

OREGON

CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

NEWSLETTER

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Letter from the Chair

David Euan Leith

I am pleased to report some exciting developments this year in the Constitutional Law Section. Most immediately, we are pleased to present this newsletter. We are grateful to Judge Jack Landau of the Oregon Court of Appeals, to past-chair Michael Simon and to executive committee member Les Swanson, for their contributions to this publication.

We also are very excited to introduce a new initiative. At this writing, we are poised to launch a constitutional law weblog (blog). The blog will provide current information, frequently updated, about developments in Oregon and federal constitutional law, along with commentary—no doubt, witty and incisive—on such developments. To the best of our knowledge, this will be the first blog undertaken by any Section of the Oregon State Bar.

The objectives of this project are to provide a venue to discuss timely issues of constitutional law, to inform the Section, the Bar, and the public about issues and developments in this field, and to do so in a way that is interesting and, hopefully, entertaining.

We are indebted to Erin Lagesen for her willingness to commit the energy and efforts to serve as "blog master." Erin will take charge of posting events as they occur in the world of constitutional law. Expect also that Erin's postings occasionally may note her insights about the curious, interesting, or puzzling aspects of a given decision.

Primary responsibility for blog commentary on such developments, however, will fall to the members of the Section's executive committee. In that respect, our blog will be similar to other "blogs by committee" (reportedly known in the e community as "moblogs"). Additionally, the Section's membership and the public generally are invited to submit comments, which will appear on the site (potentially subject to some editorial control, if the need arises).

We anticipate a lively, dignified, stimulating, and perhaps sometimes controversial exchange of ideas. We hope that you will visit the site, that you will find it useful, and that you will revisit it often.

We also are in the process of planning our annual fall CLE. Of course, last year's fall CLE was, as always, much

anticipated and well attended. We were pleased that Professor Erwin Chemerinsky of Duke University and Professor Pamela Karlan of Stanford University were able to join us. The traditional review of the Supreme Court term was characteristically excellent, and the other panels were similarly illuminating. We also were pleased, last year, to present a timely CLE forum on constitutional issues related to same-sex marriage.

This year again, in accord with our tradition, we expect to present a fall CLE in October or November. We hope it will again include the Supreme Court review (and/or preview) that has become a staple of the Section's CLEs. We also anticipate, among other exciting issues, a panel on the United States Supreme Court argument in *Oregon v. Gonzales* (formerly known as *Oregon v. Ashcroft*), involving Oregon's Death with Dignity Act. Robert Atkinson of the Oregon Attorney General's office, who will argue the state's side in the United States Supreme Court, has agreed to speak; we hope also to have a counterpoint. As noted, this is still in the planning stages, but it is shaping up very well.

Finally, we remain interested in hearing from motivated members who would like to serve on the executive committee. Please let us know if you fit that description.

Meanwhile, we'll "see you" at the blog.

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