

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON

In re Matter of the Oregon Bench)
And Bar Commission on) CHIEF JUSTICE ORDER
Professionalism) No. 21-036
)
) Order on Oregon Bench and Bar Commission
) on Professionalism – Updating Standing
) Members and Superseding CJO 15-003
)

I HEREBY FIND AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Oregon Bench and Bar Commission on Professionalism was established in 1994 by Chief Justice Order (CJO) 94-049; since that time, that CJO has been amended and superseded by CJO 04-022 and later by CJO 15-003. Throughout that time, the Commission's charge has been to "promote among lawyers and judges principles of professionalism, including civility and commitment to the elimination of the discrimination within the judicial system to ensure that it equitably, effectively, and efficiently serves the people of Oregon," based on the following findings:
 - a. Education is the key to preserving and encouraging professional conduct;
 - b. Nondiscrimination is an aspect of professionalism that warrants special emphasis;
 - c. The support and active involvement of the judiciary is essential to the promotion of professionalism and nondiscrimination; and
 - d. To have any significant impact, the educational effort must be thorough, coordinated, and ongoing.
2. The Commission includes some standing members and several appointed members. Over time, the Commission has expanded its membership structure to adapt to new and changing circumstances.
3. The Oregon State Bar has undertaken diversity action since 1976, with the creation of its original Affirmative Action Program. As this work has evolved, leadership has shifted to the Director of Diversity under the Bar's Member Services Department. In 2011, the Bar created a new position, the Director of Diversity and Inclusion to provide leadership and oversight for the Bar's initiatives and programs to advance diversity and inclusion within the legal profession. Given the Commission's charge, it is appropriate to update its membership structure to create a standing membership for the Bar's Director of Diversity and Inclusion, or the Director's designee.

Based on the foregoing findings, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that CJO 15-003 is superseded in its entirety and replaced with the following governing provisions for the Oregon Bench and Bar Commission on Professionalism:

I. PURPOSE

To promote among lawyers and judges principles of professionalism, including civility and commitment to the elimination of discrimination within the judicial system, and to ensure that the judicial system equitably, effectively, and efficiently serves the people of Oregon.

II. MEMBERSHIP

A. Standing Members

1. The Chief Justice of the Oregon Supreme Court or an Associate Justice designated by the Chief Justice;
2. The Chief Judge of the Oregon Court of Appeals or an Associate Judge designated by the Chief Judge;
3. The Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court for Oregon or a District Judge or Federal Magistrate Judge designated by the Chief Judge;
4. The President of the Oregon State Bar or a member of the Board of Governors designated by the President.
5. The Chief Executive Officer of the Oregon State Bar or designee;
6. The Director of Diversity and Inclusion of the Oregon State Bar or designee;
7. The Deans of the three Oregon law schools or designees;
8. The Chief Executive Officer of the Professional Liability Fund or designee; and
9. The Chair of the Multnomah Bar Association Committee on Professionalism or designee.

B. Appointed Members

1. The appointed members of the Commission shall be selected with regard to their reputations for professionalism; their past contributions to their communities, the bar, and the state; and to racial, ethnic, gender and geographic diversity.
2. The appointed members shall serve staggered three-year terms.
3. The appointed members shall include 15 members distributed as follows:
 - a. Five state court judges appointed by the Chief Justice;

- b. Eight lawyers representing the practice areas of Oregon lawyers, including one with seven or fewer years of practice, appointed by the President of the Oregon State Bar;
- c. One previous recipient of the Edwin J. Peterson Professionalism Award; and
- d. One public member who has demonstrated an interest in the goals of the Commission, jointly appointed by the Chief Justice and the President of the Oregon State Bar.

III. CHARGE OF THE COMMISSION

The Commission shall:

- 1. Periodically review and revise the Statement of Professionalism last approved by the Oregon Supreme Court on September 16, 2019 (Supreme Court Order (SCO) 19-059);
- 2. Promote educational opportunities for lawyers, judges, and the public;
- 3. Promote professional and nondiscriminatory conduct among members of the bar through education and training; and
- 4. Design and develop creative approaches to the promotion of professionalism and equality, including the implementation of programs to:
 - a. Prepare advisory opinions concerning professionalism issues;
 - b. Develop local bar groups to foster professionalism; and
 - c. Provide through its members a resource for lawyers, judges, and members of the public on professionalism issues.

IV MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSION

The Commission shall meet regularly to conduct its business. The Commission shall attempt to conduct one or more of its meetings each year at one or more of the law schools in Oregon

V. ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCING

The Commission shall have funds available to pay a portion of members' travel expenses and for secretarial and administrative assistance.

Expenses of the Commission will be paid by one or more of the following means:

- 1. Private donations;
- 2. Private or public endowment;

3. Project or special assistance grants;
4. In-kind contributions and assistance;
5. Fees and tuition charges for professionalism CLE programs provided and sponsored by the Commission;
6. Special assessment on Ethics or other MCLE programs approved by the Bar;
7. Sale of The Statement of Professionalism by the Bar; and
8. Other sources.

DATED this 14th day of September, 2021.



Martha L. Walters
Chief Justice