

Rich Spier's *Goals* as *President*

Thomas Patterson Photography



Oregon State Bar President Rich Spier and the Board of Governors will face a formidable task as they seek a replacement for OSB Executive Director Sylvia Stevens, who plans to retire at the end of the year. A major decision the board already has made about one qualification: The next executive director must, like Stevens, be someone who is a member of the OSB, Spier says.

Another challenge will be replacing a dated information management system. “We’re overdue for a new system,” he notes. The OSB staff has been meeting with various vendors and will determine which system to recommend to the board, which will make the final decision. Implementation should take place by the end of the year or a little later.

Spier outlines his principal goals for his presidential year as follows:

- Continue OSB support of programs that facilitate transition of recent law graduates to law practice and opportunities for new lawyers to establish sole and small practices due to the dearth of employment opportunities, such programs including: close communication with the Oregon law schools; the bar’s New Lawyer Mentoring Program; Oregon New Lawyers Division networking, leadership and CLE seminars; Modest Means Program; Lawyer Referral Service; and OSB CLE seminars.
- Expand provision of legal services to underserved middle-income Oregonians, and expand outreach to the public concerning availability of legal services at reasonable cost from licensed, ethically regulated and insured lawyers, versus pro se and Internet options.
- Continue OSB facilitation of support for programs providing legal services for low-income Oregonians.
- Continue OSB facilitation of support for an adequately financed and independent Oregon state judiciary.
- Continue OSB support of the OSB Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Plan, and encourage lawyers of all backgrounds to volunteer for OSB-related service and governance opportunities, including service on the Board of Governors.
- Continue to provide credible and helpful input to the legislative and executive branches on issues pertinent to the mission and functions of the OSB.
- Continue our ongoing strategic review of all OSB programs and functions. Emphasize that we are a unified bar, meaning that our organization combines governmental, mandatory functions as required by the legislature and Oregon Supreme Court (for example, admissions, discipline and MCLE), as well as optional — but valuable — professional association services (CLE, Lawyer Referral Service, BarBooks, Fastcase, sections and legislation and public affairs). “The mandatory programs take up most of our budget, and we must always try to find ways to manage our programs — mandatory and optional — on an efficient and cost-effective basis.”
- Support thoughtful consideration of the expected American Bar Association evaluation of our disciplinary procedures, and recommend changes to the Oregon Supreme Court that will protect the due process rights of lawyers against whom ethics complaints are made, reduce delay and stress experienced by such lawyers, and better protect the public.