooth transition to their new roles.

I have taken on the role of Chief Family Law Judge since July 1. Multnomah County has had the benefit of excellent leadership of the Chiefs who served before me. The bench in Multnomah County has had an ongoing focus on procedural justice and a focus on having cases addressed as efficiently and carefully as we can. We have the benefit of dedicated staff in the family law department whose excellent reputation for helpful and responsive service is well earned. My goal is to help our judges and staff continue their excellent work.

While recognizing how well this department is and has been running, we continue to look at our practices to see how we can improve the way cases

are handled and docketed. We have recently changed some of our dockets to increase judicial availability at trial assignment. The early returns look good. Since July 1, only three cases did not go out on their scheduled trial assignment date due to a lack of judge availability. My hope is that this recent trend will continue.

We have made some other changes since last year:

- Parties are currently permitted to submit stipulated requests for setovers through file and serve even if the request is being made within 30 days of trial assignment. We request that you reach out to the family law department to find dates that work for the parties and the court and that you submit a form of order that includes a proposed setover date. If the setover request is not stipulated, parties will need to appear at ex parte to have the matter addressed by a judge.
- Judge Martin has taken over the Children's Representation Project. As always, we are looking for practitioners who are willing to serve in this program.
- We are also seeking applicants for our pro tem judge's program. We have been fortunate to have an excellent group of attorneys who have served in this role to help with our Judicial Settlement Conference program.

Finally, I look forward to working with all of you in the coming months and years to find ways to assist families with new realities they face. I appreciate your ongoing dedication to helping families find helpful and practical solutions to their sometimes complicated (and seemingly) intractable problems. Please feel free to contact me with your ideas for a better and more efficient family law court.

regardless of where they are located. Many of the attorneys who volunteer with the clinic have been increasing access to legal services for decades. One such incredible pro bono attorney is Michelle Freed of Eblen Freed PC, who has been a committed clinic volunteer since 2006. She is quick to accept case referrals and works hard on behalf of her clients to provide debt relief and a fresh start. Without the crucial legal assistance provided by pro bono attorneys like Michelle, people in rural areas of the state would be shut out of the legal system. I asked Michelle about her pro bono work and representation of clients in rural areas. Michelle responded, "It honestly doesn't make a difference where my pro-

## Access to Justice

Continued from page 1

According to the 2018 Civil Legal Needs Study, debt/credit was the most common legal issue facing low-income people who were surveyed. We know the devastating financial and emotional effects debt has on a person who is not able to pay their bills. The LASO Bankruptcy Clinic, sponsored by the OSB Debtor-Creditor Section, is designed to help alleviate that stress through bankruptcy. Thanks to the strong support of the Debtor-Creditor Section, the many private attorneys and US Bankruptcy Judges who participate in the clinic, low-income debtors receive assistance

## News From the Court

by Tom Melville  
MBA Court Liaison Committee

### Presiding Judge's Report - Judge Judith Matarazzo

Judge Matarazzo reported that the court is busy with many trials going out daily. For the first time in her tenure, the court has had difficulty getting trials assigned out due to judicial availability although so far presiding court has still managed to assign out all matters reporting ready for trial. Judge Matarazzo encourages the bar to stick with trial dates as assigned because it is difficult to find new available trial dates given the assignments of judges to rotations like felony arraignments, misdemeanor trial assignment court (CPC), and specialty courts, and the many long specially-set trials which are already scheduled.

Judge Matarazzo reminds the bar that there is no such thing as a blanket affidavit for change of judge. Attorneys have every right to affidavit a judge, but it must be on a case-by-case basis. She encourages discussion about why affidavits are being filed. Remember, when you affidavit a judge, you are stating under oath that you do not feel this judge can provide a fair hearing based on your experience and not the experience of others.

The Multnomah Circuit Court bench primarily uses pro tem judges for Summary Judgment motions and currently has only two senior judges available for hearing those motions; please don't wait until almost too late to file your motion for Summary Judgment. Also, think twice

about asking for a sitting judge for assignment to Summary Judgment motions, especially if you are within 60 days of trial, due to limited judicial availability for those assignments.

Judge Matarazzo sees a need for more lawyers to volunteer as pro tem judges for Summary Judgments, including civil lawyers with a plaintiff's side background. She encourages people to apply through the MBA screening process at [www.mbabar.org/courts](http://www.mbabar.org/courts). There is also a need for arbitrators.

### Trial Court Administrator's Report - Barbara Marcille

Barbara Marcille reported that in criminal court, in particular, the unrepresented crisis for criminal defendants is causing substantial problems. In Multnomah County there are over 600 unrepresented individuals who are actively appearing in court in an effort to be appointed counsel, and nearly 1,000 defendants in warrant status who are eligible for public defense appointments. The shortage of public defense capacity is now impacting major felonies, in addition to minor felonies and misdemeanor cases. Moving cases forward is a real challenge in these circumstances.

bono bankruptcy clients reside, because it doesn't change the process of representing them." This response gave me so much hope that if we focus on the client need and not location, together the legal community can make real progress towards expanding services across the state. Michelle went on to explain, "post-COVID shut down, the courts, clients and attorneys have all adapted to, respectively, remote appearances, consultations and practice. Most attorneys that have adapted to a hybrid practice can seamlessly increase access to justice for Oregonians living in rural areas by simply expanding the counties in which they practice."

There is a great need in Oregon for representation in domestic relations cases. According to Oregon Judicial Department 2023 case data, 74% of domestic relations petitioners were self-represented at the time of filing. Which makes pro bono representation in these cases incredibly important. We are extremely thankful for the attorneys who volunteer with LASO to provide family law advice and assistance. London Ballard, an attorney with Morris Family Law, volunteers with multiple LASO pro bono projects providing critical legal assistance. London displays kindness and understanding while providing supportive assistance to her

clients, assisting survivors of abuse with family law matters and contested restraining orders in both metro and rural counties. London explains, "When I first started practicing law, I had no idea I would end up representing clients in smaller, rural counties where there may only be one or two judges sitting on the bench. Yet, over the span of my career, some of my most influential cases have been heard in various rural counties in Oregon. Clients have sought me out because there are only a handful of attorneys in their county. Taking on cases in rural counties, especially on a pro bono basis, can be a really inspiring endeavor and help remind us why we pursued law. And, thanks to remote representation, this can actually be a realistic option for the attorney and the client. Representing folks in rural counties has been a very rewarding experience, and I would encourage others to consider volunteering to help provide more access to legal representation in smaller, rural counties."

Legal Aid Services of Oregon is fortunate to call Derek Ashton, partner at Sussman Shank LLP, a LASO volunteer. Derek is an incredible advocate for pro bono service displayed through his work with LASO's expungement clinic and Domestic Violence Project. Derek utilizes his vast litigation skills and experience representing survivors of abuse

With changes in the law, changes in the pretrial release order, the shortage of defense representation, ever-expanding arraignment dockets, and judicial and staff resources that are stretched thin, the court is working to restructure dockets and procedures to more efficiently manage the cases proceeding toward trial. The court will share updates in the coming months.

The court is implementing new forms and procedures related to the new drug-enforcement misdemeanors, and is working with Multnomah County, the District Attorney's Office, and law enforcement to ensure that cases which are eligible for deflection are given that deflection option. Multnomah County's deflection center is anticipated to open before the end of October. Until then, the deflection services are being made available to eligible defendants through the arraignment docket.

The pace of Fall feels especially busy after the slowdown during the pandemic. In the mornings, particularly Mondays, there can be long lines to enter the Central Courthouse with large pools of jurors arriving and many trials starting. The court continues to work with the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office to get people screened and into the courthouse as quickly as possible.

### Question for the Court?

If you have a question for the court or would like to share feedback about court practices through the Court Liaison Committee, please send your questions or comments to Pamela Hubbs, [pamela@mbabar.org](mailto:pamela@mbabar.org), with "Question for the court" in the subject line.

in court regardless of the county. He recently represented a Deschutes County survivor in two remote contested restraining order hearings. When approached about the case referral, Derek immediately responded "I can cover it." Those few simple words mean a tremendous amount to the survivor who no longer must face her abuser and the court system alone. Derek describes a recent volunteer experience in his straightforward and always professional manner, "I've encountered no issues representing clients around the state. My recent experience in Deschutes County went smoothly, both in meeting with and preparing the client for her contested hearings while using Zoom and with the court itself for the case presentation. One tip I will pass along relates to exhibits - I recommend early contact with the court to determine the procedure for handling exhibits while appearing remotely."

A kind thank you to all the Oregon attorneys who volunteer their time with LASO, OLC and other nonprofit organizations that provide legal services to low-income communities. Your help is crucial to increasing the availability of legal services to people who cannot afford an attorney. Together we can continue to make a difference.

## The Honorable Christine Martin Judicial Profile

by Shenoa Payne  
MBA Court Liaison Committee

Judge Christine Martin was appointed to the Multnomah County Circuit Court (Position 29) in the Family Law Department in February by Governor Tina Kotek to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Kathryn L. Villa-Smith. Born in Philadelphia, Judge Martin is the daughter of Italian immigrants. Judge Martin has a husband of 29 years and two adult sons, ages 29 and 23.

Judge Martin relocated to Oregon slightly over 20 years ago in 2003, where she obtained her paralegal degree from Pioneer Pacific College and worked as a paralegal for eight years. It was during that time that she was inspired to become a lawyer. Judge Martin worked as a paralegal for personal injury attorney Hala Gores. Gores served as a mentor and example to Judge Martin. As a daughter of immigrants, Judge Martin's family instilled in her the values of sacrifice and hard work; however, they did not view academia as a worthwhile pursuit - especially for girls. Judge Martin was a first-generation college student; she did not attend college until she was in her 30s, and she often doubted that she was smart enough to go to college. Gores believed in Judge Martin and encouraged her to go to law school.

Judge Martin earned her Bachelor of Arts from Marylhurst University in 2011 and her law degree from Lewis & Clark Law School in 2015. She served as a judicial law clerk to former Multnomah County Circuit Court Judge Diana Stuart before serving as a staff attorney at St. Andrew Legal Clinic from 2016-21. She then worked as a juvenile public defender at Multnomah Defenders, Inc. for three years until she was appointed to the bench in 2024. Recognizing that navigating the legal system is particularly challenging for individuals who cannot afford a lawyer and for whom English is not their first language, Judge Martin wanted to provide access to justice and legal representation to those who needed it most. Judge Martin aimed to support clients and advocate for those unable to speak for themselves, giving a voice to the voiceless.

Judge Martin's legal background influences how she approaches her role as a family court judge. The majority of cases that come before the family court involve self-represented litigants. Her experience working at St. Andrew and as a public defender has given her the ability to simplify the law and explain it to non-lawyers who have a tendency to not trust



Hon. Christine Martin

the legal system. She also has extensive experience in trauma-informed care and working with individuals in traumatic spaces. Her experience has also taught her to put away the "normal family system" bias and to work with all sorts of family systems. Judge Martin believes that being a good judge primarily involves listening and being kind to people who are not always having their best day. That is, many litigants simply need to feel heard, which helps them accept the ultimate outcome or decision, even if they don't ultimately agree with it.

Judge Martin believes that self-care is critical to avoiding burnout for both lawyers and judges, especially in an area of the law where trauma is so prevalent. When Judge Martin is not on the bench, you might find her out bird-watching and working on her amateur bird photography skills. Judge Martin also enjoys relaxing with her Maine Coon rescue, "Chili Dog: The Cat," cross-stitching, knitting, and enjoying an episode of "The Real Housewives" or "90 Day Fiancé."

Judge Martin is passionate about educating newer lawyers who are interested in family and juvenile law. She serves as a mentor for new lawyers in the OSB's mentoring program and as an unofficial mentor to many new lawyers. She encourages new lawyers to get court experience, to ask their more experienced peers questions and advice, and to maintain strong boundaries. In the realm of family law, new lawyers can obtain court experience by volunteering for the Children's Representation Project, which involves pro bono representation of children in high conflict divorce and custody matters. The commitment level is on a case-by-case basis. The work is rewarding, helps lawyers obtain valuable experience, and is of great assistance to the court in cases where the parents cannot afford attorneys. To learn more about volunteering for the Children's Representation Project, contact Judge Martin at [christine.a.martin@ojd.state.or.us](mailto:christine.a.martin@ojd.state.or.us).

## 2025 MBA Professionalism, Diversity, Merit and Pro Bono Awards Nominations Due November 1

### Professionalism Award

Do you know a lawyer who is a pleasure to work with as both an ally and an adversary, regularly goes beyond minimum ethical and professionalism standards, and often mentors others and works to improve the quality of our practice as a whole? We strongly encourage you to nominate them for the 2025 MBA Professionalism Award. Any MBA practicing attorney member, except a member of the MBA Professionalism Committee or the MBA Board of Directors, is eligible to receive this award.

Esteemed award recipients include Raymond Conboy, Thomas H. Tongue, Randall B. Kester, Frank Noonan Jr., Donald W. McEwen, Don H. Marmaduke, Noreen K. Saltveit McGraw, Thomas E. Cooney, John D. Ryan, George H. Fraser, Barrie Herbold, Walter H. Sweek, Daniel E. O'Leary, Mark R. Wada, Sandra A. Hansberger, Robert C. Weaver, Walter H. Grebe, Susan M. Hammer, Carl R. Neil, Jeffrey M. Batchelor, Judy D. Snyder, Garry L. Kahn, Michael D. Schrunk, Edwin A. Harnden, Thomas W. Brown, Mark Johnson Roberts, Robin J. Selig, Bonnie Richardson, Jane Paulson, Carolyn Walker, Robert Joondeph, Judge Rima I. Ghandour, Alice Cuprill-Comas, David B. Markowitz and Liani J. Reeves.

### Diversity Award

The MBA Diversity Award honors individual attorneys, legal employers, or other legal organizations that have made a longstanding commitment to furthering diversity and inclusion in the MBA and Multnomah County legal community. The award spotlights the various efforts of individuals, legal

employers, or legal organizations in fostering a culture of diversity and inclusion, and encourages others in their own efforts.

Do you know of an individual attorney, legal employer, or other legal organization that has shown a long-term commitment to fostering diversity and inclusion in the MBA and Multnomah County legal community? If so, please complete a nomination form for the MBA Diversity Award. The nomination should include the efforts made, the impact of those efforts, and how the individual, legal employer, or legal organization exemplifies the principles set forth in the MBA Statement of Diversity.

Esteemed award recipients include Justice Aruna Masih, Ernest Warren, Hala Gores, Kamron Graham, Diane Sykes, Parna Mehrbani, Derily Bechthold, Judge Rima I. Ghandour and Portland State University Student Legal Services.

The concept of "diversity" is made up of many dimensions that make it difficult to define. To the MBA, diversity is "an inclusive concept" that "encompasses, without limitation, race, color, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, religion, nationality, age, disability and marital and parental status." The MBA also recognizes that "achieving diversity is an evolutionary process that requires a continued renewal of our commitment to strategies of inclusion." (*MBA Statement of Diversity Principles*)

### Merit Award

The MBA Merit Award recognizes and honors those who have made significant recent contributions to the MBA's mission of promoting justice through service, education or

leadership to the MBA, legal profession or community.

### Pro Bono Awards

The pro bono awards recognize lawyers who provide pro bono assistance to low-income and underserved members of our community to reduce barriers to justice and provide access to the legal system. Recipients are screened and selected by the MBA/Legal Aid Services of Oregon (LASO)/Oregon Law Center (OLC) Pro Bono Awards Subcommittee.

The **Legal Aid Pro Bono Volunteer of the Year** award is presented to a lawyer (or lawyers) who has displayed an outstanding commitment to the delivery of critical pro bono services to low-income persons through LASO or OLC.

The **Michael E. Haglund Young Lawyer Award** is presented to a young lawyer (or lawyers) who, in the tradition of Michael Haglund, founder of the Volunteer Lawyers Project, has displayed a particular dedication to pro bono services. A "young lawyer" is a lawyer who is 36 years old or younger OR who has been an attorney licensed for six years or less.

The **Pro Bono Award of Merit** is presented to a lawyer (or lawyers or law firm) who has exhibited the highest standards of commitment to increasing access to justice within Oregon for those unable to afford legal assistance or those from communities underserved by the legal profession.

*Former nominees may be re-nominated. To propose a nominee for any of this year's award selection processes, please complete and return the nomination form(s) available at [www.mbabar.org](http://www.mbabar.org) or contact the MBA at [mba@mbabar.org](mailto:mba@mbabar.org) for more information.*

*Nomination forms are due November 1 to the MBA. The MBA will present the recipients of the Professionalism, Diversity, Merit and Pro Bono awards at the MBA Annual Meeting on May 22, 2025.*

## Civics Learning Project Highlight

by Chris Hughes  
Senior Manager of Community Engagement, Civics Learning Project

On October 29, PBS's new series "Citizen Nation" will feature Oregon's We the People community! We the People is a civics curriculum focused on the Constitution, Bill of Rights, and government. This program culminates in a national simulated congressional hearing competition for students.

This year, two schools supported by Civics Learning Project (CLP) - Lincoln and Grant - competed at nationals, with Grant taking the national title! CLP is thrilled to see Oregon's youth recognized in "Citizen Nation."

CLP, a nonprofit, equips Oregon students with the knowledge and skills to actively participate in democracy through programs including We the People. CLP-supported teams have won six of the last 20 national competitions!

Your support helps keep these impactful programs and fosters the next generation of civic leaders. Make a gift to Civics Learning Project through the QR code today!



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# mba | Young Lawyers Section

## What is the YLS?

An inclusive section of the bar, comprised of any MBA member in practice less than six years or under the age of 36. The YLS provides leadership, networking, professional development and service opportunities. And we have fun!

## Ask the Expert

**Question:** *Why should new attorneys consider getting involved in pro bono work?*

**Suggestion:** Pro bono work can be a terrific way for new attorneys to develop their lawyering skills and gain practical experience while also making meaningful contributions to their community. Pro bono work can also provide opportunities to explore areas of law outside of one's core practice and broaden one's professional contacts. There are many ways to get involved in pro bono work depending on the lawyer's goals and interests.

OSB policies define pro bono services to include "all uncompensated services performed by lawyers for the public good." OSB Policy 12.100. This can include "civic, charitable and public service activities, as well as activities that improve the law, the legal system and the legal profession." OSB Policy 12.100. Unlike many state bar associations, the OSB does not require attorneys to provide a certain number of hours of pro bono services each year but does provide an "aspirational" standard of 80 hours annually, of which it recommends that attorneys devote 20 to 40 hours to cases involving the direct provision of legal services to the poor without an expectation of compensation. OSB Policy 12.100. Attorneys can apply for one hour of MCLE credit for every two hours of direct pro bono representation to low-income clients referred by certified pro bono programs, for up to a total of six MCLE credits per reporting period. MCLE Reg. 5.300.

Pro bono work can involve direct engagement with the pro bono client which, depending on the type of legal services, can

entail an ongoing relationship with the client. Although direct engagement may require a greater time commitment by the attorney, it can allow newer attorneys to take on case leadership roles. For example, newer litigators working on pro bono cases may have greater opportunities to take a central role in case management, strategy decisions, oral arguments, and trial.

Pro bono work can also include limited scope representation through clinics sponsored by legal services organizations that provide free legal help to qualifying individuals. Limited scope representation often entails one-off legal assistance on a discrete issue, involves a lesser time commitment, and generally does not require the attorney to conduct a comprehensive conflict check. Pro bono clinics operated by legal services organizations provide the additional benefit of support and guidance by staff and attorneys with specialized knowledge and experience in the applicable area of law.

Both above types of pro bono engagement can help a new attorney expand their professional network and build important professional and personal relationships. Marketing such work may also help attract and retain clients who prioritize partnerships with firms that value pro bono work and corporate social engagement.

There are plenty of opportunities to engage in pro bono work in Oregon. If you work at a firm, it may have a pro bono program or existing pro bono partnerships with community organizations to get you started. The OSB and MBA websites also maintain directories of local pro bono opportunities.

## Pro Bono Spotlight Brittney Plesser

by Allison Kamilos  
Secretary, YLS Board of Directors

The YLS is thrilled to spotlight attorney Brittney Plesser for her commendable contributions to the community. Brittney works at the Oregon Justice Resource Center (OJRC), a legal nonprofit that works to dismantle mass incarceration and systemic discrimination in the administration of justice by promoting civil rights and by enhancing the quality of legal representation to traditionally underserved communities. OJRC has seven programs: Civil Rights Project, Immigrant Rights Project, Oregon Innocence Project, Women's Justice Project, Youth Justice Project, Legal Support Services, and the FA:IR Law Project of which Brittney is the director.

Brittney moved to Oregon from Los Angeles in 2012 to attend law school at Lewis & Clark, primarily for L&C's strong public interest program. Brittney double-majored in Women's Studies and Business Economics as an undergraduate and always knew she wanted to work in public interest, specifically in relation to abolition activist work. In law school, she focused primarily on civil rights. She worked for the ACLU of Oregon, California Innocence Project, and Oregon Innocence Project and participated in data collection projects, one of which compared sentencing trends in aggravated murder cases.

Brittney did an externship with the Oregon Innocence Project (OIP) during her last year of law school and was sworn in to the OSB in 2015. She was offered a contract position at OIP and eventually was hired as a full-time staff attorney. In that role, she conducted investigations into cases to determine if there was a means to prove the incarcerated individual was innocent. If a case did not meet the requirements for OIP to represent the client, Brittney would often refer the inquirer to another attorney to obtain relief for alternative claims. Her work with the Oregon Innocence Project led to multiple team successes, including the exonerations of five wrongfully convicted Oregonians, one of whom was Earl Bain.

Earl Bain's story is one that many Oregonians are familiar with: he was wrongfully convicted in 2009 by a nonunanimous jury in Malheur County and spent six years in prison, whereafter the victim recanted her story and ever since has maintained the crime did not occur. In 2020, Mr. Bain was pardoned by Governor Kate Brown based on his innocence after Brittney and team fought tirelessly on his behalf for years. After Mr. Bain was pardoned, Oregon Innocence Project continued to advocate on his behalf, and he was just recently provided a compensation settlement for his wrongful conviction.

Mr. Bain has since spoken at legislative sessions about his experience and the importance of

compensation for the wrongfully convicted, which in part led to the legislature codifying ORS 30.657 in July 2023. The statute allows a wrongfully convicted individual to file a petition seeking compensation for the years spent in wrongful imprisonment. If a person is successful, they may receive \$69,000 for each year of imprisonment and \$26,500 for each additional year served on parole or in post-prison supervision, or the years spent registered as a sex offender, whichever is greater. There are numerous cases pending wherein the wrongfully convicted are seeking compensation for the years spent incarcerated.

During the pandemic, Brittney worked with the Civil Rights Project and Sugerman Dahab on a class action lawsuit against the Department of Corrections regarding their response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The case is set for trial in federal court.

In 2021, Brittney and team launched the FA:IR Law Project, and she serves as its director. The project is based on excessive sentencing and manifest injustice issues where innocence is not at play. For example, Brittney led a mass case review of certain types of delivery convictions over many decades which ultimately showed that there were racial disparities among the convictions, and submitted an Amicus Brief to the Supreme Court of Oregon with the data. She also worked on a mass review project out of Wasco County related to the misconduct of a police officer, resulting in the Wasco County DA overturning over 100 convictions.

Brittney also focuses on individual casework that ultimately helps to inform OJRC's policy work to help institute



Brittney Plesser

policy changes at every juncture of the criminal legal system. She obtains referrals directly from people seeking assistance, other OJRC attorneys, and attorneys from other agencies and offices. She leads a team of three other attorneys and a paralegal.

Within OJRC, the Oregon Innocence Project and Civil Rights Project both have volunteer opportunities. Because the work requires continuity over any given matter, it requires a fair amount of dedicated time, which is why OJRC primarily focuses volunteer opportunities on law students. The intern/externs are generally from the three Oregon law schools and offer students a variety of learning opportunities as well as mentorship related to case management and how criminal cases work from trial up through a federal habeas corpus petition.

Grants, individual donations, and state contracts fund OJRC and its programs. OJRC also employs many people who are formerly incarcerated, offering a steppingstone back into the community with a living wage and without judgment. OJRC's work, and Brittney's work with the OJRC, is an inspirational dedication to public interest and the representation and protection of the most vulnerable among us.

*Students and individuals with relevant experience and/or qualifications are invited to volunteer at [www.oregoninnocence.org/volunteer](http://www.oregoninnocence.org/volunteer).*

## yls | EVENT

### YLS Pumpkin Patch Social

Sunday, October 20

1:30-3:30 p.m.

Plumper Pumpkin Patch

1435 NW Old Cornelius Pass Road, Portland

The YLS Membership Committee invites all MBA members and their families to join us for reduced-priced tickets and refreshments. Coffee, cider, and pumpkin doughnuts will be provided at the MBA tent at Plumper Pumpkin Patch. Admission includes hay rides, a corn maze, farm animal petting, slides, yard games, and access to the farm store and pumpkins for purchase.

Feel free to stop by our tent for refreshments from 1:30-3:30pm, and then roam freely with your family. On-site activities for an additional cost include pumpkin and apple cannons, pony rides, and face painting.

Cost: \$14 per guest



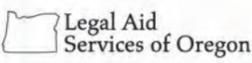
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## Pro Bono Bingo A Fundraiser to Benefit the Volunteer Lawyers Project at Legal Aid Services of Oregon

**Thursday, November 14, 5-6:30 p.m.**  
**Standard Insurance Building Atrium**  
**900 SW Fifth Avenue, Portland**  
**Tickets \$30 - register at [www.mbabar.org](http://www.mbabar.org)**

Join the YLS Pro Bono Committee and your host, famed Portland entertainer Poison Waters, for a lively evening of bingo. All proceeds to benefit the Volunteer Lawyers Project at Legal Aid Services of Oregon. Bingo may be a game of chance, but you're sure to have a good time while also improving access to justice for low-income Oregonians.

### DEI and Judicial Nominations A Fireside Chat with the Honorable Mustafa Kasubhai

Thursday, October 10

5:30-7 p.m.

Davis Wright Tremaine LLP

560 SW 10th Avenue, Suite 700, Portland

Davis Wright Tremaine will host a conversation with the **Honorable Mustafa Kasubhai**, US District Court of Oregon, on judicial appointments and the role of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in nominations and confirmations. Judge Kasubhai will discuss his experiences with DEI in access to the courts and in his experiences as a district judge nominee.

The conversation will be moderated by **Yusuf Zakir**, Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer for Davis Wright Tremaine.

**Attendance is free - register online at [www.bit.ly/dei-noms](http://www.bit.ly/dei-noms)**

*Please Note: Space will be limited for this event. A week beforehand, final information will be sent to those who have received attendance confirmation. Davis Wright Tremaine will seek OSB MCLE credit. Contact Yusuf Zakir at [YusufZakir@dwt.com](mailto:YusufZakir@dwt.com) with questions.*

Register at [www.bit.ly/dei-noms](http://www.bit.ly/dei-noms)

## 2025 Imprint Project

**Read a great book and correspond with local high school students**

Sign up to volunteer at [www.mbabar.org/imprint](http://www.mbabar.org/imprint)

This popular program is sponsored by the YLS Service to the Public Committee and is a way for Parkrose High School students to connect with attorneys and judges in their community. The program also provides an opportunity for the students to develop written and analytical skills.

Beginning in January, each student is paired with a volunteer, and both are assigned to read the same novel over a two- to three-month period. The pen pals then exchange a series of letters by mail, discussing their lives and interests as well as the portion of the novel that was read that week.

There is an opportunity for the student and volunteer to meet during the program-end

celebration held at the school (details TBA).

New volunteers are invited to attend a January virtual orientation (a recording of which will be available) and orientation materials will be provided to all volunteers.

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*Samuels Yoelin Kantor attorneys Daniela Holgate, Eric Wieland, Valerie Sasaki, Chris Costantino, Walker Clark, Elizabeth Munns, Tim Resch, Leslie Johnson and Victoria Blachly.*

Samuels Yoelin Kantor LLP is proud to announce that Victoria Blachly, Chris Costantino, Leslie Johnson, Elizabeth Munns, Tim Resch, Valerie Sasaki and Eric Wieland have been named 2024 Oregon Super Lawyers.<sup>®</sup> In addition, Daniela Holgate and Walker Clark have been recognized as 2024 Rising Stars by the organization.

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## Pro Bono Volunteers

Thank you to the following lawyers who recently donated their pro bono services to the Volunteer Lawyers Project at Legal Aid Services of Oregon.

Visit [www.mbabar.org/probono](http://www.mbabar.org/probono) to discover pro bono opportunities in Multnomah County.

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# Willamette Law Student's Genuine Desire to Help Others Makes an Impact

by Jessica Rotter  
 Communications Manager, Office of Career Planning & Development  
 Willamette University College of Law

Growing up in Indiana, Faith O'Malley JD'24 never imagined herself as an attorney. Her perception of lawyers was shaped by TV shows like "Law & Order," and she didn't think she had the typical "lawyer personality" portrayed on screen. However, she always had a deep desire to help others and to fight for justice.

After earning her undergraduate degree, O'Malley worked a few odd jobs before ending up in fundraising - a career path that appealed to her desire to help others. Volunteering for Catholic Charities' refugee resettlement division sparked the idea of becoming an attorney in O'Malley's mind. Watching attorneys make phone calls, fill out paperwork, and guide newly arriving refugees through difficult and often tumultuous situations made her realize that being an attorney involved more than just arguing in court. This felt like something she could really do, and it helped that she could actually change people's lives.

She reached out to a local attorney in Portland and began to more seriously pursue the idea of going to law school. But it didn't happen overnight. In fact, it took four more years for her to eventually apply to law school.

"When you are out of school and working full time, it is hard to take such a big leap," O'Malley shares, "but I couldn't get the idea out of my head and eventually I just dove in head first and applied." This leap led her to finding her true passion and purpose.

Throughout law school, O'Malley grew both as a future attorney but also as a fierce advocate for others, her time at Willamette Law serves as a shining example of her dedication to fighting for justice for others. During her 1L year, she partnered with her fellow law students to found the Willamette University Immigration Law Association - a student organization that helped to raise visibility for immigration law, both on campus and in the local community, through speakers and pro bono events.

Even in keeping up with the demands of law school and involvement with student organizations, O'Malley prioritized finding opportunities for legal volunteer work, though she quickly realized that there were numerous roadblocks. It was tough to find organizations to work with as many local public interest firms did not have pro bono opportunities for law students.

"It is a disservice to students, but also to the greater community, when there are a number of unnecessary obstacles in place preventing people from volunteering," O'Malley shares. She knew that she had the ability to change that. By joining the Pro Bono Honors Program, and later advocating for and serving in the role of Pro Bono Chair of WUPILP, O'Malley created volunteer opportunities for students and local organizations, better serving the community.



Faith O'Malley

In fact, nearly a week after Associate Dean for Career Planning & Development Tomás Hernandez started at Willamette Law, he had a knock on his door from O'Malley ready to talk about the Pro Bono Honors Program. Immediately, he could see that not only was she deeply passionate about serving others, but she also was one of the rare students who was willing to roll up her sleeves and get things done.

"She is tenacious, takes initiative, and has a heart of gold," shares Hernandez, "It is the perfect combination for getting real work done."

While O'Malley's dedication to helping others while also setting up systems that are sustainable for future students to carry on her work after graduation is evident, she has also committed herself to embracing every opportunity in law school she possibly could.

Now, O'Malley has graduated from Willamette Law and has started working in her dream role at LeDuc Montgomery, LLC as one of the first Supervised Practice Portfolio Examination (SPPE) Fellows. She remains committed to both participating in and encouraging pro bono work and was recently appointed to serve on the MBA Young Lawyers Section Pro Bono

Committee. As she prepares to attend her first committee meeting, O'Malley is already thinking about how she can encourage young lawyers to consider pro bono work.

"I think it is important for young lawyers to engage in pro bono work because there is a lot of need in our communities that lawyers are uniquely positioned to fill," she shares. "Integrating pro bono work into your practice early gives you space to keep doing pro bono work as you get further into your career."

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SCAN ME

# Great GOODness at Lewis & Clark Law School

by Kyle Johnson  
 Director of Public Interest Law, Lewis & Clark Law School



The Lewis & Clark Law School campus is abuzz with *for the public good* education and activities. Our Certificate in Public Interest Law, Pro Bono & Community Service Awards, Law School Clinics, and a variety of other activities and programs provide an educational foundation and institutional support for those wanting to make a positive social impact without personal gain. We welcome MBA members to help through volunteering or donations.

L&C's Public Interest Law program is nationally-recognized. *U.S. News & World Report* listed L&C Law on a list of 15 top schools for civil rights and social justice. We are third in the nation for public service employment. Nearly half of our recent graduates are employed in the public sector. To earn a Certificate in Public Interest Law, JD students must earn at least a B letter-grade-equivalent in certificate-approved courses. Specialty courses include Poverty and the Law, Reproductive Rights and Justice, and Public Interest Lawyering. Certificate applicants must write a Capstone-level paper concerning one or more topics focusing on public interest law and report at least 50 hours of pro bono work. Our program continues to evolve, grow, and rise to the challenges facing the greater good.

Our Pro Bono & Community Service Awards acknowledge substantial volunteer work.

Students report 30 or more hours of pro bono or community service work in a school year to qualify for an award, a notation on their transcript, and recognition in the commencement program. For the 2023-24 year, L&C Law students reported thousands of community service or pro bono hours (including hours worked in excess of those required during externships) at over 70 organizations. Participating organizations at the local, state, and national level include Portland State University Student Legal Services, the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization, and the US Senate Judiciary Committee. Several graduates even earned the Pro Bono or the Community Service Honors Award during multiple years while in law school. Our students contribute to the greater good even before they earn their bar number.

L&C Law School Clinics provide students a chance to practice law and render direct services. Students represent low-income persons and communities and nonprofit organizations with the two-fold goal of providing the community with the legal help it needs and training the next generation of lawyers who are compassionate and ready to give back. Through the Low Income Taxpayer Clinic, students often appear before the US Tax Court and US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Small Business Legal Clinic students guide artists, restaurateurs, inventors and many other enterprising people of Oregon, so that they can avoid common missteps and ensure the success of their businesses. Through these and other clinics - specializing in animal law, criminal law, or environmental and international law - students learn the practical skills necessary to be a successful attorney and the community

benefits from legal services rendered to those who might not otherwise be able to access them.

The Public Interest Law program offers numerous other activities and programming. Organizations and students connect at the annual Pro Bono & Community Service Fair. The student-run Public Interest Law Project (PILP) auction - to be held March 8, 2025 - raises funds to support students working at nonprofits during the summer. A new PILP project is the 1L Initial Foundational Experience, where 1Ls work four hours every other Friday under the supervision of a public interest attorney. Another

new program this fall is the Free Legal Answers workshops where volunteer attorneys coach volunteer students in answering discrete questions submitted by low-income clients through an online portal. In addition, the Lezak Social Justice Fellowship, PILP stipends, L&C's Loan Repayment Assistance Program, and several other stipends make working in public interest jobs more affordable. This October, we honor Public Interest Month with over half a dozen lunchtime panels, guest speaker events, and community mixers throughout the month.

Attorney involvement makes these programs, activities, and experiential learning opportunities possible. We welcome attorneys who want to mentor a student in coursework, in authoring a paper, or in earning pro bono credit. CLE credit may be earned! Your tax-deductible donations to these programs directly impact the financial viability of students' work and recent graduates' nascent careers. If you are interested in contributing to the next generation of civic-minded lawyers, please contact me at 503.768.6609 or kdjohnson@lclark.edu.

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# John Moot and the Campaign for Equal Justice Announce a New Pro Bono Matching Program

by Ayla Ercin  
Executive Director, Campaign for Equal Justice

The fight for justice for domestic violence survivors is about to receive a powerful boost, thanks to a generous matching gift from John Moot, a retired attorney with a distinguished career in Washington, DC, and a track record of working to increase access to justice.

John Moot, who moved to Oregon after practicing energy law as a partner at Skadden Arps and a stint as the General Counsel of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, has committed to a pro bono matching campaign focused on increasing help for survivors of domestic violence through matching donations of time or money. This initiative is designed to encourage lawyer volunteers to take new pro bono cases, and to increase the resources available for domestic violence survivors attempting to navigate the justice system.

### A Commitment to Justice

Moot represented energy companies at the highest levels, but made time to represent those in need through pro bono work, including volunteer work for the

Innocence Project, tenants facing disputes with their landlord, and in death penalty litigation.

He started working in domestic violence as a volunteer through the George Washington University Law Domestic Legal Action Violence Project, which sought out cutting edge appellate cases to join as amicus curiae to better educate the courts on the unique dynamics of domestic violence cases. He also learned that pro bono cases can bring invaluable training and early experience at the highest levels. As only a fourth-year lawyer, he litigated on behalf of a federal inmate seeking property rights in an important manufacturing innovation the inmate made while working in a prison job program. The case brought Moot before eleven judges of an en banc US Court of Appeals, and almost to the Supreme Court, before it ultimately denied cert in the case.

After relocating to Oregon to retire early and marry his wife, Lara Skidmore, a Portland attorney, Moot focused on the pro bono representation of domestic



John Moot

violence survivors in restraining order cases through Legal Aid Services of Oregon (LASO)'s Volunteer Lawyers Project.

Moot emphasized that LASO equipped him with the training and resources to confidently represent survivors in restraining order cases, despite not being steeped in Oregon civil practice. "The Legal Aid training materials and sessions help any lawyer not familiar with domestic violence work to feel confident in the process," he says. He believes that the experience young lawyers receive in this type of representation is both invaluable training and incredibly rewarding. Advocating for a client's safety in such critical circumstances can bring tremendous satisfaction to volunteer attorneys.

### The Matching Campaign: Amplifying Impact

Moot is a longtime supporter of legal aid and previously funded,

in his wife Lara's memory, a full-time attorney position focusing exclusively on domestic violence cases. In this new effort, he is again partnering with the Campaign for Equal Justice to encourage lawyers to take on domestic violence cases as pro bono volunteers.

The new program will match volunteer commitments with dollar donations to amplify the impact of volunteer work, and to make volunteer efforts go even farther. For each LASO restraining order case taken by a volunteer attorney, Moot has generously committed to donating \$2,000 to legal aid, up to a \$100,000 maximum. The full matching program will roll out a dollar matching component later in the year. The program will kick off with a free CLE training on October 8 at Stoel Rives, followed by a pro bono reception in honor of current and future pro bono volunteers.

Interested volunteers are encouraged to register for the free CLE training focusing on FAPA restraining order hearings, and are invited to stay for the pro bono reception that will follow. Interested attorneys can register at <https://bit.ly/cej-probono-cle>.

### Why Volunteer?

"I believe every lawyer should try to give back to those who cannot afford representation in any way that is meaningful to them," Moot explains. "Our court system is often too complicated for anyone, particularly a domestic violence

victim, to adequately protect their rights appearing pro se." Restraining order cases are critically important, where the lack of legal representation can undermine the safety of victims and young lawyers can gain valuable trial experience. Moot's experience proves that, with the right support and training, any lawyer can make a significant impact. His matching gift serves as both an incentive and a call to action for more legal professionals to provide this life-saving support to those in need.

### Join the Campaign

This matching gift is an incredible opportunity to make a tangible difference in the lives of domestic violence survivors. We invite you to join John Moot in this vital effort by signing up for a free CLE training, or volunteering to take a DV case by contacting Jill Mallery, LASO's statewide pro bono manager, at [jill.mallery@lasoregon.org](mailto:jill.mallery@lasoregon.org). Together, we can provide the resources, representation, and support survivors need to rebuild their lives free from fear.

Let's stand together for justice and safety, ensuring that no one has to face their abuser in court alone.

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## Resources for Pro Bono Attorneys

### LOCAL RESOURCES

#### Pro Bono Oregon

[www.probonooregon.org](http://www.probonooregon.org)

This statewide pro bono website is sponsored by the legal aid community in Oregon. The site features pro bono opportunities around the state, specific case opportunities and resources. Sign up for a free membership to access the resource library as well as free CLE seminars for pro bono attorneys.

#### Multnomah Bar Association

[www.mbar.org/probono](http://www.mbar.org/probono)

Browse a list of local pro bono opportunities.

#### Oregon State Bar

[www.osbar.org/probono](http://www.osbar.org/probono)

Find information on pro bono in Oregon that includes volunteer opportunities, pro bono hours reporting, MCLE credit for volunteering, attorney resources, PLF coverage for pro bono, pro bono committees and types of membership status based on pro bono activities.

#### Oregon Renters' Rights

[www.oregonrentersrights.org](http://www.oregonrentersrights.org)

Legal information and self-help guides about renters' rights.

#### Oregon Law Help

[www.oregonlawhelp.org](http://www.oregonlawhelp.org)

Free legal information to low-income Oregonians is provided through this one-stop statewide website sponsored by legal aid offices in Oregon. Self-help handbooks are available for

download and feature applicable statutes, remedies, forms and sample letters. These handbooks are great primers for the basics in some common areas of law.

#### 211 Social Services Referral

[www.211info.org](http://www.211info.org)

211 provides assistance in finding health and community organizations in Oregon and SW Washington. Professional intake staff is available 24 hours a day by dialing 211 on your phone, or access the referral system through the website.

### NATIONAL RESOURCES

#### American Bar Association

[www.americanbar.org/groups/probono\\_public\\_service](http://www.americanbar.org/groups/probono_public_service)

[www.americanbar.org/groups/center-pro-bono](http://www.americanbar.org/groups/center-pro-bono)

The ABA Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service and the ABA's Center for Pro Bono are national sources for pro bono information and resources.

#### The Pro Bono Institute

[www.probonoinst.org](http://www.probonoinst.org)

The institute specializes in supporting the pro bono work of law firms and corporate legal departments.

#### Pro Bono Net

[www.probono.net/network](http://www.probono.net/network)

This site provides regional, national and international resources for attorneys working to assist low-income clients.



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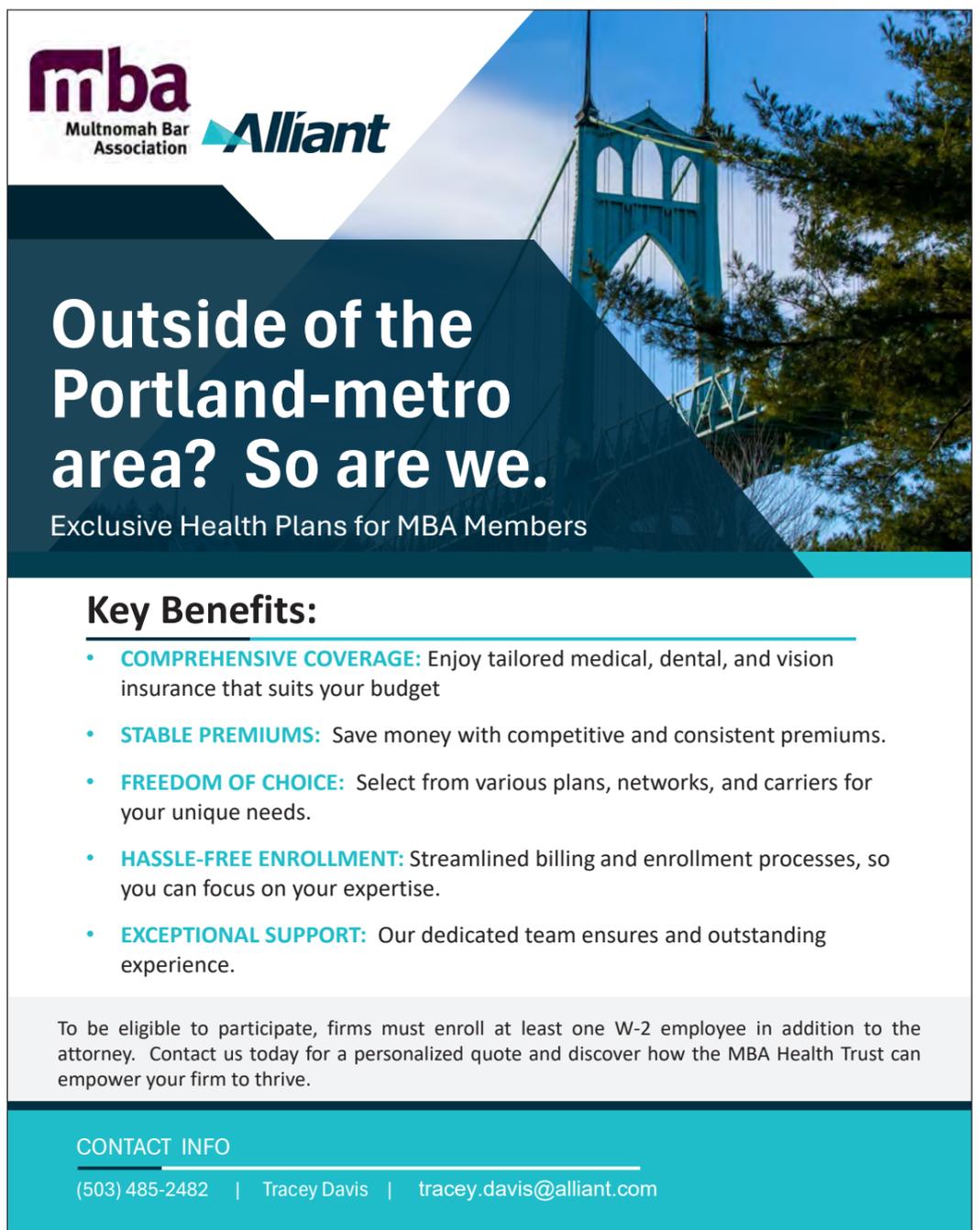
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