The Campaign for Equal Justice
By Sandra A. Hansberger, CEJ Executive Director.

The Campaign for Equal Justice (CEJ) works to support statewide legal aid programs that serve Oregon’s most needy and vulnerable populations. The largest number of cases is in the area of family law—the majority involving domestic violence. The campaign’s mission is to champion access to justice for low-income Oregonians through public education and by working to increase funding for legal aid by means of grants, state and federal support, direct fundraising from private lawyers and by building an endowment. The Oregon legal community has responded generously, helping the campaign to raise more than $12,000,000 since 1991.

Henry Hewitt, Steel Rives, a founder and Chair of the Campaign’s board for 15 years, “The Campaign for Equal Justice is every lawyer’s campaign. What’s remarkable about this campaign is that it brings lawyers together—it unites us around principles we all believe in.”

The campaign began in 1991. Lou Savage (then the Director of Multnomah County Legal Aid) and Ira Zarov (then Director of Oregon Legal Services) hired Linda Clingan, a development expert, to approach Henry Hewitt, Roberta Cooper Ramos (ABA President) and Katherine O’Neil in 1996 (Continues on next page)

The Committee on the Status of Women in the Profession and Equal Justice policies were adopted unanimously by the Board.

July 5, 1989 MBA Board Minutes

The December, and our last, Multnomah Lawyer historic pullout focuses on law-related organizations. You will find a wide range of groups featured, from the Oregon Women Lawyers which grew out of the MBA Committee on the Status of Women in the Profession, to the Oregon Black Lawyers, Legal Marketing Association, Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, Oregon Advocacy Center, Oregon Association of Defense Counsel, Oregon Minority Lawyers, Oregon Trial Lawyers and the Oregon Hispanic Bar Association. We also included a short history of the juvenile court in Multnomah County to round out our historic stories.

We thank all who contributed to this issue and all previous ten historic pullout issues. We hope our readers have enjoyed reading them. If you would like to write an article for the Multnomah Lawyer, please contact me at judy@mbabar.org. Our readers especially enjoy reading profiles of colleagues, and tips on points of law, analysis of trends in law and essays on issues in the profession.

A Brief History of 100 Years of Juvenile Court in Multnomah County

June 10, 2005 marked the 100th Anniversary of Juvenile Court in Oregon. One hundred years before, on June 10, 1905, 12 year old Oliver B. became the first child to appear before a juvenile court judge in Oregon. He was found to be a “bad boy and a truant,” according to Judge Arthur Frazier and placed on probation. Oliver B’s appearance in juvenile court in Multnomah County to round out our historic stories.

Other hard-to-reach populations.

Attendees at the 2004 Open House in the Federal Courthouse

From the start, Multnomah County lawyers and firms formed the backbone of the CEJ. The Advisory Committee and the volunteer structure represented by members of Portland’s law firms, corporate counsel, trial lawyers and women lawyers has been key to its success.

In 1995 Congress once again made deep cuts to federal funding for legal aid. Across the country, state legal aid programs searched for ways to preserve legal services to the poor. The CEJ emerged as a national leader because of its success in uniting the private bar to support legal aid.

The next year, the CEJ became an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit. That year the MBA, along with the OSB, hosted open houses all across Oregon, inviting communities into legal aid offices. The tradition continues. In October 2006, Chief Justice Paul De Muniz spoke in Portland and joined leaders throughout the state in talking about the importance of access to justice. “When those who are most vulnerable have access to the legal system,” DeMuniz said, “there is hope for justice.”

Lawyers’ obligation to serve the poor is serious business, but the campaign’s aim is to have fun while uniting lawyers to pursue the cause. In 1999, when lawyers gathered at the first Access to Justice Conference to discuss how to increase legal services to the poor, they launched a series of legal aid musical sketches. The first, “Leave it to the Beaver State,” featured attorneys Ed Harnden as ‘the Beav’ with a cast including Katherine O’Neil, Sid Lezak, and Hon. Ellen Rosenblum.

The fun continued in 2004 and 2005, when FIOS, Inc. and other businesses sponsored LAFF-OFF, a fundraiser for legal aid where lawyers competed as standup comics.

In 2000, the Legal Needs Study conducted by the OSB, the Oregon Judicial Department and the Office of the Governor yielded sobering results: Oregon’s legal aid programs were meeting less than 20% of the legal needs of Oregon’s low-income population. Lawyers understood that there was work to be done. At the Campaign’s Annual Awards Luncheon that year, Senator Gordon Smith said, in part, “...my commitment to [legal aid] is to have an open door, an open mind and a big heart and to work with you.

(Continues on next page)
The Oregon Chapter of the National Bar Association (OC-NBA) was established in 2004 and presented its officers at the annual meetings. John Toran was the founder of the organization and the tournament and the proceeds went to the AIBPA Law Student Scholarship Fund.

Under Armonica’s leadership of AOBL, the Oregon Chapter of the National Bar Association began as the Association of Oregon Black Lawyers (AOBL). The late Clifford Freeman, who was an active member of AOBL, and a Multnomah County Circuit Court judge, was on the steering committee of the OSB that developed the Affirmative Action Program. The late Armonica Gilford was President of AOBL from 1994-1996. She was a well-known and respected Oregon lawyer who was the first African-American woman to work for the Oregon Department of Justice. She was also a jazz singer and ski instructor.

The OC-NBA objectives are as follows:

1. To advance the science of jurisprudence of the judiciary of Oregon and the nation; to uphold the honor and integrity of the legal profession, and to promote professional and social interaction among the members of the Oregon State Bar, as well as law students, to promote legislation that will improve the social and economic condition of all Oregonians regardless of race, sex or creed, with particular emphasis on the condition of African-Americans; and to protect civil and political rights of the citizens and the residents of the State of Oregon.
2. To further advance the objectives of the National Bar Association (NBA) by serving as an Affiliate Member; to encourage and promote academic excellence among law students, with particular emphasis on the condition of students of African ancestry; to increase the representation of African-Americans in the legal profession; and to serve the Oregon community consistent with our goals and objectives.

In 1997, AOBL transitioned to the Oregon Chapter of the National Bar Association. Clarence Belnavis was President during the transition; other officers were Ulanda Wardlow, Vice-President, Reginald Nettle, Treasurer, Melvin Oden-Odent, Secretary.

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interest in women lawyers and in the legal profession. OWLS has used numerous means, including conferences, workshops, seminars, social events, informal networking, publications, a listserve, a cable access television show and law school mentor programs to offer practical help to women attorneys and men who choose to bring positive changes to the legal profession. Past continuing legal education programs have included such subjects as women in litigation, celebrating 25 years of women on the Oregon appellate courts, achieving success in a legal career, technology and law, the Family & Medical Leave Act, rainmaking, associate retention, negotiating salaries and alternative work arrangements. OWLS maintains a Contract Lawyer Service, which provides educational and networking opportunities for contract lawyers who provide temporary or ongoing help with legal work.


OWLS provides financial and program support to nine local chapters, which represent various geographic regions of Oregon. The chapters hold regular meetings and often invite speakers to discuss topics of interest to the local membership.

OWLS formed the Oregon Women Lawyers Foundation in 1996 as a charitable 501(c)(3) nonprofit to help facilitate the charitable activities of OWLS. The mission of the foundation is to educate the public and the legal community about the needs of women and minorities within the justice system. The foundation is administered separately from OWLS and has its own Board of Directors. Since its inception, the OWLS Foundation has provided scholarships to help single parents take the bar exam, given financial support to Multnomah County CourtCare, and many more causes that educate the public and the legal community.

OWLS is proud to sponsor a dragon boat team, the OWLS DragonFlies, which competes in the annual Rose Festival dragon boat races.
satellite offices in Salem and Central Point. From OAC’s main office in Portland and its satellite offices in Salem and Central Point, OAC conducts policy advocacy through work with administrative agencies, legislation, community training and information, and class litigation. It is also responsible, under state law, to oversee court proceedings governing nonconsensual sterilization and guardianships involving placement of a protected person in a mental health or developmental disabilities facility.

OAC litigation has resulted in the establishment of due process protections in temporary guardianship proceedings to terminate mentally ill’s rights from the state hospital for restorative treatment (OAC v. Mink), improvements in wheelchair access to movie theaters (OPVA v. Regal Cinemas), and many other efforts to protect and promote the rights of individuals with disabilities.

OAC’s advocacy in the state legislature has helped to create a protective service system for individuals with mental illness and developmental disabilities, limitation on forced sterilizations, an advance directive for development of capacity, and many other improvements in state law.

Since OAC’s founding, many Multnomah County attorneys have sat on its Board of Directors, co-sponsored litigation and collaborated on cases, trainings or policy advocacy. Without their assistance, many of OAC’s accomplishments would have been impossible. Local attorneys also assist OAC through their contributions to the Lawyers’ Campaign for Equal Justice that funds OAC, and through their IDTA accounts which benefit OAC through the Oregon Law Foundation.

Because of OAC’s consistent advocacy, a number of civil rights laws have been established to protect individuals with disabilities, such as the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Fair Housing Act, and the Rehabilitation Act. These laws have been enforced through OAC’s legal advocacy, resulting in significant improvements for people with disabilities.

OAC opened its first office in downtown Portland in 1977 with Gerald Laskoski as its first Executive Director. The primary focus of the office at that time was to address abuse and neglect at Fairview Training Center and Eastern Oregon Training Center and to assist children to obtain adequate special education services. The office’s first staff attorney (and second Executive Director), Steve Brischetto, was an active litigator. Among his victories was a Ninth Circuit opinion in Kov-Center Parents Assoc. v. Charles that established state responsibility for funding the education of children in a residential program.

In 1986, OAC doubled its federal funding when Congress designated P&A Systems to provide advocacy services to people who are disabled and have experienced abuse and neglect at Fairview Training Center and Eastern Oregon Training Center and to assist children to obtain adequate special education services. The office’s first staff attorney (and second Executive Director), Steve Brischetto, was an active litigator. Among his victories was a Ninth Circuit opinion in Kov-Center Parents Assoc. v. Charles that established state responsibility for funding the education of children in a residential program.

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