

MULTNOMAH BAR ASSOCIATION

A Century of Service

1906 - 2006



100 Years

CHAPTER ONE

Raising the Bar

1906 - 1920



Members of the Portland Law Association, 1866.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO, Multnomah County was in transition between its rough-and-tumble pioneer history and a new era of explosive growth and modernity. Portland-area lawyers had long been involved in precedent-setting cases and issues, but for decades Multnomah County lacked its own association of lawyers. That changed in 1906, when a few dozen attorneys began meeting to discuss the formation of a county bar association.

At their first meeting on February 3, 1906, the lawyers laid out principles and priorities that became the foundation on which the new bar association would be built. "Spirited speeches were heard," the century-old minutes tell us, "whose authors emphatically declared that such an association should be strictly non-partisan and non-political."

Workers tear down the original Multnomah County Courthouse in 1911.



On February 17, the constitution and bylaws of the Multnomah Bar Association were formally adopted, with 57 lawyers signing on as members. The constitution required members to pay an admission fee of \$2.50 and annual dues of \$1 thereafter.

From its earliest days, the MBA sought to positively influence the legislative process in ways consistent with its nonpartisan ethic. Documents from 1909, for example, show that the MBA strongly opposed a bill that would have allowed corporations to act as guardians, receivers or executors. And the MBA grew increasingly concerned about the fairness of Multnomah County's jury system, following reports of "professional jurors" (who repeatedly appeared in jury pools) and jury tampering by insurance companies and corporations.

With the number of lawyers in Oregon rising in step with the rest of the fast-growing population, the MBA kept a watchful eye on the quality of the legal profession. One founding member made the memorable suggestion "that lawyers who are a nuisance in the county should be done away with." The MBA took a decidedly more measured approach in 1914, when it appointed a committee to conceive and work toward passage of a new law prohibiting the unlawful practice of law in Oregon. The same year, an MBA member alerted the Association to predatory practices he had learned about, involving a lawyer and an insurance adjustor who presented their business cards to the family of a laborer who had just been killed in a Portland Heights explosion. "I would gladly assist," wrote the member, "in the prosecution in any action

Object of the Multnomah County Bar Association, as set forth in its constitution on February 17, 1906:

"To raise and maintain the dignity and honor of the legal profession, and to prevent it from degenerating into a business; to increase its usefulness in promoting the due administration of Justice; to cultivate social intercourse among its members, and to enforce such discipline among its members as shall promote the observance of dignity and courtesy among the members of both bar and bench, and prevent unprofessional conduct; and to recommend, advocate and work for the enactment of such laws as shall promote good government."

1906

MBA launches with 57 charter members (all male); annual dues are \$1



George Shephard, Portland lawyer charter member

1907

Portland holds first Rose Festival

1910

MBA has 235 members



1910

MBA organizes banquet to honor Judge George H. Williams and his 66 years of service in the legal profession

1912

State referendum giving women the right to vote passes in Oregon



Mattie Sleeth, first woman juror in Oregon

1913

Annual dues increase to \$3

Multnomah County Courthouse, view from South Park Blocks, 1916.

1906 Schedule of Minimum Fees

(Excerpt)

Oral Advice	\$2.50
Opinion Letter . . .	\$10.00
Organizing	
Corporations . . .	\$25.00
Capital stock under \$5,000	
Criminal Cases . . .	\$25.00
County Court	
Bankruptcy	\$50.00
Assets over \$100 in value	
Felony	\$50.00
Murder	\$250.00



necessary to eliminate such trash from our bar.”

By 1910, MBA membership had grown from 57 to 235, and the MBA had begun hosting speakers on a variety of topics at its meetings and annual banquets. In 1909, for example, Judge George Shepherd gave a talk on the “Ethics and Demeanor” of judges. And Mrs. Ella Crim Lynch addressed the MBA the same year on “Feminine Practitioners at the Bar.” Standing in front of an all-male audience, Lynch “did then and there skillfully direct the searchlight of

interest upon the feminine practitioners at the Bar, the revelations concerning whom were seemingly appreciated by those present.”

The “searchlight of interest” also shone on a topic that would concern the MBA for many years to come: relations between the legal profession and the press. At the MBA’s annual banquet in 1914, attendees heard presentations on “What the Press Thinks of the Bar” and “What the Bar Thinks of the Press.”

In the nonpartisan spirit that had guided the MBA since its inception, the MBA moved unanimously in 1910 to nominate and elect judges without regard to politics. “RESOLVED,” read the motion, “that the Multnomah Bar Association is in favor of nominating and electing judges without regard to their political opinions or affiliations, because judges are required to decide questions presented to them upon legal and not upon political considerations.” In 1912, the state bar voted to adopt this principle in its own recommendations of Supreme Court judges.

The MBA’s commitment to an independent judiciary did not, however, equate to political indifference. In fact, candidates for local and statewide offices sought out and received frequent audiences with MBA members. In 1917, for example, several Portland mayoral candidates addressed the MBA, including George Baker, who went on to win the election. Being “grilled” by a roomful of tough-minded lawyers, as the minutes reflect, was surely one of the more significant challenges faced by the candidates on the campaign trail.

National issues, too, were much discussed within the MBA. In 1915, a year into the conflict that would become World War I, Oregon Senator (and former governor) George Chamberlain approached the MBA with his urgent concern that the U.S. military was undermanned, underequipped, and “in no condition to engage in war with any country, even Mexico.” In response,

Equal Access to Justice

The right of all people to competent legal representation, regardless of their ability to pay for it, has always been a core MBA value. Minutes from October 30, 1917, reveal early progress toward a proud tradition:

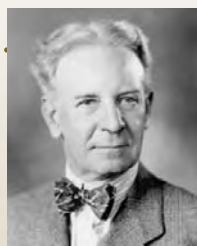
“Mr. A.R. Gephart, general secretary of the Public Welfare Bureau, addressed the meeting relative to the work of that bureau. He stated that much work was done for the poor and needy and that many cases came before them requiring the services of an attorney for which they were unable to pay. He requested that the Bar Association cooperate with the Bureau in furthering this work, by appointing one or more attorneys who would assist without compensation. Upon motion by Mr. George Shepherd, seconded by Judge Pines, the president was authorized to appoint a committee of three.”

1914

MBA committee seeks to obtain passage of a new law prohibiting the unlawful practice of law in Oregon

1915

MBA committee established to confer with judges in “formulating and enacting uniform rules of procedure for the Circuit Court of Multnomah County”



Lotus Lee Langley, MBA President 1916-17

1917

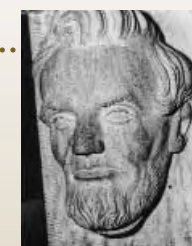
Interstate Bridge opens, connecting Portland to Vancouver

1917

MBA passes resolution to work with Public Welfare Bureau in providing pro bono legal services to the needy

1918

MBA committee appointed to “devise ways and means whereby the Bar can be of service in the harvesting of Oregon crops”



1919

MBA goes on record “approving the principles of a non-political judiciary”

McCants Stewart: Pioneer for Equality

On passing the Oregon state bar exam in 1903, McCants Stewart became the state's first African-American lawyer. In addition to his work as a sole practitioner in Portland, Stewart cofounded *The Advocate*, Portland's second-oldest black newspaper. A highlight of his legal career came in 1906, when Oliver Taylor sued Portland's Star Theatre after being denied seating there because of his race. Stewart argued before the Oregon Supreme Court that the theater had a duty to combat discrimination and ensure equal rights for blacks. The Court ruled in favor of Mr. Stewart's client, the plaintiff, but on the grounds that he had an enforceable claim for breach of contract represented by the theater's issuance of the ticket.

Though committed to Booker T. Washington's philosophy of black economic empowerment, Stewart also believed that progress would come only with a proactive struggle for civil rights. Sadly, he was unable to make a decent living in Portland; and after trying unsuccessfully to establish a viable practice in San Francisco, he died by his own hand at the age of 42.



the MBA unanimously passed a resolution expressing its desire that "Congress provide ways and means both by adequate appropriations of money and the adoption of proper articles of war and other recommendations of the War College of the United States to place the United States in a proper condition to defend herself in case of war."

By the end of the teens, many of today's prominent law firms had already become well established. Wood Tatum Sanders & Murphy, for example, traces its roots to Durham & Ball, whose 1870 founding makes the Wood firm Portland's oldest. Other legal ancestors include Carey & Kerr, which grew into Stoel Rives LLP; McCamant, Bronaugh & Thompson, which paved the way for Miller Nash LLP; the insurance defense firm of Wilbur & Spencer, the progenitor of Schwabe Williamson & Wyatt; and Dey, Hampson & Nelson, which later became Lane Powell PC.

By 1920, more than 225,000 Oregonians made their home in Multnomah County, including nearly 600 lawyers.

CHAPTER TWO
Boom and Bust
1921 - 1940

IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE GREAT WAR, Oregon's legal community addressed the new challenges and priorities that were shaping the future of our fast-growing state. Concerns around land use became more prominent, and the idea of city planning began to take root. In 1923, Oregon cities were authorized to create plans for their growth and design, and to make zoning decisions in the context of those plans. Planning would not be mandatory for a few more decades, but the evolution of "ownership" into "stewardship" was underway.

Also evolving during this time was the role of women in the legal profession. In 1926, Mary Jane Spurlin's appointment to the Multnomah County District Court made her the first woman to hold a countywide judicial office in Oregon. Five years later, Dorothy McCullough Lee and Gladys M. Everett established what is believed to be the state's first all-women law firm. These partners continued to blaze trails in Portland: Everett later became the city's first woman municipal judge (pro tem), and Lee went on to serve as Portland's first woman city commissioner and first woman mayor (1949).

Women's progress did not come easily, however. Opportunities were limited for women lawyers, and the profession did little to encourage women to pursue careers in law. Furthermore, women lawyers faced additional challenges if their husbands also practiced law,



Dorothy McCullough Lee,
Portland's first woman mayor,
1949.

6

7

1919
MBA receives letters from returning soldiers seeking work; MBA appoints committee to "do everything in their power to secure positions for all such applicants"

1922
Judiciary Committee created to help secure appointment of additional judges to relieve Circuit Court's congested docket



1925
MBA passes resolution to affiliate with and accept membership in Oregon Bar Association, predecessor to OSB

1926
Mary Jane Spurlin appointed to Multnomah County District Court - first woman to hold countywide judicial office in Oregon

1931
Construction of St. Johns Bridge completed



1935
MBA praised for its efforts to improve state laws that "protect peace officers in the discharge of public duty"



The 1908 National Suffrage Convention is held in Portland.

as Caroline Phillips Stoel learned in the 1930s. Stoel excelled at Duke Law School, graduating ahead of her husband, Tom Stoel, and just behind a classmate by the name of Richard M. Nixon. But even after she passed the Oregon State Bar exam in 1938 (the only woman to do so that year) and her husband found work, she was advised not to look for a job as a lawyer because Portland firms had a policy against hiring a lawyer whose spouse was already practicing in Portland. Stoel turned her considerable talents to history, later joining the faculty of Portland State University, where she was a distinguished and popular professor.

As the twenties roared and Multnomah County boomed, the MBA worked toward “securing the appointment of additional judges to assist in relieving the congestion of the trial docket.” The need for more judges was a perennial concern, brought up repeatedly at MBA meetings throughout the decade. By 1929, the legislature had finally given Multnomah County the funding it sought, and a special MBA committee was formed to select “suitable persons to be recommended to the Governor of the State to fill the newly created Circuit Court Judgeships.” The Judicial Screening Committee still performs this valuable service today.

More than 800 lawyers were practicing in Multnomah County when the Great Depression hit, and they struggled for survival along with the rest of the community. After flourishing for decades, the legal profession now clung to survival while the economic storm raged. The same was true for many local corporations. The financial disaster at PEPCO, a forerunner of Portland General Electric, led to one of the more complicated bankruptcy cases of the time. PEPCO’s independent trustees were represented by Ralph King, a partner in the firm that later became Miller Nash LLP.

With fresh urgency, the MBA continued exploring ways to provide useful, accessible services to the community. In 1935, the MBA approved a member’s proposal that it look into “the desirability of listing a group of attorneys to represent indigent litigants in the Courts of this county and that the Courts be furnished such a list.” Thus the economic challenges of the 1930s gave rise to the Multnomah County Legal Aid office, which provided legal services to people who otherwise would not have been able to afford it. The MBA established the office with grants from the Works Progress Administration and United Good Neighbors.

With the legal profession becoming increasingly competitive, the MBA had to reconsider its traditional mistrust of any influence that could lead the profession to “degenerat[e] into a business.” In a market in which banks, trust companies and “other outside business concerns” were advertising their own legal services, the MBA began to consider the advantages of marketing. In 1935, a special committee was appointed to

A Whale of a Time

As if sensing the county’s need for diversion during tough financial times, a young whale found its way from the ocean to the banks of the Columbia Slough in 1931. Word of the visitor spread, and crowds flocked to the river to see the oddity for themselves.

Sadly, the entertainment — and the whale’s life — came to a sudden end when two local men killed the animal with improvised harpoons. A legal battle ensued: Who owned the carcass, the killers or the state? The public continued to travel for a glimpse of the whale — not to the Columbia Slough but to the courtyard of the Multnomah County Courthouse, where the whale lay on display while the legal dispute played out.

1935

Oregon Bar Association reorganizes as Oregon State Bar Association (OSB)



OSB first Board of Governors

1935

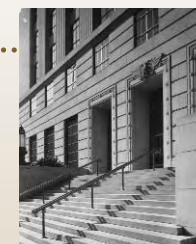
MBA approves motion to reach out to Bar Association of Washington so that “amenity between the Oregon and the Washington lawyers would be renewed”

1936

The first Legal Aid Office opens in Portland. Director and MBA employee Janet Starkey and staff take calls from over thirty indigent persons seeking assistance

1937

MBA votes in special meeting to oppose President Roosevelt’s plan to reorganize the federal courts

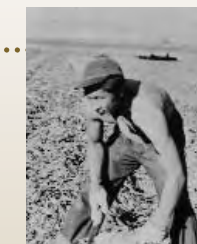


1938

Bullivant opens its Portland office; the firm has since expanded into four western states

1942

City Council adopts resolution urging federal government to evacuate citizens of Japanese descent from area



An Integrated Bar

Mounting statewide concern over unethical conduct in the profession and unauthorized legal practice led to the creation of the Oregon State Bar, which was integrated with the judicial system and which all practicing lawyers in the state were required to join. Suggestions that all Oregon lawyers belong to a mandatory bar association had not gathered much support in the past. But with the growing need for oversight and enforcement of professional discipline, the legislature finally voted in 1935 to create the OSB and its Board of Bar Governors.



Multnomah County Courthouse, 1934.

assess these advantages, and the MBA soon ran its first newspaper and radio ads.

The 1930s brought more frequent meetings for the MBA, which began to have monthly dinners in addition to a special annual meeting. There was also a

flowering of committees during this era, as MBA members involved themselves in a wide range of activities. Committees included Radio, Publicity, Membership, Americanization, Schedule of Minimum Fees, Legislation, Cooperation Between County and State Bar and Legal Aid. And in any review of committees past and present, one would be remiss in neglecting to mention the Board's unanimous vote in 1937 to form a permanent "Lawyers Golf Association." For a membership fee of \$2 and an annual fee of \$3, members could play in three to five golf tournaments a year.

CHAPTER THREE
The War Years: Recovery and Prosperity
1941 - 1960

WITH AMERICA'S INVOLVEMENT IN WORLD WAR II, about 20 percent of Multnomah County's lawyers left for military service. Those who remained helped the war effort in their capacity as civilians, and they also dealt with the new legal issues ushered in by the war. One aspect of the war generated major controversy, especially on the West Coast: the new laws limiting the civil liberties of Americans of Japanese descent. In 1942, Minoru Yasui, a member of the Oregon State Bar, turned a late-night walk along downtown Portland's Third Avenue into an act of civil disobedience when he walked into a police station. Yasui's aim was to defy a new curfew for "enemy aliens and persons of Japanese ancestry." He was convicted of a federal misdemeanor in U.S. District Court, beginning a legal battle that would continue for decades. His federal conviction was finally vacated in 1984, two years before his death.

As veteran soldiers began returning from the war to resume their lives as lawyers, the OSB offered new classes to help them

Japanese laborers work on a beet farm in Malheur County (1943), where a labor shortage meant they were allowed to live outside of camps in the internment period.



"I would prefer a thousand times over to die as an American in defense of American principles rather than live in comparative comfort of an internment camp as an alien Japanese."

MINORU YASUI, appearing in U.S. District Court,

1946

National Association of Claimants' Compensation Attorneys, later to become the Association of Trial Lawyers of America, founded in Portland

1948

Queen's Bench founded by Multnomah County women lawyers

Helen Althaus



1948

Vanport Flood: Columbia River overflows and devastates North Portland



1955

MBA's weekly radio broadcast, "What's the Law?" begins airing on KGW



1955

Annual dues increase to \$5

1957

Oregon Legislature enacts Fair Housing Act

On the Air!

In June 1955, the MBA took to the airwaves with a weekly broadcast on KGW called "What's the Law?" This informational program was a hit with the public, thanks to shows such as:

"Case of the Rampaging Roller Skate"

"Case of the Careless Claimant"

"Case of the Lonesome Grandfather"

"Case of the Perambulating Prospector"

"Case of Paul Bunyan the Logger"

The MBA continued its adventures in radio with "What's the Verdict?" a series of one-minute vignettes launched in February 1962 on station KEX. These "cases in miniature," recorded by Portland-area lawyers, were aired four times a day.

refresh their legal skills. Continuing Legal Education was intended as a temporary resource, but lawyers found the classes so valuable that the Bar made CLE a permanent feature. The MBA soon began supplementing the OSB's offerings with its own affordable CLE program. For a \$3 fee, Multnomah County lawyers attended evening classes on topics ranging from "Direct and Inverse Condemnation" to "False Arrest."

The postwar years brought many new developments to the legal profession, including a new focus on workers' rights. In 1946, about a dozen Portland lawyers gathered to discuss legal representation for workers who had been injured on the job but lacked the power to stand up against insurers. One of those lawyers was James T. Landye, who would become MBA's president in the following year. With the payment of \$1 dues by each lawyer present at the meeting, the National Association of

Claimants' Compensation Attorneys (NACCA) was born. The organization experienced rapid national growth in the years that followed, and when it returned to Portland in 1971 for its annual convention, membership numbered 28,000. A year later, the little group from Puddletown renamed itself the Association of Trial Lawyers of America.

The ranks of women lawyers in Multnomah County continued to grow, but the profession remained, to borrow a phrase from James Brown, a man's world. In 1948, about 30 women met for dinner at The Benson Hotel and decided to provide for themselves the camaraderie and professional-development opportunities they needed. Helen Althaus, an attendee who at the time worked as a law clerk for U.S. District Court Judge James Alger Fee, proposed a name for the new group: the "Queen's Bench," after a similar organization in San Francisco. Among the Queen's Bench were highly accomplished lawyers who later served as district attorneys, state legislators, judges and Portland mayor.

Another women's group took shape a decade later, this time with the goal of uniting the wives of lawyers in addition to women lawyers themselves. No doubt trying to be helpful, the women's husbands suggested calling the new organization "Bar Belles," "Bar Maids," or "Lawful Wives," but the women ultimately settled on a somewhat less colorful but decidedly more durable name: Women's Association of Multnomah Bar. The Association held seminar luncheons, teas and "Fun Raising Funds" events for scholarships. It also staged the Barristers Ball, which was the first dinner dance in MBA history – and perhaps the first time that the



"MULTNOMAH BAR BELLES"
Standing — L. to R.: Mrs. John R. Gilbertson, Mrs. Hugh L. Biggs, Mrs. Lofton L. Tatum, Mrs. Phillip J. Roth, Mrs. Robert E. Jones.
Sitting — L. to R.: Mrs. George H. Fraser, Mrs. Bert S. Gooding, Mrs. James M. Burns.

An early incarnation of the Women's Association of Multnomah Bar, 1958.

1958

Women's Association of the Multnomah Bar founded by wives of MBA members

1960

MBA receives ABA Award for its comprehensive programs



1960

Lloyd Center, America's first shopping mall, opens for business

1961

MBA membership reaches 1,000

1962

Jean Lewis becomes Oregon's first woman Circuit Court judge



1965

Cliff Carlsen is first MBA lawyer to volunteer as counsel for civil-rights workers in Mississippi



Erskine Wood (of today's firm Wood Tatum Sanders & Murphy) and two Colville Indians help dedicate the Chief Joseph Dam in 1956. The dam is on the Columbia River in Bridgeport, Washington.



“lawful wives” of plaintiff’s lawyers danced in public with defense counsel and vice versa.

At the same time that KGW began airing the MBA’s weekly radio shows, a group of MBA members devised another way to make their voices heard. “Lawyers Chorus Plans Underway,” trumpeted the June 1955 issue of the *Multnomah Lawyer*. Offering his services as “maestro pro tempore,” MBA member Jim Bjorge solicited the talents of “lawyers who are interested in filling the air with sounds more melodious than

objections to evidence, arguments to juries and spoken demurrers.” The Multnomah Bar Glee Club had its first performance that November at the MBA dinner meeting, and was asked via unanimous vote – the lawyerly version of an ovation – to perform regularly at future Bar dinners. (At that November dinner, members also heard from Moshe Landan, a Justice of the Supreme Court of Israel, who delivered a talk on the law and courts of his country – then only seven years old.)

Committed to tearing down some of the stubborn old barriers that separated the public from the bar, the MBA explored new ways to improve relations and provide useful information

to the public. In the late 1950s, the MBA created a speakers’ bureau consisting of 50 bar members, who spoke on diverse legal issues to civic and fraternal groups throughout Multnomah County. The MBA also reached out to the public through forums on enduring topics such as “The Law of the Automobile” and “Husband and Wife: More Than a Love Affair – a Matter of Law.”

In recognition of the MBA’s dedicated service – both to the public and to members of the profession – the ABA conferred its prestigious Award of Merit on the MBA in 1960. Citing the MBA’s radio shows, innovative CLE offerings, public-outreach programs and operation of the Multnomah County Legal Aid Bureau, the ABA gave the MBA top honors in the category of local bar associations with more than 800 members. In fact, the MBA’s roll was growing fast; when 24-year-old lawyer Daniel Coleman joined in December 1961, membership hit the 1,000 mark and continued its steady climb.

The 1948 Vanport Flood wipes out thousands of buildings and kills 15 residents at the site of today’s Delta Park. The Vanport Extension Center moves downtown, eventually becoming Portland State University.



1967

MBA forms Juvenile Service and Court Committee, to provide counseling and guidance to minors in legal trouble

1969

Aaron Brown becomes first African-American Multnomah County judge



1969

Mercedes Deiz, first African-American woman admitted to OSB, becomes Multnomah County’s first African-American woman judge

1973

Miller Nash celebrates 100 years of business partnerships in the Northwest

1975

Portland transfers jail and court duties to Multnomah County

1978

MBA vacates law library and opens first office in a portion of the OSB building



CHAPTER FOUR
Civil and Equal Rights
1961 - 1980

Meet the Press

The legal community's relationship with the news media continued to be a work in progress. In late 1967, MBA members began working with news outlets to educate them on legal issues. This outreach followed a much-discussed speech by Judge Alfred T. Sulmonetti to the Florida Judicial Conference, in which he complained of "judicial illiteracy" in the media.

THE RELATIVE CALM OF THE FIFTIES gave way to the volatile sixties, in which hot-button political and social issues both divided people and stimulated progress. The country became mired in Vietnam, but major domestic changes were also underway. The Civil Rights Act passed, Martin Luther King Jr. rose to prominence and was assassinated, and progressive programs such as Medicare, Medicaid and Head Start were implemented. Women introduced protest into their struggle for equal treatment, including within the MBA: they refused to accept nominations for secretary-treasurer on the grounds that



Portland NAACP mourning the murder of Medger Evers.

Volunteering for Justice
THE MISSISSIPPI LAWYERS

WITH THE CIVIL RIGHTS ERA IN FULL SWING, southern chapters of the Ku Klux Klan experienced a resurgence of activity and court dockets were clogged with thousands of new cases. When it became clear that most civil rights workers could not find local attorneys to represent them, Oregon lawyers decided to help. Working under the auspices of the ABA's new Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, lawyers from Oregon and other states traveled to the South to represent civil rights workers in court at the local, state and federal level.

In 1966, Multnomah County's Charles J. Merten became the first deputy district attorney in the country to take part in the ABA's program. "I believe everyone, anywhere, is entitled to legal counsel," Merten said before leaving for Jackson, Mississippi, where he spent the month of December working on civil rights cases.



Mike Haglund, YLS founder

In all, two dozen Oregon lawyers took leaves of absence from their jobs to volunteer their services in Mississippi, including Cliff Carlsen, the first MBA member to make the trip. At a commemorative dinner in 1998, the MBA and the Oregon chapters of the American Civil Liberties Union and the National Bar Association honored these forward-thinking lawyers. Citing their dedication to justice and equality, the ACLU presented the volunteers with its E.B. MacNaughton Civil Liberties Award.



Don Marmaduke (MBA President 1979-80), one of the volunteer lawyers who traveled to Mississippi in the 1960s, speaks at the ACLU dinner in 1998.

1978

ABA recognizes MBA's Corrections Improvement plan

1978

MBA hires Mary Anne Thornburg as its first Executive Director and gives first award of merit to Judge Robert E. Jones

1980

Young Lawyers Association incorporates into MBA as Young Lawyers Section (YLS) with grants from MBA and ABA to start up Volunteer Lawyers Project





Multnomah Law Library

Every MBA member also enjoys membership in the West Coast’s oldest county law library – the Multnomah Law Library. Founded by three lawyers as a subscription service in 1890, the library today is an incorporated nonprofit serving the legal community, public

officials and the general public. When Jacque Jurkins replaced Fred Salway as librarian in 1964, she expanded and updated the library’s collection and brought the library into the modern era with computer-assisted research. In fact, the library was the first in the state to offer automated research; Jacque recalls that the library offered Westlaw when the state’s law schools were still scratching their heads over the new technology.

Thanks to Jacque, the law library also doubled as the MBA’s office in the days before the MBA had its own. And when the MBA officially incorporated as a nonprofit in 1971, Jacque served as its registered agent. With 42 years of service and counting, Jacque not only keeps the Multnomah Law Library on a strong footing, but also takes her place in MBA history as its first “unofficial” executive director.

women had always played this role, and that progress would never come until they pursued leadership positions that had traditionally been held by men. At one memorable meeting, the 20 to 30 female members of the MBA nominated Virginia Renwick for president from the floor. The male MBA members countered by nominating men for secretary, and a temporary standoff ensued.

With the sweeping social changes of the decade came big changes to the legal profession as well. In Multnomah County, law practice became much more diversified as greater numbers of women, African-Americans and Hispanics practiced in firms that grew larger every year. And with advertising, the practice of billable hours and the increasing specialization of attorneys, legal practice was now a business as well as a profession.

Technology, too, changed the way we practiced law, as wondrous appliances called word processors and copy machines came into regular use. We soon learned, however, that technology did not always lead to savings and efficiency. What’s more, technological advances made it possible for clients and opposing

counsel to demand that things be done right away. And yet someone still had the gall to invent the BlackBerry.

The Women’s Association of the Multnomah Bar continued hosting social events and its annual Barristers Ball, in addition to providing staffing services for the office of the MBA’s Legal Aid committee. As hostesses for the OSB’s annual convention in 1963, Association members were charged with entertaining the wives of out-of-town lawyers. On an ill-fated excursion to the Portland Zoo, the wife of former Oregon Supreme Court Justice James T. Brand was drenched by an outspoken elephant with a trunk full of water.

When Governor McCall appointed Mercedes Deiz to the Multnomah County District Court in 1969, Deiz became Oregon’s first African-American woman to earn a judgeship. A native of New York City who had worked as a legal secretary while attending Northwestern Law School, she was also the first African-American woman admitted to the OSB. In 1972, she ran for and won a seat on the circuit court, where she served for 20 years. Deiz’ success heralded a big decade for women lawyers: only 11 women had passed the Oregon bar exam in 1972, but by 1977 that number had risen to more than 70. After decades of bumping up against the glass ceiling of law practice, women finally began to receive partnerships in large firms.



Mercedes Deiz in front of her chambers in 1970, on the day of her investiture as a district court judge.

1981

MBA has 2,036 members, 55% of whom belong to large firms



1983

Pioneer Courthouse Square completed

1985

MBA hires Dellanne McGregor as Executive Director

1985

Board offers free membership to attorneys who have practiced 50 years or more



Mike Schrunk, MBA President in 1985

1986

Annual dues increase to \$36

1986

Second annual YLS sweetheart ball held on Valentine’s Day at Masonic Ballroom

Moving On Up

The MBA kicked off the decade with an office move in 1981 under Executive Director Mary Anne Thornburg. An intriguing detail was reported in the Multnomah Lawyer: "Assisting in the move was MBA Vice President Douglass Hamilton, mounted on his shiny red Vespa scooter and dressed as Mr. Clean."

Another lawyer, Betty Roberts, achieved a number of firsts after a successful career in the Oregon Legislature as a state representative and senator. Roberts was appointed to the Oregon Court of Appeals in 1977 as the first woman to sit on an Oregon appellate court, and in 1982 she became the first woman on Oregon's Supreme Court.



The legal profession's rapid growth was reflected in organizational change and new attitudes both at firms and within the judiciary. The Oregon Court of Appeals, for example, was created in 1969 when it became evident that the Oregon Supreme Court's caseload had become too great for the Court to bear alone. And the age-old ban on advertising minimum fees was gradually overturned in court rulings, with more and more lawyers turning to marketing as a strategic tool for business creation.



These new conditions coincided with a statewide population boom and the baby boomers' coming of age. With the influx of new Oregonians, the question of how best to zone and use our land became a pressing one. The state legislature answered it in 1973 with Senate Bill 100, the seminal land use law intended to preserve Oregon's scenic beauty while promoting sustainable growth. Two years later, the advocacy group 1000 Friends of Oregon was created to ensure that SB100 was being implemented and enforced.

New Lawyers, New Leaders

With a multitude of new law school graduates entering the profession, the Young Lawyers Association was incorporated into the MBA in 1980 as the Young Lawyers Section (YLS), to provide opportunities for networking, service and professional development. The YLS hit the ground running with a \$5,000 grant from the MBA (in addition to a \$20,000 ABA grant) to recruit and train 300 volunteer lawyers for pro bono projects, through the newly formed Volunteer Lawyers Project (VLP).

Other highlights from the YLS' first decade included ABA grants from Portland's housing authority in payment for landlord-tenant hearings conducted by YLS volunteers in 1986. The following year, the YLS won a first-place award from the ABA for its law day program, and launched an effort to obtain firmwide commitments to pro bono activity. Today, the YLS coordinates the Nonprofit and Attorneys for Youth pro bono programs.

1987

Susan Hammer elected as MBA's first woman president



1988

Mona Buckley becomes Executive Director

1989

Oregon Women Lawyers (OWLS) is established

Katherine O'Neil, OWLS founder



1989

Six of the seven largest Multnomah County law firms accept MBA's Pro Bono Challenge

1990

MBA has 3,000 members



1991

Annual dues increase from \$42 to \$50



In another indication of the profession's growth and the increasing numbers of new judges joining the bench, the MBA's Judicial Screening Committee sought to expand and clarify its role. By 1978, the committee had reached an agreement with the Governor's office that it would thoroughly review all candidates for future judicial appointments in Multnomah County. And to support the committee's work, the MBA began announcing bench vacancies to the bar membership and soliciting members' opinions on the candidates through ballots and polls.

The 1970s brought many visible changes to Portland, including McCall Waterfront Park, the bus transit mall and a complete restoration of the U.S. Building, now called the Pioneer

Courthouse. But the MBA – despite its own steady growth – still lacked an office and executive director well into the decade. That changed in 1978, when the MBA took up residence in the OSB office building and hired Mary Anne Thornburg (on a part-time basis) to run the growing association. Dues were adjusted to \$10 for the first two years of membership and \$20 a year thereafter. By 1980, the MBA boasted a membership of 1,565 lawyers.

Randall Kester (MBA President, 1956-57) on a hike with his wife Rachael, 1941. Randall has long been actively involved in many community organizations, including the Portland Chamber of Commerce (President 1973, Chairman of the Board 1974).

CHAPTER FIVE
The Millennial Era
1981 – 2006

OREGON'S LEGAL COMMUNITY ADAPTED to new challenges in the 1980s, as a slumping economy impelled firms to look for new ways to maintain a competitive edge. Some firms merged; others opened branches across the river in Washington. At the same time, a bumper crop of new lawyers emerged from law school looking for work, just as the leading edge of the Baby Boomer generation entered professional schools.

While MBA lawyers faced a wide range of complex new cases and issues, such as the intense legal battles surrounding Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh's commune near Antelope, it also continued working toward longstanding goals. These included providing legal aid to the needy, ensuring a sound judicial screening process, promoting diversity and equality in the Bar and maintaining the independence of our judiciary.

Technology was fast becoming much more than a useful tool in doing business: indeed, lawyers were learning that business couldn't be done without it. The first computerized

Miller Nash's Cliff Carlsen has a tense courtroom talk with Rajneeshee lawyers in 1985.



1991

Volunteer Lawyers Project places 1,200 cases



1991

Oregon Supreme Court proposes statewide implementation of MBA's judicial screening process for pro tem appointments

1991

Oregon Minority Lawyers Association (OMLA) and Oregon Gay and Lesbian Association (OGALLA) founded



1992

Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt celebrates 100 years of serving the Pacific Northwest

1993

MBA leases new office space on second floor of the Kress Building

1994

MBA has nearly 3,450 members



Compassion & Common Sense

THE MULTNOMAH COURTCARE PROGRAM

IN 2006, THE MULTNOMAH COURTCARE PROGRAM celebrates five years of caring for children at the Multnomah County Courthouse. It's a success story that began with MBA leadership and continues on the strength of donors and advocates from throughout the legal community.

The MBA formed a task force in the mid-90s to explore the need for childcare at the courthouse. It had long been the case that children were a daily fixture at the courthouse, accompanying parents who had no choice but to bring them along. Concern was mounting over the children's exposure to tense courtroom situations, as well as their sometimes disruptive (read: kid-like) presence. In 1998, the MBA created the Multnomah CourtCare Advisory Board to assess the feasibility of an ideal solution: a drop-in childcare center, located right in the courthouse.

The proposed project faced a number of financial and logistical challenges, including finding a suitable room in the courthouse that could be modified into a childcare center. But with persistence and support from key allies (including members of the bench and then-County Chair Beverly Stein), the program got the boost it needed. CourtCare transformed a former jury room into a kid-friendly haven and opened its doors in 2001.

Since then, the Multnomah CourtCare program, operated by Volunteers of America Oregon, has helped restore a bit of order to the courtroom and has eased the burden of parents appearing in court. And most important, CourtCare has provided loving, professional care for about five thousand children, many of whom come from families struggling with poverty, violence and other challenges.



legal research is thought to have been done by Jacque Jurkins at the Multnomah Law Library, and computers soon began popping up in law offices. Taking a cautious approach to this trend, the MBA proposed in 1981 that an ad hoc committee be formed to "analyze the cost and management effectiveness" of a computer at MBA headquarters.

The 1980s brought major congressional cuts to the federal budget, which gave fresh urgency to the need for legal aid for the poor. To help meet this need, the MBA passed a resolution in 1983 to adopt the OSB's Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts program (IOLTA), which would collect and distribute interest earned on lawyers trust accounts to nonprofit legal services providers. In addition to supporting legal aid services, IOLTA funds are distributed to grantees who sought to improve the administration of justice and promote legal education and dissemination of legal information.

The MBA also renewed its pledge to educate lawyers on the issues facing the indigent and to encourage those lawyers to volunteer their expertise. In 1989, the MBA's Legal Services for the Poor Committee recommended 35 annual hours of pro bono work as a standard for MBA members.

The MBA also gave its financial support to the new Volunteer Lawyers Project (VLP), a group formed by a handful of members of the Young Lawyers Section to provide legal services for the poor. Today, the VLP works out of the

A group of past and present leaders of Legal Aid Services of Oregon, 2006.



1995

ABA selects MBA as one of eight model mentor programs nationwide

1995

Court Liaison Committee undertakes study of childcare needs at county courthouse

1996

Volunteer Lawyers Project (VLP) moves to Multnomah County Legal Aid Services



Multnomah County Office of Legal Aid Services of Oregon (LASO) and runs several pro bono projects, including the Domestic Violence Project, the Bankruptcy Clinic, the Stoel Rives Night Clinic and the Pro Se Family Law Assistance Project. With the pro bono and financial support of MBA members, these projects serve about 2,200 clients annually. In 2005, the MBA, OSB and the Multnomah County Office of LASO worked together to design a pro bono project to help victims of

Hurricane Katrina who had relocated to Multnomah County.

As always, the MBA kept its watchful eye on judicial conduct in Oregon. Acting on concerns about the treatment of women and minorities in court, the Board moved that the judicial-conduct code be amended to require judges to ensure that their courtrooms were free of discrimination of any kind. And through its Judicial Screening Committee, the MBA continued to provide the Governor with comprehensive, politically neutral assessments of judicial candidates. The committee also took a hard look when necessary at the shortcomings of its own screening process – an ongoing refinement that continues today. In 1984, for example, a few complaints about the committee’s method of operation led the Board to direct that a thorough

1996

MBA celebrates 90th birthday; more than 500 lawyers attend

1998

Multnomah County Legal Aid Services merges with Oregon Legal Services to form what is now Legal Aid Services of Oregon

1998

Barristers Ball sells out, raises over \$7,000 for Oregon Food Bank and MBA pro bono and public service projects



Judy Snyder, Chair, Barristers Ball Committee

Celebrating Professionalism

THE MBA PROFESSIONALISM AWARD

IN 1989, THE MBA CREATED THE PROFESSIONALISM AWARD to recognize lawyers whose high professional standards and sterling reputations were felt throughout the legal community. The new award came with a timeless credo:

“Professionalism goes beyond the observance of the legal profession’s ethical rules and serves the best interests of clients and the public in general; it fosters respect and trust among lawyers and between lawyers and the public, promotes the efficient resolution of disputes, and makes the practice of law more enjoyable and satisfying.”

The number of lawyers nominated each year rose quickly, and the Professionalism Committee soon found it difficult to keep up with screening all the strong nominees – not a bad problem to have! Past award winners stepped in to help with the process, an arrangement that continues today.

In 1998, the MBA welcomed lawyers, judges and deans from all three Oregon law schools to its Summit on Professionalism. The goal of the summit, explained then-MBA President Albert A. Menashe, was to “take an active approach to affirmatively elevate the level of professionalism amongst our colleagues and avoid allowing ourselves the luxury of placing the obligation on other lawyers.” Those who attended the summit left with a renewed commitment to professionalism and fresh ideas for enhancing it in their own fields.



Noreen Saltveit McGraw is presented with the MBA Professionalism Award in 1995, becoming the first woman to receive the honor.



1996 MBA Professionalism Award recipient Thomas E. Cooney urges lawyers to bring the MBA's Professionalism Statement to depositions.

review be made. And in 2002, MBA President Bob Newell directed a task force to review the committee's system and suggest ways to make the influential, time-tested screening process even more effective.

MBA leadership also kept an eye on caseload at the county's courts. With the lack of sufficient judgeships in Multnomah County becoming a problem in the 1980s, MBA president Jerome LaBarre appointed a committee in 1987 to promote new circuit court judgeship positions in the county.

Professionalism, that most enduring of hot topics among Multnomah County lawyers, continued to generate debate and reflection.

In December 1990, the Professionalism Committee reported that circuit court judges had become so concerned about lawyerly professionalism – in particular, specialization and certification of trial lawyers – that they had begun preparing "lawyer report cards." While the Board gave the issue its careful attention, one member was quick to point out that hand-wringing over professionalism in the legal world was hardly new. To prove his point, he cited similar concerns raised at another MBA meeting – in 1907.

The MBA continued to refine its popular CLE program, which evolved to include classes on a growing number of "niche" topics, from intellectual property issues concerning the World Wide Web, to advance directives, to Measure 37. Today, more than a thousand MBA members attend at least one class a year, enjoying a per-hour fee that is lower than most (if not all) other

CLE providers in the Portland metro area. Members also come for the diversity of topics and speakers, which reflect the efforts of a diverse and devoted group of volunteer speakers and facilitators who have generously shared their time and expertise with the legal community.

Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, women and minorities entered legal practice in greater numbers, and new support networks and organizations rose up to advance their efforts. The MBA's Committee on the Status of Women, appointed by Susan Hammer – the MBA's first woman president – gave rise in 1989 to Oregon Women Lawyers (OWLS) under Katherine O'Neil's tutelage. And in 1991, the Oregon Minority Lawyers Association (OMLA) was created to promote the educational and professional success of minority law students and lawyers. After a meeting between OMLA leadership and MBA president Marc Blackman in 1992, the Board agreed that in-house counsel should make its best efforts to encourage outside counsel to adopt statements supporting the hiring of minority lawyers. And in January 1995, the Equality Committee reported to the Board on its efforts to recruit more minority and women speakers for CLEs and to develop guidelines to ensure gender neutrality in presentations.

The Oregon Supreme Court was making its own progress on diversity and equality during this time. In response to the recommendations of the Court's Race Bias Task Force in 1994, the MBA created the Committee to Advance Equality in the Profession and Legal Justice

OMLA auction attendees Roman Hernandez and Pamela Loh Veljacic



1999

MBA launches website (www.mbabar.org)



2000

MBA cosponsors Citizens Justice Conference

2001

Multnomah CourtCare program begins caring for children at county courthouse



2002

Judy Edwards joins MBA as Executive Director

2002

MBA helps form coalition to defeat Measures 21 and 22, which would have undermined judicial independence in Oregon

2003

MBA moves to current location at 620 Southwest Fifth Avenue





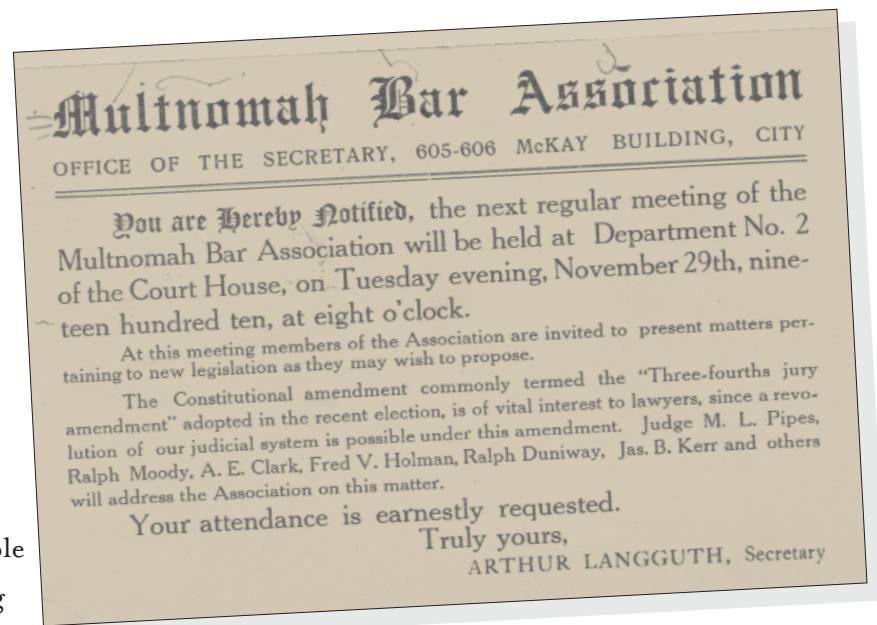
Katherine O'Neil, partner in Graff & O'Neil, receives a Lifetime Service Award from the U.S. District Court of Oregon Historical Society in October 2005.

System. This new group took in the former Status of Women Committee and expanded its reach to advocate for all forms of equality.

The rights of sexual minorities received a public airing in the 1990s that would have been inconceivable in previous decades. Helping to lead the way was the

Oregon Gay and Lesbian Law Association (OGALLA), founded in 1991 to support the needs of sexual minorities in the legal profession. OGALLA's diverse membership includes gay, lesbian, bisexual, straight and transgender lawyers, judges, legal workers and law students. The organization is active in endorsing candidates for judicial elections and appointments, and Oregon's governor regularly seeks out its recommendations.

In 1992, Oregon voters were faced with Measure 9, which would have allowed discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. The MBA took a political and moral stand



that year by formally passing a motion opposing the ill-fated ballot measure. And in 2000, proving that good things are better done late than never, the MBA voted to rescind its order expelling Edward McAllister from the Bar. It was believed that McAllister's sexual orientation may have been the reason why the Board expelled him – in 1914.

As the Multnomah Bar Association and its 4,000-plus members bring one century of service to a close, we open the door to a new one knowing that our profession and world will change in ways we can scarcely imagine. We resolve to face new challenges with the values that have guided us since the beginning: Professionalism. Fairness. Integrity. And as we strive to practice these values and continuously improve the way we do business, we will remain mindful of the clear object of our work, as relevant today as it was in 1906: to "raise and maintain the dignity and honor of the legal profession" and "promote the due administration of Justice."



2004

Governor Kulongoski encourages other counties to adopt judicial screening process similar to MBA's

2005

MBA forms the Multnomah Bar Foundation and establishes the MBA 100th Anniversary Community Gift Fund, which the Foundation will administer



Michael A. Greene, Fundraising Chair

2005

Hurricane Katrina devastates Gulf Coast; MBA works with Legal Aid Services of Oregon to help victims

2006

MBA celebrates 100 years of service with more than 4,000 members

A Century of Service



MULTNOMAH BAR ASSOCIATION

100TH ANNIVERSARY

1906 - 2006

**MBA 100TH ANNIVERSARY
COMMUNITY GIFT FUND
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HISTORICAL REFERENCES

Some of the historical information
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Justice: A Legal History of Portland, Oregon*,
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Croghan Alzner.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Courtesy of Oregon Historical
Society: pages 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9,
10, 13, 14, 15, 16, 19.

Courtesy of 1000 Friends of
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MBA PAST PRESIDENTS

1906-07 S.C. Spencer
1907-08 W.M. Cake
1908-09 George Shepherd
1909-10 Gus Moser
1910-11 Charles Schnabel
1911-12 Harrison Allen
1912-13 Arthur Langguth
1914-16 J.F. Boothe
1916-17 Lotus Lee Langley
1917-18 William M. Davis
1918-19 Clarence Gilbert
1919-20 Barg Leonard
1920-21 John Winter
1921-22 Clarence Gilbert
1922-24 Robert Tucker
1924-26 W.W. Davis
1926-27 John Stevenson
1927-29 George Shepherd
1929-31 James Crawford
1931-34 Eugene Oppenheimer
1934-35 Omar Spencer
1935-36 Alfred Kelley
1936-38 John Beckwith
1938-39 Charles R. Spackman Jr.
1940-41 Irming Rand
1942-43 Hugh Barzee
1944-45 Carl A. Dahl
1949-50 Nicholas Jaureguy
1951-53 No Record
1954-55 Harold Davidson
1955-56 Herbert H. Anderson
1956-57 Randall B. Kester
1957-58 Donald S. Richardson
1958-59 Wendell Gray
1959-60 Phillip J. Roth
1960-61 George H. Fraser
1961-62 William F. Bernard
1962-63 John U. Yerkovich
1963-64 Herbert C. Hardy

1964-65 Frank E. Nash
1965-66 Burl L. Green
1966-67 John L. Schwabe
1967-68 Dwight L. Schwab
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1969-70 Clifford B. Olsen
1970-71 John R. Gilbertson
1971-72 Howard A. Rankin
1972-73 Edwin J. Peterson
1973-74 James F. Spiekerman
1974-75 John R. Faust
1975-76 Garr M. King
1976-77 Thomas H. Tongue
1977-78 Martin J. Howard
1978-79 John J. Haugh
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1980-81 Robert A. Bennett
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1988-89 Walter H. Sweek
1989-90 Michael E. Haglund
1990-91 Ruth M. Spetter
1991-92 Cynthia L. Barrett
1992-93 Marc D. Blackman
1993-94 Monte Bricker
1994-95 John H. Holmes
1995-96 Lynn T. Nagasako
1996-97 Edwin A. Harnden
1997-98 Albert A. Menashe
1998-99 S. Ward Greene
1999-00 Judy Danelle Snyder
2000-01 Ruth A. Beyer
2001-02 Michael A. Greene
2002-03 Robert D. Newell
2003-04 Robert J. Neuberger
2004-05 Sylvia E. Stevens
2005-06 Kelly T. Hagen

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RECIPIENTS**

1989 Raymond Conboy
1990 Thomas H. Tongue
1991 Randall B. Kester
1992 Frank Noonan Jr.
1993 Donald W. McEwen
1994 Don H. Marmaduke
1995 Noreen K. Saltveit McGraw
1996 Thomas E. Cooney
1997 John D. Ryan
1998 George H. Fraser
1999 Barrie Herbold
2000 Walter H. Sweek
2001 Daniel E. O'Leary
2002 Mark R. Wada
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2004 Robert C. Weaver
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