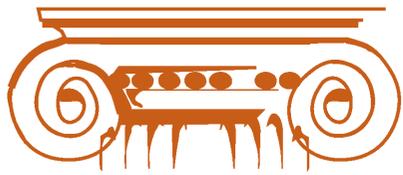


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# THE LAWYERS' CAMPAIGN FOR EQUAL JUSTICE



SUPPORTING LEGAL AID IN OREGON

Spring 2003

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## Advocating in Oregon

## Governor Supports Campaign for Equal Justice

By Neisha Saxena

At the 12th Annual Campaign for Equal Justice Annual Awards Lunch, held in Portland on March 7, Governor Ted Kulongoski pledged to help bring the "light of social justice to families whose stories are invisible." He also stated that he and Oregon First Lady Mary Oberst would double their annual Campaign contribution to \$2000.



PHOTO: MIKE RENFRO

The Governor explained to 420 lawyers, foundation officers, and other supporters of Oregon legal services programs, that he and Oberst, were "ready to make every active lawyer in Oregon a believer."

"The Campaign is more than just a cause," stated the Governor, "it is a moral obligation. As officers of the court, we are duty bound to keep the courthouse doors open to everyone. This is especially true now, as Oregon's faltering economy washes more and more families onto the shore of poverty and hardship."

Oregon lawyers cannot turn our economy around. That's not your responsibility. But it is your responsibility, and mine, to help the Campaign for Equal

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## RON AND JUANITA STREIFEL

by Jane Wilcox

Juanita and Ron Streifel are trying to hold on to their health, keep their home and get back some of their former energy and interest in life. That's difficult to do when illness takes your financial security away.



Ron and Juanita Streifel

Earlier this year, they came to Multnomah County Legal Aid when it looked like they might lose their home. In order to pay for the prescription drugs necessary to her survival, Juanita Streifel had to delay house payments or fail to pay other bills. The lender told her, "If your payment isn't in here within twelve hours from this conversation, we'll come out and you can find yourselves another place to live." Legal aid advocate Jenny Kaufmann helped them find coverage for Juanita's prescription drugs, solving their most immediate problem. Self-help classes at legal aid gave them information that relieved some of their fears.

Both Juanita and Ron were born and have lived all their lives in East Portland. They lived in Lentz when they were children. Juanita graduated from Franklin High School and Ron attended David Douglas. For many years their life together went well. They were raising children on a couple of acres in the country east of Portland. Ron was the sole proprietor of an auto repair shop. Juanita did the bookkeeping. "Ron's shop and our home were right next to each other so I could stay at home and take care of my kids and still do things for him. That's a picture of it right there. We didn't have any neighbors around us. All we had were horses, cows and animals."

Ron is the kind of auto mechanic who remembers a car's repair history. "I have a good rapport with people, customers, you know. I'd take them and show them exactly how the part worked, make sure they under-

stood why they had the problem." Dyslexia forced him to rely on his strong visual memory to solve mechanical problems. Because he knew the cars he worked on, sometimes the solution to a problem would come to him in the middle of the night and he says he wanted to jump out of bed and run over to the shop and fix it. He developed a specialty in repairing cars that had been damaged by fire. He could look at the engine or the interior and understand how to make a pattern and reconstruct what was missing.

The Streifels began to have trouble in 1996. That year Ron had two heart attacks. Because he was uninsured, he was enrolled in the Oregon Health Plan. After an angioplasty he returned to work, but had less stamina and was not able to work as many hours as before. During the next couple of years, more medications were added to control severe allergies and, because of an adverse reaction to the drugs, he experienced panic attacks that continue to prevent him from living and working the way he used to. Last year, when Juanita helped Ron apply for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) based on his health problems, the application was approved and he began to receive benefits.

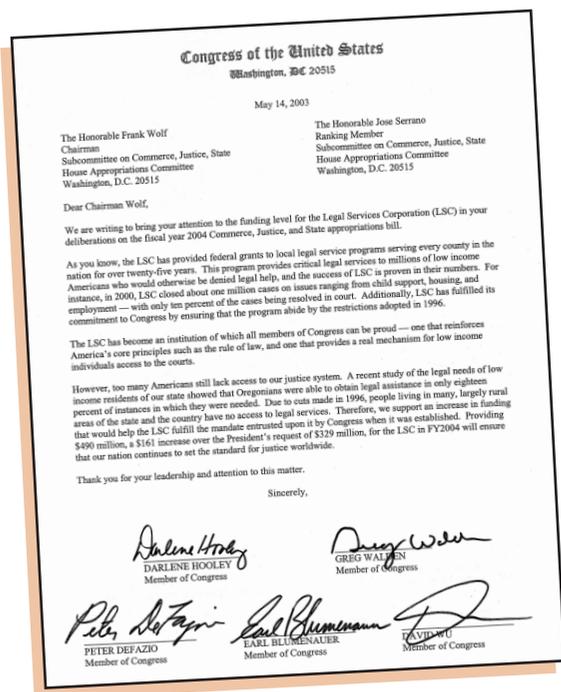
Juanita tried to keep the auto shop going using hired mechanics. She found, though, that the customers' loyalty to Ron couldn't be transferred over to others. When customers called, they didn't want to talk to Juanita

and they didn't want to talk to the other mechanics. After they'd called or stopped by a few times and Ron wasn't there, many of them stopped coming in.

During the next couple of years, they lost assets one by one. Ron had put \$300,000 into equipment for the shop. He was forced to auction it off for pennies on the dollar. Juanita and Ron moved from their home on 3 acres to a small mobile home to cut their expenses. They had purchased and painstakingly rebuilt a motor home damaged in a crash. They had to let that go at a loss to keep up with the bills. In 2000 Juanita also suffered a heart attack. To prevent another, she must have

See Streifel, page 4

*"Just knowing that legal aid is out there to help you gives you a little bit more confidence so that you can breathe a little bit easier."*



Oregon's entire Congressional Delegation supports increased funding for legal services.



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# OREGON FIRST LADY MARY OBERST WALKS THE WALK

By Neisha Saxena

“Justice must be blind to the status of the parties. . . courts must be a refuge from the arbitrary acts of government and the abusive acts of private entities. And...if money is needed to pay for a justice system that is fair, impartial, and protective of the weak as well as the strong - that money must be found,” said Oregon First Lady Mary Oberst on March 27 in Eugene. A lawyer herself, Mary Oberst feels strongly that the legal profession has a moral obligation to keep the courthouse doors open to everyone, regardless of ability to pay. That is why she has made the Campaign for Equal Justice a top priority in her public role as First Lady to Governor Ted Kulongoski.

The only daughter of two lawyers, Oberst grew up in a home where justice and civil rights were common topics at the dinner table. She was a strong student and a voracious reader. She came to Oregon in her 20s, as part of a cross-country trip with friends, and made Eugene her home. Graduating from the University of Oregon Law School in 1984, Oberst went to work for the Oregon State Bar, where she stayed for 19 years, until

taking a leave of absence in order to fulfill her public role as First Lady. Governor Kulongoski was Labor Commissioner when they met and married.

Since becoming First Lady, Mary Oberst has acted on her pledge to support access to justice in Oregon. In addition to her remarks in Eugene, she was the opening speaker at a national access to justice conference sponsored by the American Bar Association and the National Legal Aid and Defender Association held in Portland in April, where she championed the support of the Oregon legal community and challenged everyone to do more. She and the Governor are calling on all lawyers in Oregon to make a \$250 contribution to the Campaign for Equal Justice.

*“if money is needed to pay for a justice system that is fair, impartial, and protective of the weak as well as the strong - that money must be found,”*

Furthermore, she is calling on current contributors to double their contributions, with half going to the Access to Justice Endowment to ensure the long-term viability of legal aid programs. Long-time major donors, Oberst and Kulongoski have pledged to double their annual contribution to \$2000.

It is an honor to have Mary Oberst as part of the team. ■

## Briefly...

By Neisha Saxena and Jane Wilcox

### National News

#### Supreme Court Rules in Favor of IOLTA Funded Programs

On March 26, 2003, the Supreme Court put to rest challenges to funding for legal aid programs through interest on lawyer trust accounts. Writing for the majority in the case of *Brown et al v. Legal Foundation of Washington*, Justice Stevens wrote that transferring interest payments from client trust accounts to public interest law foundations could constitute a taking of property under the Fifth Amendment, for which just compensation would be due. However, because just compensation is measured by the individual client's loss - and in the instance of IOLTA accounts the loss to an individual client is zero - the Court held there is no violation of the Just Compensation Clause of the Fifth Amendment. The ruling was a big victory for legal aid programs nationally and locally. In Oregon, IOLTA funds are administered by the Oregon Law Foundation. Legal aid programs received \$639,429 from the Oregon Law Foundation in 2002.

#### Senator Smith Co-Sponsors LSC Increase; Senators Receive National Awards for Support of Legal Services

This February, Congress increased appropriations to the Legal Services Corporation by \$9.5 million. The increase might not have happened without the support of Senator Gordon Smith, who co-sponsored the increase with Iowa Senator Tom Harkin. Senator Smith was the first Republican to speak out in favor of the increase, which will help avoid service cuts to states that lost population

according to the 2000 Census. Other Republicans joining Senator Smith were Senator Pete Domenici of New Mexico, and Representatives Frank Wolf of Virginia, Deborah Pryce of Ohio and Tom Latham of Iowa. “Justice is not a place where partisan divisions should invade,” Senator Smith explained to his colleagues.



PHOTO: MIKE RENFRO

Senators Smith and Ron Wyden have both made adequate funding for the Legal Services Corporation a priority as part of their Bipartisan Agenda for Oregon. As a result of their efforts on behalf of access to justice, the Senators recently received national awards from the American Bar Association and the American Judicature Society.

### State News

#### National Access to Justice Conference Held in Portland

The American Bar Association and the National Legal Aid and Defender Association held its annual Equal Justice Conference in Portland on April 10 - 12. Attendees came to Oregon from all 50 states and Washington, DC. The theme this year was The Power of Partnerships, with a special emphasis on partnership with the private bar through pro bono programs and annual fund raising. The Campaign for Equal Justice was held up as a national model of legal services fund-raising.

“The Lawyers’ Campaign for Equal Justice works because it truly is the lawyers’ campaign. We are the ones who

sit on the Board of Directors, chair the committees and ask our partners and colleagues to give money,” said conference panelist Ron Greenman, a partner at Tonkon Torp LLP, member of the Campaign for Equal Justice Board of Directors, and former Campaign Co-chair. Panelist Lou Savage, of counsel to the Portland office of Harrang Long Gary Rudnick PC and a former Campaign Co-Chair, agreed. Savage was the Executive Director of Multnomah County Legal Aid when the Campaign was formed in 1991. “Oregon lawyers supported the Campaign from the start. We were surprised at how deeply the issue of access to justice resonated,” he recalled. Oregon First Lady Mary Oberst opened the conference by praising the efforts of Oregon lawyers and encouraging other states to follow their example.

#### Indigenous Project Launched

Oregon Law Center’s Indigenous Farm Worker Project has announced the beginning of its first full season of outreach and community education to Oregon’s indigenous Mexican and Central American farm workers. Working from the Woodburn office of Oregon Law Center, the project will provide practical information to this growing group of workers, an estimated 30,000-40,000 during the harvest season, who suffer discrimination and who, in many cases, do not speak English or Spanish. Facing discrimination in Mexico and Central America, indigenous workers often experience dangerous working conditions and inadequate housing in the US. Outreach workers Santiago Ventura Morales and Valentin Sanchez Sanchez, both from the Mixteco community, speak Mixteco, Spanish and English. Along with Julie Samples, coordinator and attorney, they will travel to labor camps and worker housing to disseminate information. They will also broadcast public service messages in indigenous languages and host radio talk shows about employment, safety and health issues.

## Lindauer group urges increase to filing fees

by Jane Wilcox

The Lindauer Group, an ad hoc committee formed in 2001 to strengthen support for legal aid in the Oregon legislature, works to increase legal aid funding. The group’s goal is \$1 million in state funding from filing fees and other sources to keep current levels of legal services viable around the state. This year HB 2088 seeks a filing fee increase. Proceeds from the filing fees are a critical element of the funding for Oregon’s legal aid programs.

Legal aid programs are facing increased need. As David Thornburgh, director of the Oregon Law Center, recently wrote to the congressional delegation, “The recession has been hard on the half million Oregonians who live in poverty. Predatory loans, denial of health care, family violence—these problems have increased sharply in number and severity. The expertise legal aid programs offer is critical to the survival of low-income individuals and families.”

Eric Lindauer, chair of the group, feels that it is the proper time for legal aid supporters to approach state government. “Of course we know the economy is bad. There has never been a good time to come to the legislature for money. It is appropriate to do this now because lawyers have stepped up to the plate. The Campaign for Equal Justice has raised close to \$9 million from members of the Oregon State Bar, private foundations and corporations during the past 10 years. Our members of congress have voiced their support. We did not embark on the legislative strategy until we could demonstrate the commitment of lawyers and the Bar to support this issue.” ■

# A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Bend Open House

by Neisha Saxena

The most entertaining story of the 2002 Campaign came from an unanticipated source, Oregon Supreme Court Justice Thomas Balmer, who had a bit of an adventure on his way to the Third Biannual Legal Aid Open House in Bend. Sixteen legal aid offices opened their doors on October 23. In addition to Justice Balmer, keynote speakers included: Representative Darlene Hooley and Senator Ron Wyden, Federal Judges Owen Panner, Thomas Coffin, and Garr King; Oregon Supreme Court Justices Wallace P. Carson, Jr. and William Riggs; Oregon Court of Appeals Judges David Brewer, David Schuman, Robert Wollheim, current and former Oregon Legislators Neil R. Bryant, Alan Bates, Lenn Hannon and Peter Courtney; Oregon Attorney General Hardy Myers; the Governor's General Counsel, Danny Santos; Jackson County Circuit Court Judge, Ross Davis; OSB President-Elect Charles R. Williamson; PLF Executive Director Ira Zarov; Campaign Board Chair Henry Hewitt; and Legal Services Corporation Vice President Mauricio Vivero.

Here are excerpts of Justice Balmer's tale, in his own words, as told at the Annual Lunch in March:

Last fall I'm sitting in my office in Salem thinking deep thoughts about justice, reading John Rawls and Cook and Blackstone, drafting a few ballot titles, you know, and Linda Clingan calls... she asks, can I attend and speak briefly at one of the legal aid open houses that they're having across the state simultaneously in October and of course I say yes-the Marion-Polk county legal aid office is just down the street... But no, she would like me to drive to Bend and back in order to give a ten-minute talk at the legal aid office in Bend...

The open house is scheduled for 4 pm... I left Salem at about 2 in my '86 Volvo wagon which had recently turned 200,000 miles... About 15 miles out of Detroit I

start thinking about whether I had enough gas to make the Sisters. After another 15 miles, I decided I didn't have enough gas...

I turned the car around, started whipping back to Detroit praying to the petroleum gods for enough fumes to keep the car going... Half an hour later I coast back into Detroit, fill the tank, turn around... head back into the pass, and then I hear a sound, a sound that I have often heard but never paid much attention to before, a sound coming out from under the hood. It was sort of a cough, not really a miss in the engine, but sort of a hiccup, but the car kept going, past Idanha, past Marion Forks... Night, of course, is falling. No snow, but it's getting cold. Now the car is hiccupping more often. I give it gas. It doesn't

accelerate but it keeps going, but now smoke starts coming out from under the hood. I haven't seen that before. I pull over, open the hood but I can't locate the specific source of this smoke. It's coming from the carburetor. It's coming from the muffler. It's coming from the tailpipe. But with the car off, the smoke dissipates. I turn the key and it starts again so I head off again to Highway 22. Now there's no power at all. The smoke comes back thicker and grayer than ever. The car can't keep its speed above 40, then 30, then 20, so I pull off to the side just as the car dies on its own. I turn the key. This time, nothing... I'm 60 miles from Bend, it's close to 5 and I'm supposed to be speaking about 5:30. No cell phone service. No cars. It's about dusk. It's about 40 degrees.

Well, I'm a veteran hitchhiker... and I knew it would look just a little too weird to have a guy with a suit and tie standing by the side of the road on highway 22, so I took off the tie, put the suit coat in the car. I put on my REI parka, grabbed my notes for the talk and got out. No



Justice Thomas Balmer

PHOTO: MIKE RENFRO

cars... Despair was setting in. No cars.

But then this black form comes hurtling down the highway doing about 75 and he screeches to a stop and I hop in. Well... this guy turns out to be the manager of the Ford dealership in Keizer, Oregon and... he's driving a mustang convertible with a souped up Thunderbird engine and the top's down but when I explain... that I'm a judge on the Oregon Supreme Court who was driving to Bend to give a speech when my ancient Volvo died, the guy cannot stop laughing. Then he eventually calms down and he offers to take me directly to the open house and, as soon as we get into cell phone range, he starts calling his friends in Bend and in Salem to tell them this funny story.

...In a few minutes we're pulling up to this comfortable old house in Bend where legal aid is located... I slide in the door and there's about 40 people there and Bob Turner has just explained that he was sorry that the Supreme Court Justice who had promised to be there was a no-show... Well I made my way to the front of the room, told my story, talked about the importance of legal aid, visited with the great people there. Senator Bryant was there, Ben Westlund and some others, a lot of local lawyers who'd come to support legal aid and the Campaign for Equal Justice.

A friend called the next day to tell me that the story in the Bend Bulletin about the legal aid open house hadn't led with the importance of legal aid and how wonderful it was that these people had raised all this money, it led with my car troubles. Oh well, so much for trying to raise public awareness of the importance of legal aid... It was still a chance to meet the terrific lawyers and support staff who make legal aid work in smaller communities. It was also a chance to show my support for them and just personally it was a reminder that even in an Oregon that feels less friendly and more scared than it used to be, when you least expect it you can be surprised by the kindness of a stranger who helps you when you're in need. ■

## A LIFE IN THE LAW: PROFILE OF LANE COUNTY LEGAL AID DIRECTOR LAURENCE HAMBLÉN

By Neisha Saxena

Laurence Hamblen's father very likely scratched his head over his son's decision to give up a lucrative life as an attorney in the family law firm. After all, it was one of the largest and most well-respected firms in Spokane. Hamblen's father, and grandfather, and uncles had worked there, and Hamblen had done a great job as a summer law clerk at the firm.

However, without realizing it, Hamblen's father, a former Speaker of the House for Washington State, and his grandmother, a school teacher, artist and good friend to Chief Joseph, had inspired Hamblen to do something different from going into the family business. Their commitment to public service helped to instill in Laurence a certain service-oriented ethic. And, in 1967, fresh out of Willamette Law School, Laurence Hamblen, the current executive director of Lane County Legal Aid Service, became the first staff attorney at Marion-Polk Legal Aid.

The position in Marion County was the beginning of a long career in legal services which continues today. Hamblen worked in Salem through the summer and fall after graduating from Willamette. Legal aid offices took criminal defense cases in those days, so Hamblen had the opportunity to go to court every day, in addition to bringing impact cases on systemic issues. Later that year, the Pacific Northwest native decided to leave the region, and moved to Washington DC to fulfill a prior job commitment. After a few years in solo practice and as a patent attorney, Hamblen got a job in 1970 as Regional Director of Legal Services for the Mid-Atlantic States, and moved to Philadelphia. "Legal aid was the hottest ticket in town in those days," he says, "and it was tough to get a job. I was basically told that I couldn't do it unless I was a Phi

Bete from Harvard. I am living proof that persistence eventually pays off."

Hamblen spent eight years setting up and supporting legal services offices in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Washington DC, Virginia, West Virginia, and Kentucky. During those years he honed his political and consensus-building skills. In 1978 he left that position and became a consultant to the Legal Services Corporation and the American Bar Association, monitoring and evaluating legal services programs and setting up private bar programs throughout the Southeast.

Hamblen returned to his roots in 1986, accepting his current position as Executive Director of Lane County Legal Aid Service, the federally funded legal services program in Eugene. The office has changed since 1986. In the mid-90s Lane County Law and Advocacy Center, a legal services program receiving no federal funding, was founded, and a number of Hamblen's senior staff went to work there.

Despite the changes, Hamblen finds that he never stopped providing high quality services. For this he credits his dedicated staff, as well as the supportive community both locally and statewide. "It is so nice to work in a state where we are not fighting with the bar or other agencies or with the business community over the provision of services. We are all working together for the best possible outcome. Having worked nationally, I can tell you that it's not like this everywhere."

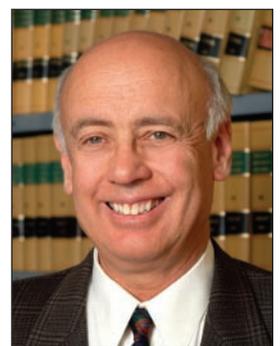
The largest percentage of cases handled by Hamblen's office are in the areas of family assistance and domestic violence. The legal aid office works very closely with the University of Oregon Law School and agencies such as

Womenspace, Sexual Assault Support Services and Siuslaw Area Women's Center. Every semester there are 10 full-time staff and six to eight law students devoted exclusively

to the legal needs of survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. The students focus almost exclusively on going to court to obtain stalking and restraining orders for clients. Experienced staff handle the ongoing and more complex issues of custody and visitation for survivors of domestic violence.

The office also administers a separate but related project, the Kids First Safe Alternatives Center. Housed in a former public school, three full time staff oversee and train a large number of lay volunteers who supervise the on-site visitation of children by parents whom the court has determined might pose a danger to the children. Until the Center was formed, there was no reliable place to go for supervised visitation, even when required by a judge. The Center is funded by a national grant from the Byrne Foundation, and several local foundations including the McKay Foundation, Herbert A. Templeton Foundation and the Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation. "It's a very popular program and a perfect example of the community coming together to solve a very serious problem."

Indeed, community support is what has kept Hamblen so satisfied in his position for 17 years. "Besides the high morale and enthusiasm of my colleagues, my favorite thing about the job is getting the cooperation and support of my community partners." And his community feels



Laurence Hamblen

See Hamblen, page 4

## Annual Lunch continued

Justice turn around the lives of people who need legal services but cannot afford them. Mary and I believe this very deeply. To us it is the essence of why one wants to be a lawyer. And we're both ready to make every active lawyer in Oregon a believer too... Lawyers who work for legal aid are the keepers of Oregon's tradition of tolerance and fair dealing – a tradition that is as much a part of our quality of life as the coast, the mountains and the high desert."

The Campaign Annual Lunch is held every year to honor supporters and celebrate the Annual Fund. The 2002 Campaign raised \$730,000, in spite of a difficult economic climate. Campaign Board Chair Henry Hewitt welcomed the attendees, and 2002 Campaign Co-Chair Ed Hamden recounted the successes of the various committees. Other speakers were Oregon Supreme Court Justice Thomas A. Balmer who told a tale of adventure on the way to the Bend legal aid office Open House, and Nargess Shadbeh, Farmworker Director for the Oregon Law Center and outreach worker Santiago Ventura Morales who described the work of the Indigenous Farm Worker Project. (See related articles.) ■

## Hamblen continued

that the cooperation was well earned. He was recently honored with the Professional Leadership Award from United Way.

Outside of his professional life, Hamblen has been married for five years to Mary McDonald, a gallery owner in Eugene. He is a certified track official and officiates at track meets. He also enjoys being a trustee with the Eugene Hearing and Speech Foundation and on the board of Unity School Child Care Center.

To young lawyers and law students who are interested in a career in public interest law he says, "Your first job is not always your last job. Public interest law is not a black and white thing, and many private attorneys have an enormous impact in their communities. If you can't afford to go work for legal aid, you can still make a big impact by volunteering your time. And if you really want to work at legal aid, don't worry if it's not your first job, you can make it your second or third job." ■

# ENDOWING NOW TO SECURE THE FUTURE OF LEGAL AID

## Governor Kulongoski and First Lady Mary Oberst Lead by Example

By Linda Clingan

The Oregon Access to Justice Endowment Fund, established in 2001, is asking annual fund donors to the Campaign for Equal Justice to double their contributions to help grow the endowment's base. The first to respond? Governor Ted Kulongoski and First Lady Mary Oberst. In his keynote address to Campaign's annual luncheon March 7, 2003, the Governor said:

"The Campaign for Equal Justice is absolutely critical to Oregon's future. It is the best insurance — really the only insurance — we have against the rule of law becoming a privilege for some instead of a right for all.

As some of you may know, the Campaign has started an endowment fund and they are running what is essentially a capital campaign — a drive to raise a large sum of money that can be invested, with the interest and dividends being used to fund future Legal Aid services... Today, I'm calling on donors to the Campaign for Equal Justice to double their most recent contribution, with half going to the Endowment. Mary and I will be the first to do this. And for the 7500 active members of the bar who do not give to the annual campaign, I'm calling on them to make a

\$250 dollar annual contribution to the Campaign. This would raise almost \$2 million and bring us much closer to fulfilling our responsibility — as lawyers and citizens — to the ideal of equal justice under law."

"The endowment is part of a larger effort to double funding for legal aid over the next five years," said Ed Harnden, former Oregon State Bar President and Chair of the Endowment's Board.

"The larger effort includes increased annual giving, grants and corporate support and state and federal funding. This is a shared responsibility between public and private entities. We know we are meeting only a fraction of the need. We know this job will not be done in our lifetimes," said Harnden. "The endowment is a way those of us who have devoted our lives to the practice of law can help ensure the benefits of the rule of law for all in society." Harnden and his wife Emily were early contributors to the fund.

Dinners are being hosted throughout Oregon to raise awareness of the endowment and to provide information about its purpose to potential donors. The Oregon Community Foundation will manage the endowment's funds.

### There are many ways – large and small – you can help the endowment grow

- Double your annual fund contribution – direct the additional amount to the endowment fund.
- Endow your annual contribution. A one-time \$5000 gift will endow a \$250 annual contribution in perpetuity.
- Honor a special person or event in your life.
- Memorialize a relative or friend.
- Endow a permanent legal aid position.
- Endow work in a particular area of interest – such as domestic relations, housing, elder law, or migrant farm worker representation.
- Endow a particular legal aid program.
- Make a bequest in your will.

## LEGAL AID OFFICES in Oregon

### What We Do

Landlord/Tenant  
Domestic Relations  
Unemployment Benefits  
Administrative Law  
Senior Law



### Where We Are

Legal Aid Services of Oregon—

Albany	Newport	Portland
Bend	Oregon City	Roseburg
Hillsboro	Pendleton	Woodburn
McMinnville		

- 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

## Streifel continued

daily medication. At first, the Oregon Health Plan covered her medical care and prescriptions but in January 2003, she was one of many people whose Oregon Health Plan benefits were cut because of Oregon's budget shortfall. She learned about the change when she went to the pharmacy window to pick up one of her seven prescriptions and the clerk said, "That will be \$140."

With the help of a caseworker at Adult and Family services, Juanita worked her way through a list of agencies and organizations that might help her pay for prescriptions. She talked to them all. Juanita had already applied for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) based on her heart condition and, after a lengthy delay, was declared ineligible. The denial of benefits, however, caused her to be referred to attorney Jenny Kaufmann at Multnomah County Legal Aid. Jenny Kaufmann spoke with Juanita and then called the caseworker and they reviewed the possibilities together. Kaufmann could see that Juanita was eligible for medical coverage. Ron and Juanita should have been regarded as a couple with the same medical benefits all along. No one had been looking at that solution. Juanita says, "When the attorney called, it was the best phone call I ever had. I was sitting there with a resting heart rate of 120 and I couldn't afford to pick up the medicine. It was a life saver."

Ron and Juanita Streifel still have difficult problems to overcome, but both are receiving medical care and prescriptions now. Jenny Kaufmann has referred them to a private pro bono attorney who will try to help them stabilize their finances. As Ron says, "Just knowing that legal aid is out there to help you gives you a little bit more confidence so that you can breathe a little bit easier." ■

## OREGON ACCESS TO JUSTICE ENDOWMENT FUND

- Please invite me to an information dinner.
- Please contact me about the endowment.
- Please send me more information about the endowment.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Oregon Access to Justice Endowment Fund, 620 SW 5th Avenue, Suite 525, Portland, Oregon 97204 phone 503-295-8442 fax 503-417-8191 email lclingan@aracnet.com

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