Approved Charitable Contributions for Sections

The OSB’s mission includes promoting the rule of law and the fair administration of justice, and increasing access to justice. OSB Bylaw 1.2. For several years, the OSB House of Delegates has passed resolutions supporting adequate funding for legal services for low-income Oregonians. In furtherance of that goal, the HOD has called for 75% of OSB Sections to contribute to the Campaign for Equal Justice.

The Campaign for Equal Justice is the support arm for Oregon’s legal aid programs, which consist of four non-profits: Legal Aid Services of Oregon and the Oregon Law Center (statewide programs); and the Center for Non-Profit Legal Services (Medford) and Lane County Legal Aid and Advocacy. Oregon’s legal aid programs also support numerous pro bono programs including the Statewide Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic, the Domestic Violence Project, the Senior Law Project, the Family Law Pro Se Facilitation Clinic, and the Bankruptcy Clinic.

Sections are strongly encouraged to contribute to the Campaign for Equal Justice in furtherance of the Bar’s mission to promote the rule of law and the fair administration of justice. Sections may also contribute to any charitable cause that is related to the purposes for which the section exists and that has been approved by the Executive Director. OSB Bylaw 15.401.

The following charitable organizations have been approved under this policy and recently received contributions from Sections:

Campaign for Equal Justice (Legal Aid Services of Oregon is included)
Classroom Law Project
OMLA (Oregon Minority Lawyers Association)
OLIO (Opportunity for Lawyers in Oregon)
Oregon Lawyer Assistance Foundation (OLAF)
Oregon Veterans Legal Services
Oregon Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts (OVLA)
Peacemakers
Guardian Partners
St. Andrews Legal Clinic
Senior Citizens Council of Clackamas County
Smart Reading, Lawyers for Literacy Program

A Section may award law students a scholarship for performance of education-based activities as deemed appropriate by the section’s executive committee. The executive committee must establish criteria for student participation and develop an evaluation process to offer a student scholarship. Any deviation from the typical student scholarship format requires approval by the OSB Executive Director. If the amount of the scholarship is $600 or more the section must contact the OSB Accounting Department to discuss the IRS reporting requirements prior to launching the scholarship process.