

THE BAR TAB

Clackamas County Bar Association newsletter

Quarterly Issue No. 1
March 2020

Prez Sez by Katie Baker

Over the course of last year, I reached out to many members of the bar in preparation for various articles and events. I am very grateful for all of the generous help and advice I received. I was able to talk with so many members who have deep wells of knowledge and years of service. I'd like to thank Len Kovac, Rod Boutin, Eve Miller, and Lisa Miller just to name a few individuals who have readily offered insight and help. I value our community here in Clackamas and have decided to make "community" my platform for 2020.

Communities are made up of many components such as shared identity and common interests or goals. However, *strong* communities have more components in place: they promote camaraderie among members and prioritize the strength of the group above individual needs.

I belong to many communities and I reflect on how my relationships with those in my communities are based on these components. For example, my daughter plays softball and so I am a part of that community of players and parents. Often the members are competing against one another (either as opponents in a game or even against a teammate for a starting position). Individuals may or may not be friends off the field but (for the most part) all want the community as a whole to succeed – to raise the level of play and professionalism for the benefit of all members.

Our Clackamas community of lawyers is probably the most significant community I belong to. I truly appreciate that we can compete against each other "on the field" but can also do so



Coming Up

Holman Lifetime
Achievement Award
Dinner Honoring
Tom Kranovich

Poker Nights

Dale Jacobs Golf
Tournament

Court Staff
Appreciation Event

Trivia Nights

Summer BBQ

Appellate Courts
Dinner

Holiday Dinner and
Dance

Dates and Times TBA

with a sense of keeping the vital components of maintaining a strong community intact, for the benefit of all members.

Another essential component for maintaining a strong community is the aspect of service. To that end, the Regional Mock Trial competition was held on February 22, 2020 at the Clackamas County Courthouse. Thank you to all of the volunteers (including attorneys, court staff and judges) who have donated their time and resources to helping out the high schools who have worked so hard to be able to compete. These potential future lawyers and members of our legal community are truly fortunate.

Please keep an eye out for the many exciting events the bar has planned including the Holman Award Dinner where we will come together to honor Tom Kranovich, more trivia nights, and the Blazers game in March. I appreciate all the members who sacrifice precious personal time with friends and family in order to foster the relationships in our legal community.

Court News

The Oregon Judicial branch (OJD) recently embarked on a two year strategic campaign. The campaign “recognizes our constitutional obligation to provide justice to all Oregonians, makes four commitments to advance that cause, and sets out seventeen initiatives” to accomplish those commitments according to Martha L. Walters, Chief Justice of the Oregon Supreme Court. You can locate details on the internet under “Oregon Judicial Branch Strategic Campaign 2020-2021”. Judge Steele has additional information regarding who from OJD and all the courts are involved in this campaign if you have an interest in participating.

Presiding Judge Kathie F. Steele

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Change in Public Access Hours at the Courthouse

By Debbie Spradley

On **Monday, February 3, 2020**, the Clackamas County Circuit Court expanded its public service hours in most of the operation areas at the courthouse. The main change you will see in the chart below is the addition of public service hours from 12-1pm.

Unit / Area of Responsibility	Counter Hours	Telephone Hours
Room 12: Appeals and Exhibits Records	8 am – 4pm	9 am – 4pm
Room 104: Attorney Appointment Cashier / Accounting Civil and Family Law Collections Landlord Tenant Probate Small Claims	9 am – 4pm	9 am – 4pm
Room 200: Calendaring Criminal / Traffic	8 am – 12 pm and 1 pm – 5 pm	8 am – 12 pm and 1 pm – 4 pm

As background, we changed our public service hours in 2009 in response to budget reductions, that included mandatory staff furloughs (both court closure days and floating days off) and permanent loss of staff positions. Since that time, we have gone through further budget reductions, but we have also implemented a new case management system (Odyssey) in December 2015 that included going to a paper on demand and eFiling system. As we have come up to speed on the new case management system, we have found ways to build in efficiencies. This change was also made possible thanks to restored funding from the legislature and efforts by the Chief Justice and state courts leadership to prioritize public access to justice. I know that the Clackamas County Bar Association also supported this effort and we want to thank you for that!

We believe that making this change will improve access to justice at our court, and we are committed to finding ways to make this work. Our long-term goal is to increase the public access hours further, so you should expect to hear about more changes in the months ahead.

As always, if you have questions or comments, we welcome those. You can reach me at Debbie.D.Spradley@ojd.state.or.us or by phone at 503-655-8670.

Would You Like To Do Something Good Without Having To Do Much?

Marisha Childs with the [Legal Empowerment Assistance Program \(LEAP\)](#) is creating a list of Clackamas County attorneys willing to consult with LEAP attorneys on an as-needed individual basis. Typically, the interactions will be brief phone calls or emails on topics the new attorneys need basic support or guidance with. The areas with greatest need as this program gets off the ground are:

General

Family

Elder

Trust and Estates

Employment

Consumer

Immigration

All local attorneys are encouraged to sign up for this mentoring list regardless of practice area(s). Please send your contact information with area(s) of expertise to MarishaC@ewsr.org.



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- Timber Trespass
- Neighborhood and Homeowner Association Disputes



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Dancing The Night Away

by Josh Cutino

The Clackamas County Bar Association closed out 2019 with an evening filled with delicious food, drinks, dancing, and great spirits at the annual Holiday Party. Several members danced the night away with the live band. Leading the way was our Presiding Judge Kathie Steele with strong support from Judge Ken Stewart and Michael Langley, Judge Eve Miller’s spouse. Santa Claus paid a special visit, in the form of the lead singer in the band, which became the topic of discussion of the night for his “attractive” new look.

Eighty-five members attended this year’s CCBA Holiday Party. In an effort to make the event more centrally located for bar members, this year’s event was held at the Abernethy Center in Oregon City.



Wendy Van Leuven led the raffle and wine wheel to raise funds for the Clackamas Women Services Legal Empowerment Accelerator Program (LEAP). LEAP assists new solo practitioners and attorneys returning to practice, as they provide all aspects of legal assistance to survivors of domestic and sexual violence. LEAP members

receive coaching and mentoring in both legal skills training and law office management. Through generous donations from our members, we raised over \$500 to support this critical program. Thank you to everyone who volunteered or donated!

Len Kovac provided a touching in-memoriam for long-time bar members who have recently passed: Judge John Lowe, Dave Viuhkola, Fred Canning, and David Schermer. Len also provided a thoughtful message to our younger attorneys of upholding the

traditions of the Clackamas County Bar, specifically highlighting the importance of collegiality amongst attorneys.



Katie Baker, our new CCBA President, introduced this year's theme: community. She presented a softball award to Scott Healy, a member and coach of the CCBA softball team for 20+ years. Tom Kranovich was named this year's recipient of the Ralph Holman Lifetime Achievement award, which we will celebrate with a roasting and toasting this spring. The 2020 CCBA Board members were announced and you can locate and [read their bios on our new website here.](#)

The CCBA Board is always looking for suggestions to improve this annual event. If you have any feedback, please let us know how we can make this event better each year: administrativeassistant@clackamas-bar.org



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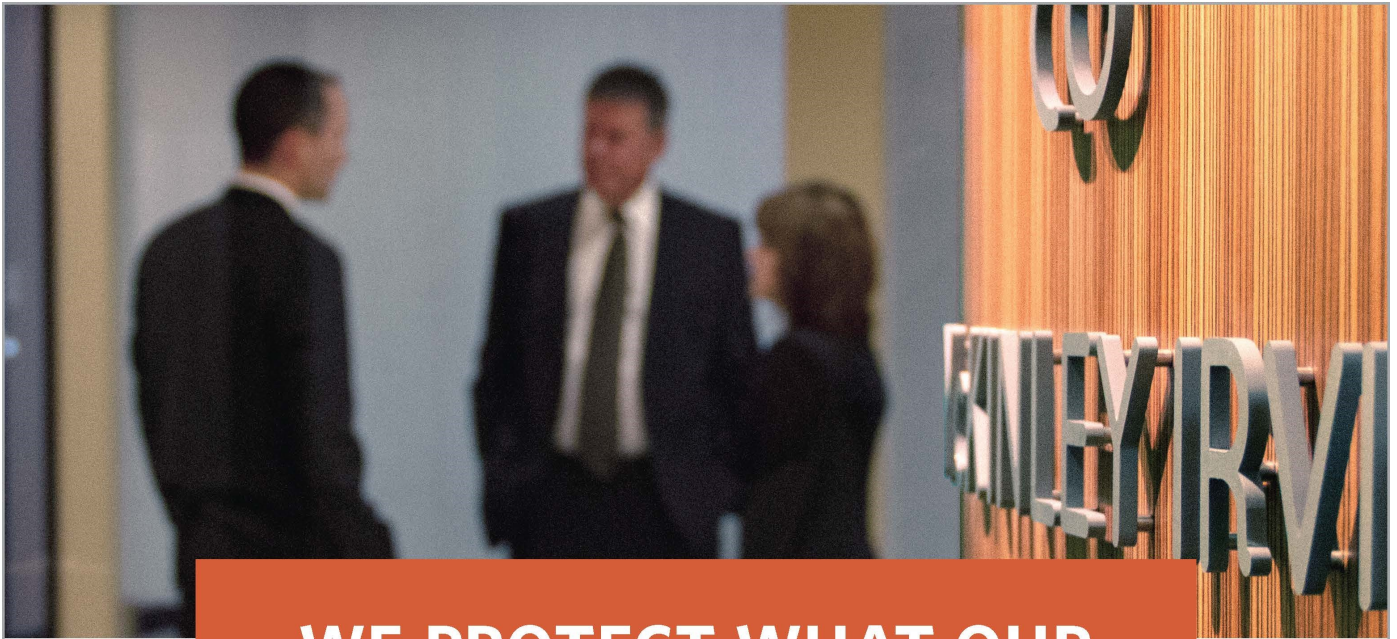
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Member Profile: Christine Landers

by Wendy Van Leuven

This year, the CCBA Board has agreed to focus on attorneys that are special to us Board members, attorneys that we admire...and dare say fan over? So for this edition, I begged to write about Christine Landers, Clackamas County Senior Deputy District Attorney.

Christine graduated from high school in Idaho. After being awarded the honor of National Merit Scholar, she decided to attend the University of Utah. Of course, she graduated with high honors, since nothing Christine does is halfway or ordinary. She moved to the Pacific Northwest to attend Lewis and Clark Law School. She secured a summer clerkship with Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt, a local firm in downtown Portland. The folks at Schwabe were no fools and, at the end of the summer leading into her third year of law school, they offered her an associates position upon graduation. As an associate with Schwabe, she participated in the “DA Day For A Day” program through Multnomah County District Attorney’s Office. This was a 10-week program that allowed civil attorneys to obtain trial experience by handling the prosecution of misdemeanor cases such as prostitution, driving under the influence and criminal trespass cases. For Christine, this opportunity made her realize that trial work was what interested her the most and that work as a prosecutor was where she wanted to take her career.

In 1996 she applied and accepted a position with the Clackamas County District Attorney and she has never looked back.

Over the years, she has earned a reputation as one of the most respected and best trial attorneys in the Clackamas County District Attorney’s office. Deputy District Attorney, Sarah Dumont, explained, “Christine has dedicated her practice to helping children, especially the victims of sexual abuse.” When I asked Sarah what it is like working with Christine she quickly said, “She cannot only argue complex legal ideas on the fly but she can distill them into relatable analogies to devastating effect.”

Senior District Attorney, John Wentworth, hit the nail on the head as to why she is so respected, “Christine has a mind like a steel trap. She can recall names and facts of cases years later with little difficulty. And, her mind never stops moving as evidenced by her sense of humor. She can take the most mundane of comments and point out the absurdity of it in an instant.” Sarah Dumont added, “I have seen Christine write a

well-reasoned and persuasive motion over lunch and then successfully argue it that same afternoon.”

For Judge Colleen Gilmartin, one of her favorite aspects of working with Christine, when she was in the District Attorney Office, was Christine’s sense of humor and drive. She also quipped about how Christine would often start a conversation with, “have you read...”. It is no surprise to anyone who knows Christine that she is an avid reader. Avid minimizes Christine’s reading. Voracious is more appropriate. Last year alone she read 190 books.

When asking her to name her favorite books and authors Christine rattled off the following, Edith Wharton, Willa Cather, Agatha Christie, Louise Penny and Michael Connelly. As a child, her favorite book was *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis. In college, she appreciated Armistead Maupin’s *Tales of the City* because it opened her eyes and allowed her to see the world was bigger than she knew. Years later, as an adult Laurie Colwin’s *A Big Storm Knocked It Over*, a novel about marriage and a new baby - life on the small scale - really resonated with Christine.

In regards to a life on a small scale, Christine downplays all her accomplishments. She conquers books, she quilts, she owns the courtroom and Christine is also the mother of two amazing adults, with her husband of 25 years, David. It is no surprise Christine is humble about her marriage and her children. She attests these not so small accomplishments and successes are really only attributable to David, but those who know her, know she was and is a solid steadfast strength to these successes

In short, Sarah Dumont sums up what makes Christine so special, “she is...irreverent and well-read. In short, the type of person you want to have on your legal team and as a friend.”

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Ads and Announcements

The District of Oregon is Seeking Nominations for Ninth Circuit Lawyer Representatives

Duties include assisting with planning the District's biennial conference, attending the Ninth Circuit's annual conference, and providing support and advice about the functioning of the courts within the Ninth Circuit to better the administration of justice. Representatives serve for staggered three-year terms. Those selected this year will serve from Aug. 1, 2020, through July 31, 2023. Criteria for selection as a lawyer representative include admission to practice in the District of Oregon, regular practice in federal court, and a commitment to participating in lawyer representative activities. Details are available on the Ninth Circuit's website at this link: https://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/content/view_lawrep.php?pk_id=0000000907. The deadline to apply is April 30, 2020. To nominate yourself or someone else, send a short statement of interest and resume to Magistrate Judge Youlee Yim You at youlee_yim_you@ord.uscourts.gov.

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CCBA Advertising Opportunities

Please visit our new website for 2020 advertising opportunities: <https://clackamas-bar.org/advertising-opportunities/>.

City of Oregon City Request for Indigent Defense Attorney for Municipal Court

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Oregon City will receive proposals for an independent contract for an Indigent Defense Attorney opening until 4:30 pm on Friday, March 13, 2020. The attorney must be a member of the Oregon State Bar. The city contract will end on July 1, 2021. It may be renewed for an additional period of two-years with the mutual written agreement between the parties. The contract would start April 1, 2020 unless otherwise agreed. <http://bids.orcity.org>

Contact Us

Four issues of *The Bar Tab* are published each year. A special summer issue is sometimes published. Submissions can be emailed, sent or given to the Editor or any Board member at any time. The CCBA does not make express or implied warranties regarding the use of information contained in this newsletter.

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