

## News Announcement

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### Oregon's First Licensed Paralegals to Be Sworn in March 29

SALEM, OR ... On Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at the Oregon Supreme Court in Salem, Oregon's first cohort of Licensed Paralegals will be sworn in to the bar. Oregon State Bar's pioneering Licensed Paralegal program was created to help with the unmet civil legal needs of Oregonians and is one of the first of its kind in the nation.

Licensed Paralegals (LPs) will expand the options available to Oregonians in need of legal assistance and will be able to provide help at lower costs than a traditional lawyer. The program is the culmination of years of planning, research and public outreach. LPs can provide limited-scope legal help in family law or landlord-tenant matters, two areas of law with the largest unmet need. To become licensed, paralegals must complete multiple education and experience requirements, and pass assessments for learning, ability, character and fitness.

The new program is one way that Oregon is leading the national conversation about access to justice. "Lack of affordable and accessible legal services is a pervasive problem, widespread among both low- and middle-income Americans, and it will take creative and forward-thinking solutions to ensure access to justice for everyone who needs it," the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System, a national legal research non-profit, wrote in a recent article about Oregon's LPs. "Programs like Oregon's are exemplary of what we hope to eventually see spread even further across the country."

*The mission of the Oregon State Bar is to serve justice and the public interest by promoting respect for the rule of law, by improving the quality of legal services, and by increasing access to justice. For more information, see our website at [www.osbar.org](http://www.osbar.org).*

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