

Oregon State Bar
Special Open Session of the Board of Governors
July 24, 2015
Notes – No Quorum

President Richard Spier called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. on July 24, 2015. The meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m. Members present from the Board of Governors were Jim Chaney, Guy Greco, Theresa Kohlhoff, Vanessa Nordyke, Ramón A. Pagán, Kathleen Rastetter, Kerry Sharp, Michael Levelle, Tim Williams and Elisabeth Zinser. Not present was Ray Heysell, John Mansfield, Audrey Matsumonji, Per Ramfjord, Travis Prestwich, Josh Ross and Charles Wilhoite. Staff present were Sylvia Stevens, Susan Grabe, Dawn Evans, Amber Hollister, Jennifer Walton, Paul Nickell and Camille Greene. Also present was: PLF BOD Member Robert Newell and PLF Director of Administration Jeff Crawford; Legal Heritage Interest Group representatives Janet Kreft, Katherine O’Neil, Mary Anne Anderson and Rachel Hull; and OWLs members Elizabeth Milesnick, Maya Crawford and Heather Weigler.

1. Call to Order

Mr. Spier called the meeting to order and welcomed new BOG member Michael Levelle. There was no quorum.

2. Member’s Room at OSB Center

Mr. Spier welcomed feedback from several members regarding the plan to repurpose the Member’s Room to accommodate the needs of nursing mothers who visit the OSB Center. Ms. Kreft and Ms. Hull asked the board to keep the current Members Room intact and let the Legal Heritage Interest Group work with the Executive Director to find a mutually agreeable solution. Ms. Milesnick, Ms. Crawford and Ms. Weigler presented arguments in support of a proper lactation room at the bar center stating it would be used frequently.

Motion: Ms. Kohlhoff moved, Mr. Sharp seconded, that the bar remodel the Members’ Room to accommodate nursing mothers, but keep the current furniture. After discussion by the board, Ms. Kohlhoff withdrew her motion and Mr. Sharp agreed.

Motion: Mr. Pagán moved, Mr. Cheney seconded, that the bar work with the Legal Heritage Interest Group to repurpose the room while maintaining the “traditional office” feel of the room. The vote, for presentation and possible ratification at the September 11, 2015 board meeting, passed 6-5. Voting in favor: Theresa Kohlhoff, Vanessa Nordyke, Jim Cheney, Kathleen Rastetter, Ramón A. Pagán and Tim Williams. Opposed: Rich Spier, Guy Greco, Elisabeth Zinser, Michael Levelle and Kerry Sharp.

3. New Executive Director’s Contract

Mr. Spier presented the draft contract and asked the board for approval to change the term to two years from one year and to offer severance pay for termination without cause of six months or for the remaining term of the contract, whichever is less. Ms. Zinser stated that salary increases should be determined by the board and not quantified in the contract.

No motion was made. Mr. Spier and Ms. Stevens will present the contract to Ms. Hirschbiel and will report to the board at the September 11, 2015 board meeting.

4. Budget Discussion

Ms. Kohlhoff led the discussion regarding the 2016, and subsequent budgets, and the need to either raise fees or reduce programs and services. She urged the board to undertake a professional poll to determine what programs members' value and would be willing to pay more to keep. After considerable discussion, the board agreed that its consideration of the polling would be assisted by seeing what data the bar already has regarding program utilization. Ms. Stevens will also work with Ms. Kohlhoff to identify appropriate polling services.

5. Approve Co-Sponsorship of CEJ Call to Action

Ms. Stevens presented the CEJ's request that the BOG sign on to CEJ's Call to Action. **[Exhibit A]**

Motion: Mr. Cheney moved, Ms. Rastetter seconded, and the board voted unanimously to sign on to the CEJ's Call to Action. The vote will be presented and possibly ratified at the September 11, 2015 board meeting.

Learn. Speak Up. Act.

- **Give** to the Campaign for Equal Justice. The best way to increase access is to create more legal aid staff attorney positions.
- **Volunteer** through one of legal aid's many volunteer lawyer projects and clinics, or help the Campaign for Equal Justice raise money for legal aid.
- **Learn** how legal aid services are delivered in your community so that you can make appropriate referrals for low-income clients.
- **Move** your IOLTA accounts to a "Leadership Bank." If all lawyers took this step, funding for legal aid could increase by as much as \$700,000—enough to fund two small rural legal aid offices. Contact the OLF at www.oregonlawfoundation.org.
- **Review** your IOLTA account for abandoned client funds. The funds are paid to the Oregon State Bar for appropriation to legal aid through the Oregon State Bar's Legal Services Program.
- **Educate.** Be a walking PSA (Public Service Announcement) for legal aid and CEJ. Proudly wear a "fact" button about legal aid to help spark conversations about the importance of access to justice.
- **Endow.** Take simple steps to endow your annual gift to the Campaign's endowment fund.
- **Speak Up.** Let state, federal and private funders know that access to justice is important.
- **Connect.** Ask your bar group to take action to support statewide legal aid programs in Oregon. Contact the CEJ for ideas.
- **Shop.** Support legal aid when you shop at Fred Meyer or Amazon. It costs you nothing, but supports legal aid.

- FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW YOU CAN BE INVOLVED ●
CONTACT THE CAMPAIGN FOR EQUAL JUSTICE.

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