

THE LAWYERS' CAMPAIGN FOR EQUAL JUSTICE



SUPPORTING LEGAL AID IN OREGON

Fall 2004

921 SW WASHINGTON STREET, SUITE 520 • PORTLAND, OR 97205 • 503-295-8442 • cej@aracnet.com

Legal Aid Open Houses set for October 19th

Make plans to attend a 2004 Legal Aid Open House in your area. Ceremonies are scheduled at 16 legal aid offices and courthouses on Tuesday, October 19th.

- Albany, LASO/OLC Offices, 4-6 pm, *Speakers: First Lady Mary Oberst and Governor Ted Kulongoski*
- Bend Legal Aid Office, 1029 NW 14th St, 11:30 am-1:30 pm, *Speaker: Ira Zarov, Executive Director, Professional Liability Fund*
- Coos Bay Oregon Law Center, 295 S 10th St, 4-6 pm, *Speaker: State Rep. Joanne Verger*
- Eugene, Lane County Legal Services, 376 E 11th Ave, 4-6 pm, *Speaker: Senator Ron Wyden*
- Grants Pass Oregon Law Center, 207 SW G St, Suite C, 4-6 pm, *Speaker: William Carter, Oregon State Bar President*
- Hillsboro Legal Aid Office, 230 NE 2nd Ave, Suite A, 4-6 pm, *Speakers: Hon. Marco Hernandez, Washington County Circuit Court; Rep. David Wu (invited)*
- Medford Center for Nonprofit Legal Services, Jackson County Courthouse, 11:30-1:30, *Speaker: Hon. James Redden, US District Court*
- McMinnville Legal Aid Office, 720 E 3rd, 11:30-1:30, *Speakers: Michael Mason, Chair, Legal Aid Board of Directors; State Rep. Donna Nelson*
- Newport, Lincoln County Courthouse, 225 W Olive St, Newport, 12-1 pm, *Speaker: Hon. Ann Aiken, US District Court*
- Ontario Oregon Law Center, 225 SW 1st Ave, #6, 11:30-1:30 pm, *Speaker: Mike Neal, Litigation Director, Oregon Law Center*
- Oregon City Legal Aid Office, 421 High St, Suite 110, 12-2 pm, *Speaker: Robert Grey, President, American Bar Association; Hon. Karin Immergut, US Attorney for Oregon*
- Pendleton Convention Center, 1601 Westgate, 6-8:30 pm, *Speakers: Kent Robinson, Chief, Criminal Division, US Attorney's Office; Hon. Ronald Pahl, Umatilla Circuit Court*
- Portland Offices of Legal Aid Services of Oregon and Oregon Law Center, 921 SW Washington St, 5th Floor, 3-5 pm, *Speakers: Robert Grey, President, American Bar Association; State Senator Kate Brown*
- Roseburg Legal Aid Office, 700 SE Kane, 4-6 pm, *Speaker: State Rep. Susan Morgan*
- Salem Marion-Polk Legal Aid Services, 1655 State St, 12-1 pm, *Speaker: Hon. David Brewer, Oregon Court of Appeals*
- Woodburn Community Center, 491 N 3rd St, 4-6 pm, *Speaker: Hardy Myers, Oregon Attorney General* ■

Advocating in Oregon

DEBI WESTENBARGER

by Jane Wilcox

Debi Westenbarger and her sons Wyley, four and a half, and Kaleb, three, are building a new family life. They play at the park, attend day-care, celebrate birthdays and have fun at home. It has not been that way for long. Until Debi sought help from legal aid in May of 2002, she and her sons were living day to day with the reality of domestic violence.

To Debi, marriage is such a serious commitment that it took some time for her to be certain what was right. Although it was far from the worst thing that happened, Debi's endurance ended one night when Bill slammed her fingers repeatedly in the cupboard door and a short time later, frustrated that Wyley wasn't walking fast enough, picked the two-year-old up by the hair to 'walk him along.' Debi found Legal Aid Services of Oregon in the phone book. Attorney Anna Davis at the Hillsboro office helped her get a restraining order. Debi says, "When I met Anna Davis, she was like a light in the darkness for that part of my life. She helped me legally and then, for the things she couldn't help with, she just listened."

Debi left her family home in Beaverton at 18 to attend a religious college in Michigan. She hoped to complete the two-year program and be sent on a mission to Africa. Her grandfather had been a medical missionary in Brazil and her father had grown up in Brazil. Soon after the school year started, Debi met Bill. Bill was interested in Africa, too. They started dating, became engaged in January 1999 and married the following June.

From the beginning Debi was afraid things were not right. Her parents had told her that marriage was a difficult adjustment and so she tried to adjust and found herself apologizing a lot—for her housekeeping, for her cooking, for opening the curtains when someone might see her. Even speaking to male acquaintances was not allowed.

Wyley, Debi's first son, was premature and stayed in the hospital for six weeks. Beginning then, Bill became more abusive and began hitting Debi. Wyley needed special care and so Bill and Debi were asked to take a leave from school. This began a series of stays with

other families, failed jobs and increasing anger and abuse. While staying with Bill's sister in Virginia, Debi took a blow to the stomach that caused her to miscarry. In the doctor's office that afternoon, she saw some women in poor condition with visible bruises. She recalls, "I just didn't associate myself with that at all." That night, Bill hit Wyley for the first time and left a mark. Debi waited until he was out of the house and fled with her baby to a crisis shelter. There she saw the women with new eyes, "I met women like those I saw in the doctor's office—I was amazed. I cried all that night."

Over the next year Debi Westenbarger repeatedly tried to make things better and, when that failed, to reconcile and adjust. Kaleb, her second son, was born that summer. When he came home, Bill became even more violent. Soon after Bill slammed her fingers in the cupboard, Debi visited her grandparents. They encouraged

her to leave her husband. Her grandparents told her, "What you live with is what your children will become. You have to be strong for you and your kids." She heard their message. She returned home and called legal aid.

Attorneys Anna Davis and Leslea Smith helped Debi with a restraining order and later with a divorce and custody arrangements. Davis says, "She was just learning the danger of her situation but she knew she needed help." When Debi was frightened to go into the hearing, Anna Davis described the process to

prepare her for what she would face. When Bill violated the restraining order, legal aid provided moral support and information to Debi while the district attorney prosecuted the violation. Bill served three weeks in jail.

"When I met Anna Davis, she was like a light in the darkness for that part of my life. She helped me legally and then, for the things she couldn't help with, she just listened."

As the divorce proceeded, Debi began to teach preschool. This fall, she will return to school to prepare for a nursing career. Portland Community College helped her find grants that would pay expenses for her first year. She hopes, when the boys are older, to fulfill her dreams by going on short-term medical missions. She praises Anna Davis and Leslea Smith, "I cannot thank you and legal aid services enough for the support and borrowed strength to move over that awful hill." ■

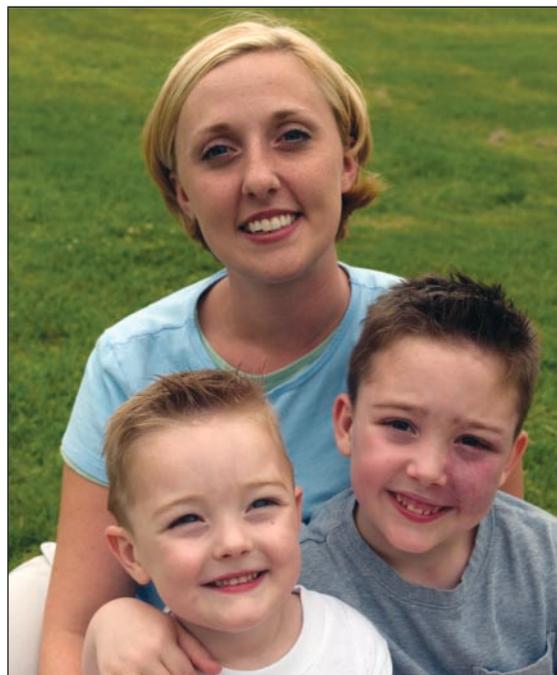


PHOTO: JULIE KEEFE

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ANN LININGER

by Jane Wilcox

Attorney Ann Lininger, Co-Director of the Community Development Law Center, returned to Oregon after graduating from Yale University, New York University School of Law and working in Denver where, among other jobs, she was an associate at the law firm of Hogan & Hartson LLP. It had always been her plan to live and work in Oregon. She says, "My family has lived in Oregon for four generations and I feel really rooted to this state. The poet Wendell Berry says, 'If you don't know where you are, you don't know who you are.' In Oregon I feel most like myself."



lies. Now I'm doing similar transactions from the lawyer side."

Back in Oregon in 2001, Lininger began work at the Community Development Law Center to help address Oregon's shortage of low-income housing. The CDLC assists nonprofit housing organizations statewide by providing transactional work related to the development, preservation and management of housing for people with very low incomes. Their work has a special focus on small rural housing developments that could not be created or maintained without the help of legal aid attorneys. As Lininger had foreseen years earlier, there was a role for her as a lawyer in making low-income housing development and preservation possible by adding the ingredient of low-cost legal information and transactional assistance.

Now a Co-Director of the CDLC, Lininger is overseeing a new clinical program that CDLC is operating for

al housing group, attempting to create housing consistent with the goals of the fair share project. She says, "That was a situation where I first glimpsed the kind of work that I'm doing now. At Victims Services Agency, I participated in housing development from the client side, working with lawyers, bankers, foundations, contractors, and architects to create more housing for these fami-

Lewis and Clark Law School beginning in September. Lininger and Charlie Harris, CDLC senior staff attorney, will serve as adjunct faculty to Lewis and Clark. Through this program, known as the Community Development Law Project, law students will work at CDLC, receive training in the types of legal assistance CDLC provides, and assist nonprofit housing organizations and other nonprofits under staff supervision. Although there are many civil legal clinics in law schools across the United States, this is one of the few clinics to provide hands-on training in transactional work.

Lininger says that the project is exciting because "We are going to be able to expand our capacity to help

"This project enables us to serve our clients, teach students about transactional work, and introduce a new generation of lawyers to ways they can use their skills to help low-income people. It's a great collaboration."

Oregon's nonprofits. This project enables us to serve our clients, teach students about transactional work, and introduce a new generation of lawyers to ways they can use their skills to help low-income people. It's a great collaboration."

Ann Lininger is doing the work she came home to do. She says, "I love Oregon. I love the fact that there are intelligent and creative people in Oregon working to find solutions to the problems that face this state, including the need for affordable housing. I want to devote my skills to help make Oregon a better place where everyone can enjoy the opportunities and benefits we enjoy in this beautiful state." ■

Briefly...

National News

Representatives urge end to private money restriction; cite faith-based programs

US Representatives Jose Serrano (D-NY) and David Price (D-NC) testified in the House of Representatives to the harm caused to legal services programs and the low-income people they serve by legal aid restrictions. They highlighted the so-called "private money restriction" which prohibits legal aid programs that accept Legal Services Corporation funding from using money raised from private sources to perform restricted services. Representative Price suggested, "Congress should require LSC grantees to abide by the same long-standing rules promulgated by the Office of Management and Budget for nonprofit grantees of Federal agencies, by the IRS for all nonprofit 501(c)(3) and (c)(4) organizations, and by the Bush administration for faith-based groups." He explained that these rules are adequate and less costly. "All of these rules authorize nonprofits receiving Federal funds to engage in various privately funded activities like lobbying and praying without requiring them to do so through physically separate entities with separate staff and equipment." Removal of the private

money restriction would make it possible for legal aid providers to serve many more clients.

Bipartisan group of Senators requests increased funding in FY05

This past May, Oregon's full congressional delegation signed a letter to the House Appropriations committee requesting increased funding for the Legal Services Corporation in fiscal year 2005. They said, in part, "[W]e support an increase in funding that would help the LSC fulfill the mandate entrusted upon it by Congress when it was established." In June, Senators Wyden and Smith joined with forty other US Senators in a letter to the Senate Appropriations Committee in support of the Legal Services Corporation's request for increased funding. Since then, the House has passed an FY05 budget that authorizes \$335.3 million for the Legal Services Corporation, the same amount appropriated in 2004. On September 15, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved a recommendation of \$335 million.

State News

Law firms make generous equipment donations to legal aid programs

When Oregon Law Center and Legal Aid Services of Oregon moved

last May, the law firms of Schwabe Williamson & Wyatt; Stoel Rives; Bullard Smith Jernstedt Wilson; and Klarquist Sparkman as well as Northwest Staffing Resources answered the call for contributions of furnishings and computers. Schwabe Williamson & Wyatt provided conference tables, folding tables and matching chairs that became the cornerstone for Oregon Law Center's first conference room and helped outfit several OLC and LASO staff offices. Stoel Rives donated twenty-five hard drives equipped with monitors, keyboards and speakers to Oregon Law Center, enabling them to update computers at regional offices in Coos Bay, Grants Pass, Ontario, Woodburn and Albany as well as Portland. Oregon Law Center administrator Lori Alton says, "We have found Schwabe, Stoel Rives and many other firms to be very generous partners in helping us with donations of furniture and equipment." Klarquist Sparkman, Stoel Rives and NW Staffing Resources donated enough furniture to outfit several other rooms at OLC and LASO and Stoel Rives contributed five computers to LASO for use in-house.

Oregon Law Center receives national and local grants for outreach and education to indigenous farmworkers

US Department of Health and

Human Services' National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health has awarded a four-year \$863,000 grant for a project that will promote the health and safety of indigenous people, mostly Mexicans and Central Americans, who work in Oregon agriculture. Project partners include the Oregon Law Center, Portland State University School of Community Health, Salud Health Clinics, and Northwest Tree Planters and Farmworkers United (PCUN). The indigenous farmworkers will themselves be directly involved, participating in forums and assisting, in their own languages, with the design of information and outreach. The project aims to develop community-based strategies to inform indigenous workers about health hazards associated with agricultural work. Nargess Shadbeh, Farmworker Program Director of the Oregon Law Center, will oversee and administer project activities.

The Oregon Community Foundation and PacifiCorp Foundation for Learning have awarded grants in 2004-2005 for continuation of the Oregon Law Center's Indigenous Farmworker Project. The project assists farmworkers who speak indigenous languages with legal information about employment, housing, health care and other critical issues.

LAF-OFF comedy night launches the 2004 Campaign for Equal Justice

by Matthew Jones

Circuit Court Judge Dale Koch, US District Court Judge Anna Brown and Oregon Supreme Court Justice Thomas Balmer donned black robes, but traded their gavels for scorecards on Friday, September 10th to preside over Laf-Off. 750 lawyers, judges, friends and supporters of legal aid attended this evening of stand-up comedy at the Oregon Convention Center to kick off the 2004 Campaign for Equal Justice.

Laf-Off was the brainchild of Prashant Dubey, Vice President of Marketing for FIOS, Inc. "Legal aid services are important to Oregon's system of justice and to the low-income Oregonians who benefit from their help," says Dubey. "It seemed appropriate that FIOS, Inc., a provider of services to Oregon law firms, could rally the corporate community in supporting this important cause." FedEx Kinko's, CRESA Partners, Angels Northwest Reporting Services and Brown Printing Inc. joined FIOS as major sponsors of the event.

In the comedy competition, sole practitioner Bill Abendroth of Portland was declared the funniest of the lawyer-comics. The judges deadlocked in a four-way tie among Abendroth; Lori Deveny, Oregon Women Lawyers; Mitra Shahri, Oregon Trial Lawyers Association; and Jack Bogdanski, Lewis and

Clark Law School and turned to the audience to name the winner. The field was highly competitive and the judges gave high marks to all. Other contestants included Jim Egan of Kryger Alexander Egan & Elmer; Bernie Thurber of Davis Wright Tremaine; Mark Turner of Ater Wynne; Ira Zarov of Professional Liability Fund (and his brother); and Eric Bergstrom, Multnomah County District Attorney's Office (billed as the 'Mystery DA' in the event's publicity).

Kerry Tymchuck, state director for Senator Gordon Smith, hit just the right tone as master of ceremonies. As a former speechwriter for Senator Bob Dole, he found particular delight in introducing the night's headliner, Mark Katz. Katz was Bill Clinton's humor speechwriter and the author of *Clinton and Me* from which he shared his comedic insights about those who hold the nation's highest political office.

Linda Clingan, the Campaign's executive director, says that the goal of the Laf-Off was to increase corporate support for legal aid in a lighthearted way and to create an event that would appeal to younger lawyers. Clingan says, "The next generation needs to hear this message and we've worked out a way to kick off the campaign that was highly energizing. The local comedians stole the show. Kerry Tymchuck was brilliant and the judges—well, there was no lack of judicial candor!"

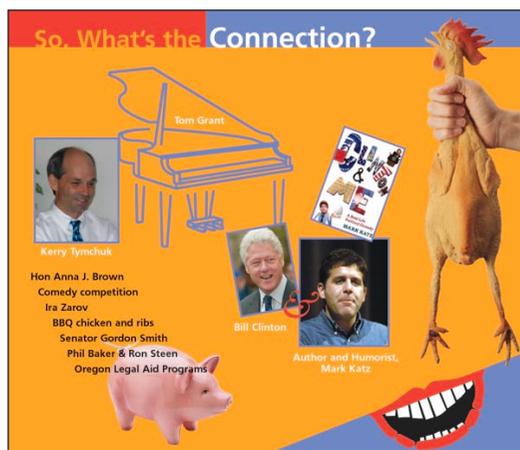
"We are thrilled to have an event that creates this kind of momentum



Laf-Off winner Bill Abendroth (center), runners-up Jack Bogdanski (left) and Lori Deveny (right)

for the Campaign right out of the gate," says Ed Harnden, Co-chair of the 2004 Campaign. "It was just amazing to look out into the room and see 750 people gathered together to help launch this year's Campaign." Larry Rew of Pendleton and Doug Schmor of Medford are once again joining Ed as Co-chairs. "Even though the Campaign continues to grow every year, there is still a great gulf to fill in meeting the demand for civil legal services for low income citizens," continues Harnden. "And it will once again take the participation of lawyers from throughout the state to reach our goal of \$850,000. This really is every lawyer's campaign."

The theme of the 2004 Campaign is 'Protecting Oregon Families.' 42% of legal aid cases involve family law issues. Over 600,000 Oregonians live in poverty today and almost half of them are children. Two thirds of legal aid clients are women, most of them mothers. Even while the Campaign continues to grow, the need is ever greater. The reality for Oregon families is that legal aid is able to help only two in five people who seek services. ■



Pitching In:

EXPERT LEGAL TEAM MOUNTS CONSTITUTIONAL CHALLENGE FOR LEGAL AID

by Jane Wilcox

Tom Christ, Charlie Hinkle and Roy Pulvers teamed up in July offering their services pro bono to legal aid to take on the issue of mootness before the Oregon Supreme Court. Christ, partner at Cosgrave Vergeer Kester, argued the case, Yancy v. Shatzer and the City of Portland, before the Oregon Supreme Court. Stoel Rives partner, Charlie Hinkle, wrote the historical analysis used in the brief. Pulvers, partner at Lindsay Hart Neil & Weigler, working pro bono as chair of the Constitutional Law Section, weighed in for the Oregon State Bar Board of Governors, writing the Bar's amicus brief. The briefs in the case addressed moot issues capable of repetition yet evading review. Election challenges, rules for ballot initiatives, temporary guardianships of seniors and 30-day park exclusions are examples of such issues.

Oregon Law Center lawyers Ed Johnson and Marc Jolin initially represented Yancy. Yancy's case challenged the constitutionality of Portland's park exclusion ordinance arguing that it failed to comply with due process requirements and because it was used to harass poor and homeless people in Portland. Portland police officers arrested Terry Yancy for jaywalking and issued a ticket excluding him from three parks for 30 days. Johnson and Jolin appealed the exclusion to the city's Code Hearings Officer, Shatzer. The appeal was rejected. Next Johnson and Jolin challenged the exclusion ordinance in Multnomah County Circuit Court. The court upheld the city's ordinance and Yancy appealed. The Oregon Court of Appeals denied the appeal on grounds that the 30-day park exclusion had ended and so the issue was moot.

After the case was rejected by the Court of Appeals, legal aid sought help to appeal the case to the Supreme Court. Tom Christ, who has a longstanding interest in the Oregon judiciary's refusal to rule on moot issues, saw in

the facts of Yancy an opportunity to seek clarification on the status of moot cases that raise important public issues and are likely to be repeated. He agreed to co-counsel pro bono. Christ noted, "This is an issue that goes far beyond him [Yancy] and applies to everybody who has ever been excluded from a park under this ordinance or anyone who is potentially excludable, which is to say, all of us."

Ed Johnson explains why this issue is important to legal aid clients. "When you have access to funds, it is possible to bring a case before the court more quickly. Low-income clients are obliged to pursue options such as letters, grievance processes, or hearings that may not be completed while the issue is still active."

Attorney Charlie Hinkle believes that the Oregon Constitution does allow this exception to the mootness doctrine. Hinkle, like Christ and Pulvers, has challenged the Oregon courts' position, noting that all 49 other states and the federal courts have long recognized the need for courts to rule on moot issues that are important. Hinkle explains, "The highest courts of 49 states have said, 'Yes,

we're going to decide cases of public importance that raise questions of the proper application of law. Public officials need to know what the law is and we're going to decide [these cases] even if the particular election or the particular prison term or the particular whatever is over and done with.'"

At the time Christ took on the task of petitioning the Supreme Court on behalf of Yancy, Pulvers said "...it had reached a pass where the court wasn't taking this [type of] case even though the parties had brought it to them a

number of times." Pulvers, Chair of the Constitutional Law Section, saw an opportunity to help get the petition accepted for review. He worked with the Board of Governors to encourage their participation and he wrote the Bar's amicus brief. Christ agrees that the Bar's support was key.

At oral argument, Christ asked the justices to affirm that lower courts have discretion to rule in certain moot cases. He asserted that there is nothing in Oregon's constitution that prohibits exceptions to the mootness doctrine and that the idea of making exceptions in certain cases evolved over time in both state and federal courts and in the Oregon courts.

On September 16th, the Supreme Court issued its decision. In Yancy v. Shatzer, the majority rejected the doctrine of 'capable of repetition yet evading review.' Justices Balmer and Riggs issued a separate opinion arguing that Oregon should recognize the doctrine. Another case that became moot, Kerr v. Bradbury, regarding election law, has been granted a petition for review. Also, a decision issued on September 23rd in State v. Snyder will affect the Oregon courts' treatment of certain issues that are moot.

Tom Christ has been engaged in this issue over a long period. Of the time spent, he says, "Practicing law is a privilege ...I believe there is a corresponding obligation to make sure that everyone who needs a lawyer has one ...I've always felt I should do my part to fulfill the need." He is not alone in holding this view. Private attorneys in Oregon donate thousands of hours each year to help meet the legal needs of low-income people. ■

"Practicing law is a privilege ...I believe there is a corresponding obligation to make sure that everyone who needs a lawyer has one." Attorney Tom Christ



SUPPORTING THE FUTURE OF LEGAL AID – LOU SAVAGE

by Mabsie Walters

Lou Savage, former Executive Director of Multnomah County Legal Aid and now Senior Policy Advisor for the Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services, has made a bequest to the Oregon Access to Justice Endowment Fund. Savage's commitment to access to justice began in college. He recalls, "I took a class called 'The Economics of Poverty' and I saw the impact of legal services on the lives of the poor. I decided to go to law school. It wasn't just, 'Oh, it would be fun to be a lawyer.' It was, 'I want to be a legal aid lawyer.'"



Savage worked for legal services in Multnomah County for seventeen years. He began as a staff attorney in 1974 going on to serve as executive director for eight years.

"When I took over as director of Multnomah County Legal Aid," Savage says, "two-thirds of all money was federal money. A president had been elect-

ed whose goal was to zero out federally funded legal services. My goal was to diversify the funding and create funding sources that would be more stable and reliable. We knew that, even if the political environment changed, we could never again rely heavily on federal money for legal aid."

Since then, significant new sources of funds have been established. By statute, a portion of each filing fee goes to legal aid, as does the interest on lawyers' trust accounts (IOLTA).

The Campaign for Equal Justice, established in 1991, was another funding strategy.

Savage remembers, "Ira (Zarov, then director of Oregon Legal Services) and I spent a year and a half plotting it and the Campaign ship left the dock as I was leaving

legal aid in 1991. The Campaign for Equal Justice has grown to be an important source of funding as well as an important advocate for legal aid. The Campaign has

provided leadership and a way for the legal community to support legal aid—to adopt it as their cause."

Savage is hopeful about the future of stable and adequate funding for legal aid. "The Oregon Access to Justice Endowment Fund is the next great effort," he believes. "If this endowment can get off the ground, maybe provide a million dollars a year, it will form the foundation for funding that we can rely on when we're assessing the legal needs of the poor and planning where resources should be directed."

Savage wants to help raise money for the Endowment because "...(W)e must keep working to expand and stabilize funding for legal aid if our justice system is going to work. Nobody understands this more than lawyers. We're sort

"...[W]e must keep working to expand and stabilize funding for legal aid if our justice system is going to work. Nobody understands this more than lawyers." Attorney Lou Savage

of like the canary in the mineshaft—if we know people are shut out of the justice system, it's a sign that our democratic society isn't working." ■

OTLA lawyers gather to plan endowment effort

by Mabsie Walters

On a beautiful August evening, Governor Ted Kulongoski and First Lady Mary Oberst hosted a dinner on the terrace of Mahonia Hall. Chuck and Nancy Tauman, Linda Love and Michael Williams, Robert and Barre Stoll, and Larry and Peggy Wobbrock were co-hosts. Thirty-one OTLA lawyers, their spouses and three adult children gathered for dinner and conversation. The lawyers, all longtime generous supporters of The Campaign for Equal Justice, came together to discuss how to help guarantee the future of legal aid.

and in the company of such gracious and committed hosts. We spent time talking about our shared history, the fact that in a sense we had grown up together, many of us having known each other for twenty or thirty years."

"We had a chance to reflect on our careers as lawyers, people whose livelihoods have depended on a fair and accessible civil justice system, and that perhaps it is time to consider a payback to that system. One very logical and immediate way to make that payback would be to provide for the future of legal aid in our state through gifts to the Oregon Access to Justice Endowment Fund. This would be a lasting way to demonstrate our commitment to legal aid."

Husbands and wives had an opportunity to hear the lawyers' commitment to justice and to the civil justice system. The presence of two high school students and a recent college graduate was nice because it linked the generations. It was evident that these young adults were

formulate the specifics of this plan. Fifty thousand dollars remains to be raised to complete Robert Stoll's matching gift of \$100,000. Any OTLA member is welcome to join the conversation at this stage. To join the effort, please call Linda Clingan, Executive Director of the Oregon Access to Justice Endowment Fund at 503-295-8442. ■



Mike Neal and First Lady Mary Oberst – Barbara Slader, David Slader, and Governor Kulongoski – Jim Coon, Bob Stoll, Mark Bocci and Chuck Tauman

Mike Neal, Litigation Director for Legal Aid's Oregon Law Center, described two significant recent cases, both currently on appeal. One lawsuit challenges the elimination of the state's medically needy program, affecting thousands of people whose lives and mental health depend on prescription medications. The other lawsuit challenges the state's practice of indiscriminately changing the eligibility standards of people receiving long-term care at home, often resulting in people losing their homes.

Chuck Tauman, who led the discussion, described the evening, "It was a perfect time to stop and reflect about the future, especially in such a peaceful setting

very proud to hear their mothers and fathers talking about providing for legal needs of the next generation.

Tauman believes the assembled lawyers were very receptive. "I was pleased with the conversation. We discussed several ways of making the kind of contribution that would be meaningful not only today, but would be meaningful years from now." One proposal under consideration is a named fund to support a litigation director, the position held by Mike Neal at the Oregon Law Center, thereby ensuring that the work he does will continue in future years.

The lawyers who hosted the dinner intend to continue working with a small group of OTLA members to

LEGAL AID OFFICES in Oregon

What We Do

- Housing
- Family Law
- Domestic Violence
- Employment Law
- Administrative Law
- Senior Law



Where We Are

Legal Aid Services of Oregon—

- | | | |
|-----------|-------------|----------|
| Albany | Newport | Portland |
| Bend | Oregon City | Roseburg |
| Hillsboro | Pendleton | Woodburn |

- Center for NonProfit Legal Services – Medford
- Lane County Legal Aid Services – Eugene
- Lane County Law & Advocacy Center – Eugene
- Marion-Polk Legal Aid Services – Salem
- Oregon Law Center – Coos Bay, Grants Pass, Ontario, Portland, Woodburn

To learn more about the Oregon Access to Justice Endowment Fund, call Linda Clingan, Executive Director, at 503-295-8442.