

## Report of the Public Defense Task Force to the House of Delegates January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2007

HOD Resolution 15 required that the Oregon State Bar take all appropriate actions to ensure that the State of Oregon fulfills its constitutional and statutory duties to provide for adequately funded public defense providers. It further required the bar to participate with the Public Defense Services Commission's Office of Public Defense Services (PDSC) and the Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association (OCDLA) in creating a plan to achieve fair compensation for public defense providers.

A Task Force was formed with representatives of the Oregon State Bar Criminal and Juvenile Law sections, the Judicial Administration Committee, PDSC, OCDLA and Oregon State Bar Board of Governors. The Task Force held five meetings and one sub-group meeting within a two month span, and took the following actions:

- Requested that the Board of Governors make increased compensation for public defenders a priority for the 2007 legislative session.
- Identified a short term goal of supporting the PDSC policy package for 2007-2009 Biennium which would increase salaries of public defenders to D.A. levels (but not benefits), and would increase hourly rates for attorneys and investigators
- Created Talking Points and Brochure in support of short term goal
- Developed a strategy for Organizational Support
- Developed a strategy for Legislative Education and Awareness
- Developed a Public Outreach Campaign
- Developed a strategy for Grassroots Outreach
- Discussed long term goals and strategies
- Prepared Report to the House of Delegates
- Prepared Report for the Board of Governors

### Board of Governors Actions

- At its November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2006 meeting the Board agreed to make increased compensation for public defenders a top priority for the 2007 Legislative Session.
- At its February 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>, 2007 meeting the Board will consider the Oregon State Bar Legal Ethics Committee recommendation that the board adopt the ABA Ethics Opinion, and will review the Task Force Report.

### Contact Information

Public Defense Task Force Chair  
Linda Eyerman  
Gaylord Eyerman Bradley PC  
1400 S.W. Montgomery St.  
Portland, OR 97201  
503.222.3526  
linda@gaylordeyerman.com

Oregon State Bar Public Affairs Department  
Sally LaJoie  
Oregon State Bar  
5200 S.W. Meadows Rd.  
Lake Oswego, OR 97035  
503.431.6358  
slajoie@osbar.org