OREGON STATE BAR
BULLETIN

NOVEMBER 2025

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Court Clerkship Program Debuts, Generates Interest Outside the Valley

OREGON STATE BAR BULLETIN

OREGON STATE BAR BULLETIN NOVEMBER 2025 VOLUME 86 • NUMBER 1

Bulletin Photo File

The Oregon Judicial Department, the Oregon State Bar and the three Oregon law schools partnered to launch the Rural Court Clerkships Program in the summer of 2025. The program allowed for one student from each law school to have a summer clerkship in a rural county court. Pictured on the cover are two of those students, Shardul Vijay (left) and Leilani Giles (right) in Coos County with Thomas Lankford, trial court administrator.

FEATURES

COLUMNS

DEPARTMENTS

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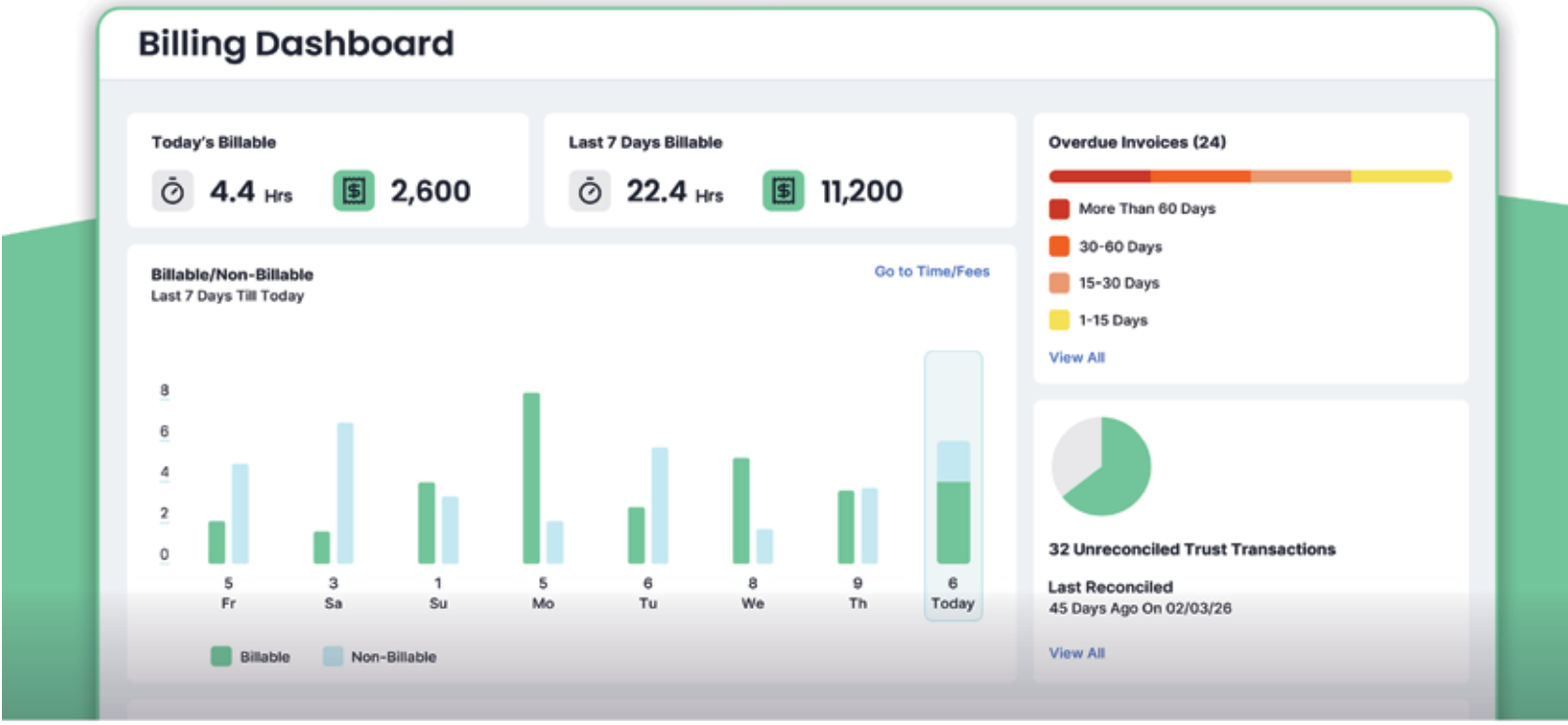

Oregon State Bar

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Oregon Community Foundation

BRIEFS

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Security Screening at Tax Court

The Oregon Tax Court is implementing entrance security screening for everyone who is not an Oregon Judicial Department judge or employee. The increased measures began Nov. 3. For those visiting tax court, it is suggested now to leave extra time to get through screening.

OTLA Annual Snowball Dec. 5

The Oregon Trial Lawyers Association is hosting its annual Snowball on Friday. Dec. 5, from 6-9:15 p.m. at The Nines Hotel in Portland. Cocktail hour begins at 6 p.m. with dinner following at 7.

New Fee-Generating Program to Help Wildfire Victims

A new fee-generating program has been created to help support victims of the 2020 Labor Day wildfires in Oregon. Five years after those catastrophic fires, Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) continues to identify Oregonians in need of help. The ReOregon Program, through OHCS, offers disaster recovery support specifically for victims of these fires. The fees for serving clients through this program range from $200-250 per hour, and the case limits range from 5-10 hours depending on the issue.

The OSB is partnering with OHCS to find legal professionals who can provide that help. To learn more about the program, you can review the full policy at *tinyurl.com/OHCSWildfireProgram*. To enroll, sign and save the policy, and email a copy to *ris@osbar.org*.

Utah Announces Alternative Pathway

Oregon's Supervised Practice Portfolio Examination launched in May 2024 as an alternative method of examination to the bar exam for admission to the OSB. Utah now has followed suit. Starting in January 2026, the Utah State Bar has approved its Alternative Pathway to Attorney Licensure, which requires applicants to complete 240 hours of supervised legal practice under a qualified attorney, pass law school required skills coursework and pass a written performance exam administered by the Utah State Bar. This differs from Oregon, which requires 675 hours of supervised work and no written exam (in place is a portfolio of work, which is evaluated by the Oregon State Board of Bar Examiners).

PDSLC Event Dec. 12

The Public Defender Services of Lane County is hosting its Holiday Open House on Friday, Dec. 12. The event takes place from 5-8 p.m. at 180 E 11th Ave. in Eugene.

Bulletin Seeks Your Articles

The *Bulletin* always is looking for quality, law-related articles to publish in the magazine. We know there are Oregon attorneys who love to write, so we encourage you to share updates from your area of law practice, provide legal practice tips, discuss professionalism, look at a historical Oregon law event or contribute a piece to anything law-related in our state. All articles must be germane to the practice of law in Oregon. This is a great way to get your byline in print and add to the legal conversation. Send drafts, ideas or questions about the process to Michael Austin, editor, at *maustin@osbar.org*. ■

Our Editorial Policy

All articles published in the *Bulletin* must be germane to the law, lawyers, the practice of law, the courts and judicial system, legal education or the Oregon State Bar. All opinions, statements and conclusions expressed in submitted articles appearing in the *Bulletin* are those of the author(s) and not of the editor, other editorial staff, employees of the Oregon State Bar, or members of the Board of Governors.

Publication of any article is not to be deemed an endorsement of the opinions, statements and conclusions expressed by the author(s). Publication of an advertisement is not an endorsement of that product or service.

Any content attributed to the Oregon State Bar or the Board of Governors is labeled with an OSB logo at the top of the page or within advertising to indicate its source or attribution.

Discovery With...

Matt Heldt

Matt Heldt is an associate in the labor and employment practice group with Tonkon Torp in Portland. A graduate of Lewis & Clark Law School, Heldt became an Oregon State Bar licensee in 2023.

What is your favorite place in Oregon?

Either Powell's Books or biking on the Springwater Corridor Trail. I enjoy reading and Powell's is an iconic Portland place. I ride my bike to work most days and try to get on the Springwater Corridor in the early mornings when the animals in Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge are active. I have encountered deer, possums, otters, owls and many smaller rodents. But for the sounds of cars on Highway 99E, you wouldn't know you're in a city.

Outside your practice focus, what other law area fascinates you?

Torts have always interested me. I remember a moment in my law school torts class where I realized I started to see the world through a different, more lawyer-like lens. The idea that we are surrounded by a web of duties to one another, and that a breach of those duties could make someone legally liable, was somewhat astonishing to me as a first-year law student. It also was immediately applicable in the sense that I would see potential torts out in my daily life — from how people drive, to wet floors or even the house I lived in when I first moved to Portland. There is a fair amount of overlap between torts and my employment law practice, but not in a true personal injury or premises liability context.

If you didn't go into law, then what would have been your career path?

Before law school, I played college basketball at Marquette University (Milwaukee, Wisconsin). A couple of my teammates currently play in the NBA, and to my knowledge I am the only one of my teammates, excluding walk-ons, who is not playing basketball for a living somewhere in the world. If I had not decided to go to law school, I would have started my professional basketball career overseas and likely found my way into coaching from there. Six years after making the decision to pursue law, I still think I made the right choice.

What book are you reading or podcast are you listening to right now?

Right now, I am reading *Suttree* by Cormac McCarthy. I previously read *No Country for Old Men* and *The Road* and loved them both. And a friend recommended it because the dialogue is masterful. So far, I tend to agree. ■

OREGON STATE BAR
BULLETIN

November 2025

BAR COUNSEL

The Story of Oregon's Licensed Paralegal Program

Bridging the Justice Gap

By Kellie Baumann

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Over three decades, the concept of licensing paralegals in Oregon has evolved from an idea to a fully implemented program aimed at expanding access to justice. First introduced in the early 1990s by an Oregon State Bar task force, the concept was initially met with uncertainty and left dormant for years. However, growing concerns over the affordability and accessibility of legal services, particularly for low- and moderate-income Oregonians, revived interest in the issue. Inspired in part by the state of Washington's adoption of a limited license legal technician (LLLT) model, the bar convened several task forces between 2012 and 2017 to reevaluate the concept of a similar program.

Ultimately, the Oregon Licensed Paralegal program was approved by the Oregon Supreme Court in 2022 and launched in 2023. The following is a history of how Oregon's approach to licensing paralegals was developed over time, the challenges it addressed and where the program stands today.

1992-2017

The idea of licensing paralegals in Oregon was first proposed by an OSB task force in 1992.[1] That task force developed a proposal for licensing nonlawyers to provide limited legal services to the public in civil cases. However, the task force declined to make any recommendation for or against the proposal due to lack of consensus, so the OSB Board of Governors took no further action at the time.[2]

In 2012, the topic was raised again due to Washington state's Supreme Court approval of a new, limited form of legal practitioner known as a "limited license legal technician," aimed at addressing the "wide and ever-growing gap in necessary legal and law related services for low and moderate income persons."[3] The OSB appointed a new task force to evaluate the Washington model and make recommendations. This task force submitted a final report in 2015 that discussed the merits of a program like Washington's but declined to make an official recommendation.[4]

Licensing paralegals in Oregon was raised again by the 2016-17 Futures Task Force that was established to examine challenges facing the long-term provision of legal services in Oregon. In April 2016, the OSB Board of Governors convened a Futures Task Force charged with examining how the bar can best protect the public and support lawyers' professional development in the face of the rapid evolution of the way legal services are obtained and delivered.[5]

The Regulatory Committee of the Futures Task Force found that Oregonians need legal advice and legal services to successfully resolve problems and access the courts, but consumers are increasingly unwilling or unable to engage in traditional full-service legal representation.[6] Further, while subsidized and free legal services, including legal aid and pro-bono representation, are a key part of solving the access-to-justice gap, they remain inadequate to meet all of the civil legal needs of low-income Oregonians. The committee determined that to better meet the needs of Oregonians and fully serve the bar's mission of promoting respect for the rule of law, improving the quality of legal services and increasing access to justice, the bar needed to allow and encourage the development of alternate models of legal service delivery.[7]

The Futures Task Force Regulatory Committee formed a paraprofessional workgroup "to explore the licensing of paraprofessionals including LLLTs, paralegals and document preparers."[8] After reviewing a wide variety of materials on the regulation of paralegals and the challenges facing self-represented litigants — and engaging in detailed discussions about the arguments for and against licensing paraprofessionals and the elements of a licensing program that would be appropriate for Oregon — the workgroup recommended implementing a paraprofessional licensing program in Oregon.[9] To do so effectively, the workgroup recommended that the Board of Governors appoint a committee to draft, for approval by the Oregon Supreme Court, detailed rules of admission, practice and professional conduct consistent with the specific recommendations listed in the report detailing the minimum qualifications, regulatory compliance requirements and scope of license.

The workgroup recommended that the subject areas of this license be limited to family law and landlord-tenant proceedings because the number of self-represented litigants is high in those areas, as is the need for more providers of legal services. According to Oregon Judicial Department data from 2016, approximately 80% of litigants in dissolution and custody cases are self-represented.[10] In residential eviction proceedings, it is rare to see a lawyer anywhere — only

about 15% of residential eviction proceedings involve lawyers. Instead, landlords are commonly represented by property managers, and tenants represent themselves.[11]

Ultimately, the Futures Task Force concluded that after 25 years of watching the access-to-justice gap grow, it was time to begin filling it: "[l]icensing paraprofessionals will not solve the problem, but it can greatly ameliorate it."[12]

2017-2022

After over a year of discussion among themselves and with other lawyers, judges and community members, the OSB Board of Governors was persuaded to move forward with the task force recommendation.[13] During this time, the 2018 Barriers to Justice Report[14] was released, finding that among legal aid eligible Oregonians, 84% of those with a civil legal problem are unable to access legal help, with people of color disproportionately impacted. Oregon Judicial Department (OJD) data showed that the vast majority of litigants in Oregon dissolution and landlord-tenant proceedings continue to be unrepresented. And many expressed concern that the lack of affordable, accessible legal help is putting substantial strain on the courts, contributing to inequitable outcomes and eroding public trust in the legal system.[15]

Thus, to further its public service mission to advance a fair, inclusive and accessible justice system, the BOG voted unanimously in September 2019 to establish the Paraprofessional Licensing Implementation Committee. PLIC was charged with developing a program for licensing paralegals to perform limited-scope legal services in family law and landlord-tenant law cases. In February 2020, the board appointed Senior Judge Kirsten Thompson to chair the PLIC and established the following charge:

> Engage stakeholders to develop a regulatory framework for licensing paralegals consistent with the recommendations of the OSB Futures Task Force Report in order to increase access to the justice system while ensuring the competence and integrity of the licensed paralegals and improving the quality of their legal services.

The PLIC and its workgroups met regularly from the fall of 2020 through the spring of 2022, engaging throughout with a broad range of stakeholders. The PLIC final report contained recommendations related to the

scope of practice allowed by the license, educational and other requirements to obtain a license, and regulatory requirements post-licensure.

The Oregon Supreme Court unanimously approved the rules allowing licensed paralegals to practice family law and residential landlord-tenant law starting July 1, 2023.

Current OSB Licensing Paralegal Program

The bar opened the application for the licensed paralegal program in late 2023 and offered the first OSB Licensed Paralegal Entry Exam on Dec. 12, 2023. In our first cohort, we licensed 10 family law endorsed LPs. We've since welcomed a total of 24 family law endorsed LPs and three landlord-tenant endorsed LPs to the OSB.

These LPs are already working toward the goal of increasing access to justice in Oregon. We have LPs in nine counties: Multnomah, Clackamas, Clatsop, Deschutes, Washington, Douglas, Marion, Lane and Jackson. Two of our landlord-tenant LPs work at the CLEAR Clinic — a nonprofit collective of legal workers who provide free legal services to Oregonians.[16] The CLEAR Clinic aims to tear down legal barriers that stop our community from enjoying each members' full participation; to find legal, educational and systemic solutions to racial, social and economic injustice; and to work toward dismantling oppressive legal systems.

To become an LP in Oregon, applicants must meet all the program requirements and pass the learning and ability assessments.

Program Requirements

Prior to receiving a paralegal license, an applicant must establish, by clear and convincing evidence, that the applicant satisfies all requirements for such a license, including age, learning and ability, and character and fitness requirements under Oregon law.

Applicants must establish learning and ability through four requirements, some of which may be combined to create a more efficient process. Learning must be established through:

- A foundational education requirement that may be achieved via an applicant's formal education or on-the-job training as a paralegal.
- Oregon specific professional prelicensure education approved by the OSB.

- Recent substantive paralegal experience under the supervision of an Oregon attorney member (the number of required hours depends upon which educational pathway they choose).
- Sufficient experience in the applicant's chosen legal practice for endorsement (500 hours for family law and 250 hours for landlord-tenant).

Learning and Ability Assessments

Applicants must also successfully pass the learning and ability assessment requirements of the rules, including the portfolio examination, the requisite Knowledge of Professional Responsibilities and the LP Rule 11 Entry Examination. Applicants can fulfill their requisite Knowledge of Professional Responsibilities requirement by either receiving a passing score from a course in legal ethics prior to applying, receiving a passing score on the MPRE or passing the OSB LP-ORCP Ethics Exam.

Applicants must submit a portfolio that establishes their learning, knowledge and ability. Applicants must submit 12 portfolio artifacts that were created or developed within three years immediately preceding the date of their application through their recent substantive paralegal experience or through their foundational education. Each artifact must meet the requirements of the rules, including redaction requirements and word count minimums. The portfolios are reviewed by the subject matter experts in the Committee of Paralegal Assessors to determine whether the applicant meets the minimum standards of competence required by the rules. If the applicant successfully passes the portfolio examination, they are eligible to sit for the LP Rule 11 Entry Examination.

The LP Rule 11 Entry Examination tests the applicant's knowledge of the Rules for Licensing Paralegals, as they limit the scope of an LP's practice (see below for more information on the scope of practice or see Rule 11 of the RLPs). These exams are held four times per year (twice per endorsement area) at the OSB center in Tigard.

Finally, applicants must successfully pass the character and fitness review. Applicants must establish that they have the requisite character and fitness to be an LP. This is established through a background and history screening and review conducted by the admissions department. If necessary, based on an applicant's history, admissions staff will

conduct a character and fitness investigation in an attempt to remove any concerns that arose about applicant's character and fitness during the background check.

Scope of Practice – What Can LPs Do?

For full details about the scope of practice for LPs, please consult Section 11 of the RLPs. The following are within the scope of practice for an LP:

- Entering into a contractual relationship to represent a client (for family law cases, this would be limited to representing individuals).
- Meeting with potential clients to evaluate and determine needs and goals and provide advice.
- Assisting clients in choosing, drafting and filing forms.
- Assisting clients in drafting and servicing of pleadings and documents including orders and judgments.
- Filing documents/pleadings with the court.
- Assisting, drafting, serving and completing written discovery.
- Attending depositions but not talking or defending. May assist with scheduling and compelling deposition appearances and preparing clients for being deposed and for taking a deposition.
- Preparing for, participating in and representing a party in settlement discussions, including mediation.
- Assisting in preparing for hearings, trials and arbitrations.
- Preparing clients for court appearances and for judicial settlement conferences.
- Attending court appearances and depositions with clients to provide support and assistance in procedural matters.
- Responding to the court on behalf of clients to inquiries when requested.
- Reviewing opinion letters, court orders and notices with a client and explain how they affect the client including the right to appeal.

For things that are outside of the scope of license for LPs, the LP can still work on the case, but in the role of a paralegal working under the supervision of an attorney — rather than a licensed paralegal working under their own license. The following is a

list of some tasks that are outside the scope of the LP license:

- Matters involving stalking protective orders.
- Modifications of custody, parenting time or child support when the controlling court order originates outside Oregon.
- Premarital or postnuptial agreements.
- Family Abuse Prevention Act cases.
- Matters related to defined benefit plans or deferred compensation plans.
- Most affirmative plaintiff cases in circuit court.
- Agricultural or commercial tenancies or leases.
- Matters involving affirmative discrimination claims, except if asserted as a counterclaim or defense of a landlord-tenant matter.
- Matters related to injunctive relief.

If you are interested in becoming an LP or getting more information on how to help a paralegal in your firm become an LP, please reach out to *lp@osbar.org* or see our website at *www.osbar.org/lp*. ■

Kellie Baumann is the MCLE program manager and regulatory project manager for the Oregon State Bar.

ENDNOTES

1. OSB Futures Task Force, Report to the Board of Governors (2017), available at *osbar.org/_docs/LP/OSBFuturesTaskForceReportJune2017.pdf*.
2. *Id.*
3. 5 Order No. 25700-A-1005, In the Matter of the Adoption of New APR 28—Limited Practice Rule for License Limited Legal Technicians (Wash. 2012) ("LLLT Order"), available at *courts.wa.gov/content/publicUpload/Press%20Releases/25700-A-1005.pdf*
4. *Id* note 1.
5. *Id.*
6. OSB Futures Task Force Executive Summary (2017), available at *osbar.org/_docs/resources/taskforces/futures/FuturesTF_Summary.pdf*
7. *Id.*
8. *Id* note1.
9. *Id.*
10. *Id.*
11. *Id* note 5.
12. *Id* note 1.

13. Paraprofessional Licensing Implementation Committee Final Report (2022), available at *paraprofessional.osbar.org/files/2021_PPLIC_BOGReport.pdf.*
14. The full report can be found on the OSB website at *olf.osbar.org/files/2019/02/Barriers-to-Justice-2018- OR-Civil-Legal-Needs-Study.pdf*
15. *Id* note 13.
16. *clear-clinic.org*

Q: How can I help my client donate from their estate?

Let us set you up for success. We help you help your clients minimize taxes and maximize impact for good, while remaining in the background of the relationship. You save time while serving clients and helping Oregon. **Download your client-facing Estate Planning Info Sheet at oregoncf.org/estate.**

Oregon Community Foundation

An Alternative to Insanity

Punctuation Therapy

By Suzanne Rowe

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Today I received an email from someone with a fancy title at a fancy institution. The brief message had good news, but the complete failure of punctuation in the final sentence left me uncertain whether I should cry or scream. I drafted an email response, but I'm waiting the requisite 24 hours before deciding whether to click "send."

What do you do in these stressful moments? I can't turn to chocolate with every poorly written email that appears in my inbox. Today I'm turning to you, dear readers, hoping that a little group therapy can help me process this most recent writing trauma.

The Setting

Let me provide the setting in which I received the email at the center of this trauma. An institution — which I will not name — offered a program that I wished to attend. I dutifully completed the online registration form and added the event to my calendar.

Moments later, I received an automated reply. The event was so popular that it had already filled to capacity! I'd been added to a waiting list and would be contacted if space became available. I left the event on my calendar but moved on to other things.

Then, today, the dreadful email appeared in my inbox. The event was still at capacity, but a second event had been added, and I was guaranteed a spot. Wonderful! I was delighted, until I read the final "sentence."

The Email Finale

Here's how the short email ended.

> *I will put you on the attendance list for that event, if you are unable to attend, please let me know otherwise, we look forward to seeing you on the 10th.*

I read it twice, then a third time, certain that no one from such a fine institution could possibly have sent out a message that smooshed three sentences into one, creating confusion along the way. Then I read the message aloud to my husband, a lovely curmudgeon about writing, who was similarly appalled but perhaps less exercised that I had become.

Since my blood pressure is still far too elevated for good health, I'm going to dissect this abomination with you. Maybe group therapy can help me recover my equilibrium and ensure your writing never includes such an abomination.

The Splice and Solutions

Whenever two sentences are joined with a comma, rather than a period, the result is a comma splice. In more casual language, it's called a run-on sentence.[1]

> Run-on: *They invited us to dinner, we couldn't go because we had other plans.*

English has so many simple alternatives to the run-on sentence: create two sentences, add a coordinating conjunction, use an adverbial conjunction, etc. Here are three:

> Correction #1: *They invited us to dinner. **We** couldn't go because we had other plans.*
>
> Correction #2: *They invited us to dinner, **but** we couldn't go because we had other plans.*
>
> Correction #3: *They invited us to dinner; **however,** we couldn't go because we had other plans.*

Here's a different example, with one possible correction. Other edits could work, too.

> Run-on: *The attorneys researched the issue carefully before making a recommendation, the judge reached the opposite conclusion.*
>
> Correction: *The attorneys researched the issue carefully before making a recommendation; however, the judge reached the opposite conclusion.*

Alas, run-ons aren't limited to two sentences smooshed together. A writer can pile three or more sentences into a long string of words, toss in a comma or two, put a period at the end, and blithely walk away. That's what happened in today's message:

> *I will put you on the attendance list for that event, if you are unable to attend, please let me know otherwise, we look forward to seeing you on the 10th.*

Here are the three sentences:

> *I will put you on the attendance list for that event.*
>
> *If you are unable to attend, please let me know.*
>
> *Otherwise, we look forward to seeing you on the 10th.*

Note how nicely each sentence ends with a period, making clear that one idea has ended and another begun.

> Idea #1: *I'm on the list.*
>
> Idea #2: *I have an obligation to respond only if I can't come.*
>
> Idea #3: *Someone will be happy to see me.*

The Confusion

Actually, understanding the message wasn't that easy. I had to do some rereading and interpretation to identify the three intended sentences. Initially, I read these two clauses as one sentence: *I will put you on the attendance list for that event, if you are unable to attend.* But that didn't make sense, so I reread for alternatives.

I decided that the first sentence ended with "event." But I wasn't finished yet, particularly since what was "otherwise" wasn't clear.

> *…if you are unable to attend, please let me know otherwise, we look forward to seeing you on the 10th.*

As written in the email, no punctuation appeared before "otherwise" though a comma appeared after. If commas were to be interpreted as periods (they're not[2]), then the writer meant the following as a complete idea.

> *…if you are unable to attend, please let me know otherwise.*

Huh? What does that mean? If I can't attend, I'm not supposed to respond? Or otherwise, what?

I assume that I should respond to remove my name from the list if I cannot attend. On the other hand (otherwise), if I didn't respond, someone would assume I was coming and be happy to see me. But that means *otherwise* goes with the third idea, not the second.

Punctuation for Clarity

Run-on sentences are easily remedied, as I've written before and demonstrated above.[3] I won't belabor all the alternatives, but here are two options for combining ideas in the dreadful email with a semi-colon. Here, the semi-colon works because the ideas are closely related.

Combining first and second ideas:

> *I will put you on the attendance list for that event; however, if you are unable to attend, please let me know. Otherwise, we look forward to seeing you on the 10th.*

The first and second ideas are about attendance, and what to do if I can't attend. The third expresses happiness about seeing me.

Combining the second and third ideas:

> *I will put you on the attendance list for that event. If you are unable to attend, please let me know; **otherwise**, we look forward to seeing you on the 10th.*

In this alternative, the first idea informs me that I'm on the list (yay!), while the second and third explain what to do if I can't come, while expressing hope that I can.

Both alternatives work, so the writer gets to decide which connections to emphasize. Perhaps the writer of this message, uncertain how to slice the pie, defaulted to a comma splice in a moment of weakness.

Does It Really Matter?

Why am I such a curmudgeon? Obviously, I was able to sort out the meaning in just a few seconds, and I should be grateful that (a) the event is being held twice, and (b) I'm being included. Anyway, the author isn't an attorney, just a professional with a fancy title. Does it really matter?

Yes, it matters, particularly for lawyers, but for other professionals as well. It matters first for clarity. While this email was about a cultural event, it could have been about meeting with a new client, a deposition schedule or a court date. A tiny miscommunication on a contract, will, lease, settlement agreement or other legal document could bring about hefty consequences.

Second, it matters for reputation. Spending a moment to reread an email, and spending hours poring over a binding legal document, can add to a professional reputation for thoughtful attention to detail. Yes, we all make mistakes, but those are more easily forgiven when they are rare occurrences, rather than frequent pitfalls.

Third, clarity – including punctuation – matters for respect. Most of us are busy, juggling lots of obligations with little time and lots of stress. Adding a bit more stress with a hurried email (or other document) isn't respectful of the reader.

Conclusion

One definition of insanity is repeating the same action but expecting a different result. I've railed here about details like comma splices for almost 20 years.[4] I keep writing about the importance of punctuation, expecting each time that the universe will hear and I will never again receive incorrectly punctuated documents.

Repeated action, no different result. Insanity? You see why therapy seemed like a good idea today?

(And, thank you. I feel much better now.) ■

Suzanne Rowe is the James L. and Ilene R. Hershner Professor at the University of Oregon School of Law, where she teaches courses in writing, research and advocacy.

ENDNOTES

1. *See* "Running On: Life Support for Sentences," in the December 2024 *Bulletin*.
2. Note the subjunctive mood in the sentence, indicating that commas replacing periods contradicts reality. *See* "Wishful Thinking: If the Subjunctive Were Easy," in the April 2025 *Bulletin*.
3. *See* "Running On: Life Support for Sentences," in the December 2024 *Bulletin.*
4. All articles from the Legal Writer, beginning in 2006, are compiled on the *Bulletin* website, at *osbar.org/publications/bulletin/legalwriterarchive.html*


HARNEY COUNTY

Rural Exposure

Court Clerkship Program Debuts, Generates Interest Outside the Valley

— By Kate Wilkinson —

Oregon has more than 15,000 active lawyers, yet 85% of those lawyers practice in the five I-5 "valley" counties (Multnomah, Clackamas, Marion, Lane and Washington). Several counties lack any private practitioners.[1] "Oregon is reeling from a dearth of attorneys working in rural parts of the state," according to a recent *Bulletin* article.[2] The problem is not unique to Oregon.[3]

Rural communities severely lack access to attorneys, a phenomenon known as legal deserts. Data from the American Bar Association for the year 2020 revealed that 1,300 counties in the United States have *fewer* than one attorney per 1,000 residents, and many have no attorneys whatsoever. Residents are required to drive for hours to access basic legal services to handle even routine matters.[4]

Lack of attorneys is a critical access to justice issue. The lack of legal services also impacts communities in a broader sense as lawyers often play leading roles in areas where they live, serving as volunteers and community leaders.

As part of ongoing efforts to address this issue, the Oregon State Bar, the three Oregon law schools and the Oregon Judicial Department partnered to establish and run the inaugural Rural Court Clerkships program during summer 2025. The OSB Board of Governors provided generous financial support for the program, with a $4,000 stipend for each student. Each law school's public interest group also provided matching financial support. OJD designed the program, coordinated housing and selected the students through a competitive process.

Valuable Experience

Three 1L law students, one from Willamette, one from Lewis & Clark and one from the University of Oregon, were selected as the inaugural class. Leilani Giles (Willamette) and Shardul Vijay (University of Oregon) spent the summer in Coos/Curry, based at the courthouse in Coquille. They also spent a week based at the courthouse in Gold Beach. Nico Godinez (Lewis & Clark) worked in Grant/Harney, based largely at the courthouse in Burns but with weekly stays at the courthouse in Canyon City.[5]

Local trial court administrators and judges provided daily oversight and assignments for the law clerks. Among other things, the clerks researched legal questions and drafted legal memos, observed jury trials and drafted jury instructions. The local courts also coordinated a myriad of other experiences for the clerks including meeting local lawyers, visiting the district attorneys and public defense offices, attending local bar functions, interacting with local law enforcement (ride-a-longs with local police and sheriff's offices, jail visits, time with parole and probation, etc.). The courts aimed to give each law clerk a rich and diverse experience of life in our rural communities.

Presiding Judge Martin Stone (15th Judicial District) explains that he is a "big proponent" of the program and hopes that it will continue. He notes that this is a prime way to highlight the many opportunities for lawyers in rural areas and the benefit of living outside the most populous Oregon areas.

Curry County Judge Jesse Margolis adds that "exposing younger lawyers to our rural area is a great idea and well worth the time – I really enjoyed the opportunity to work with them and was impressed by both students."

All the law students agreed that it was a great opportunity to see and learn about many different areas of law, to meet with judges and to have an inside view of how a court actually functions.

"I loved the program. It really grew my confidence, and I appreciated how willing all of the judges were to teach and mentor," Giles reports.

"It was incredibly valuable; I got to see some of everything, including the less obvious of how court staff handle the workload of a court on a daily basis," Godinez adds. "I was impressed with the collegiality of the few lawyers in the community and how they had a good working relationship."

"I loved it here; people are sincere," Vijay says. "It was a huge confidence boost and a tremendous opportunity to do and see a variety of legal areas. I am so grateful."

All three clerks agree that they plan to share their experiences with their fellow law students and recommend rural practice. They also note the many opportunities for newer lawyers in those rural areas and the close-knit and supportive legal communities.

John Lamborn, a 25-year practitioner in Burns and until very recently, the only lawyer in town (outside of the district attorney), appreciates the program, explaining that "the more people we can expose to the practice of law in rural Oregon, the more we can improve the chances of getting attorneys to move here – they can see the benefits. Any program that exposes newer and prospective lawyers to rural practice should be supported."

Judges, Administrators Benefit Too

Curry County Judge Cynthia Beaman agrees with the positive assessment of the program, noting that, "I thought it was fabulous. Both clerks were bright and took advantage of every opportunity. As a Curry County practitioner, there are not a lot of attorneys to bounce ideas off, not much peer contact. The clerks' fresh perspective was valuable, enlightening and entertaining." She notes that the local county bar is depleted, with no active younger attorneys and very few attorneys regularly working in court. "The situation is dire," Beaman says.

Presiding Judge Robert Raschio, the sole judge in the 24th District, says "it was great to have (Godinez). He learned to be part of the court, learned court procedures and received a foundational education for legal practice. We would happily participate again, and it is a worthwhile program."

Coos/Curry trial court administrator Thomas Lankford says the clerks "become ambassadors for our communities" and he expects the program to be a valuable recruiting tool moving forward. Grant/Harney trial court administrator Samantha Dowell agrees and notes the wide exposure that the clerks received to all parts of the justice system – the police, sheriff, emergency dispatch, the jail, etc. – helps provide a picture of life and practice in a "frontier" community.[6]

Law Schools Provide Support

The three law schools also provided crucial financial and logistical support for the program. Tomás Hernandez, assistant dean for career planning and development, as well as assistant professor of experiential learning for Willamette School of Law, explains that the issue for many law students is that they "just don't have connections to these communities, they don't know anyone out there. If we can provide these opportunities during law school, it helps to build these connections and rapport with the rural communities. This is definitely a worthwhile project."

Shardul Vijay (left) and Leilani Giles (right) served as rural law clerks this summer in Coos County. Thomas Lankford, trial court administrator, is pictured in the middle.

Page 21: The Harney County Courthouse is located in Burns.

Nico Godinez (right) served as a law clerk in Grant and Harney counties this summer. Samantha Dowell (left) is the trial court administrator for that area.

Felipe Alonso, assistant dean, Center for Career Planning & Professional Development, University of Oregon School of Law, notes that "this program provides law students an opportunity to get invaluable judicial clerkship experience while also serving rural communities in Oregon. The externship, paired with funding, makes this a realistic option for many students that would otherwise not be able to consider an unpaid opportunity in rural Oregon."

Programs like these, which introduce law students to the many benefits of rural practice, are essential to help sustain local legal communities and ensure access to justice for all citizens, explains Chief Justice Meagan Flynn. "The Oregon Judicial Department is an enthusiastic supporter of this program, and we hope to see it grow." ■

Kate Wilkinson is general counsel for the Oregon Judicial Department.

ENDNOTES

1. Janay Haas, "High Desert, Legal Desert," OSB *Bulletin*, November 2022.
2. Cliff Collins, "Attracting Rural Lawyers Recruitment and Retention of Rural Attorneys Remain Critical to OSB's Mission," OSB *Bulletin*, February/March 2024 (cover article).
3. Currently 26% of states have specific programs to address the lack of rural lawyers. For example, South Dakota has established the Rural Attorney Recruitment Program which provides a cash incentive for five continuous years of practice in an eligible rural community. *https://ujs.sd.gov/for-attorneys/rural-attorney-recruitment-program/* and New Mexico provides a two-year paid clerkship for recent graduates through its Rural Justice Initiative. *See https://supremecourt.nmcourts.gov/rural-justice-initiative/. See also https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/administrative/center-for-innovation/2025rural-practice-initiatives-report.pdf*
4. Michelle Paxton, "Preventing Legal Deserts in our Rural Communities," *ABA Journal,* Nov. 14, 2023.
5. The Coos and Curry Counties judicial district is the 15th Judicial District with courthouses in Coquille and Gold Beach, Oregon and the 24th Judicial District covers Grant and Harney counties with courthouses in Burns and Canyon City.
6. Frontier communities are sparsely populated, geographically remote areas that are distant from major population centers and essential services. Harney County is the most sparsely populated in Oregon with a population density of 0.72 per square mile (roughly 1 person per square mile) and Grant County's density is 2 people/square mile.

OSB Supports Rural Practitioners

The Oregon State Bar Board of Governors is committed to supporting rural practitioners and ensuring access to justice for rural Oregonians. "We have places in Oregon where the only family law attorney has retired or there are no immigration attorneys left in town. That is simply unacceptable from an access to justice standpoint," says Myah Kehoe, OSB president. "Clients need appropriate representation across our state. And these places offer so many benefits to attorneys that can sometimes be overlooked. You often have affordable, safe, small-town living with a collegial atmosphere, where there is room to take on just about whatever type of cases you want to."

Some steps taken by the Oregon State Bar include changes to the Loan Repayment Assistance Program and programs to encourage law students to consider a career in rural Oregon.

In late 2023, the Oregon State Bar Board of Governors approved changes to the Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP) to allow rural civil practitioners to qualify for forgivable loans of up to $7,500 per year to help repay student debt. Previously, the LRAP was available only to attorneys providing public service, such as deputy district attorneys, public defenders and legal services practitioners. The LRAP provides up to three years of forgivable loans for practitioners making $85,000 or less per year. That salary cap is likely to increase for 2026. Currently, five rural civil practitioners participate in the program. Visit *osbar.org/lrap* for further information about the program and its requirements.

In 2024 and 2025, the Oregon New Lawyers Division, in partnership with the three Oregon law schools, held panel discussions at all three law schools to encourage law students to think about a career in rural Oregon. Hon. Marci Adkisson, Klamath County Superior Court, led the panel discussions at each school. Panelists included district attorneys, legal services providers, public defenders and civil practitioners. This program is likely to continue on an annual basis, as student interest has been strong. If you're interested in speaking on a panel or attending a panel to learn more about a rural or small-town practice, please reach out to the OSB member services manager, Cathy Petrecca, *cpetrecca@osbar.org.* ■

Everybody Hurts (Even Lawyers) Sometimes

One Attorney's Return From a Life-Changing Decision

By Bruce Simpson

Editor's note: *The following article discusses suicide and includes references to self-harm through use of a firearm, as well as a variety of sensitive details that might be triggering to readers. The* Bulletin *thanks author Bruce Simpson and the Kentucky Bar Association for allowing us to reprint this article, which originally ran in its September/October 2023* Bench & Bar *magazine issue. The headline is a reference to the REM song about suicide prevention. Special thanks also to the Oregon Attorney Assistance Program for contributing the informative sidebar with specific Oregon resources.*

I have practiced law in Kentucky for 40 years. I thought previously about submitting an article for the *Bench & Bar*, but I feared that since I practice in the esoteric field of land use law, I might lose your interest halfway through the first paragraph. I do not want to lose your interest today. I am here to warn you about reaching the point of no return should you ever determine, as I did in January 2023, that death is a better option than life. Yes, I attempted suicide — now, the facts.

During the last half of my career, I have heard it said, "Bruce, you have an excellent reputation as a lawyer." I cherished hearing these words. My self-worth became increasingly dependent on receiving such positive affirmation. This is because I have had low self-esteem for most of my life. I masked it well, but beginning in early adolescence, I suffered from untreated, sometimes paralyzing depression, a problem I did not recognize, appreciate or obtain treatment for until after a significant life crisis in January 2023. I was in my mid-40s before I began feeling better about myself but that was only because I started experiencing major success as a lawyer.

In early 2022, doctors diagnosed me with atrial fibrillation, which required hospitalization. In May 2022, I sustained a brain bleed (hemorrhagic stroke) from a fall. I was hospitalized four times during the next seven months. The brain bleed exacerbated a preexisting cognitive memory impairment, related to my depression, that I did not know I had until it was too late.

In January 2023, I received a shocking adverse decision from an appellate court, which noted I had not filed a responsive brief in a case I won at the trial court level. Instantly, I was crushed by more anxiety than I knew existed. How could I not have filed a brief in a case I won? I could not believe I hurt my clients and I saw my "excellent reputation" disintegrate. I was up all night, overcome with grief, sorrow and humiliation. In less than 12 hours, I concluded that suicide was my only option. I had previously thought about suicide should my self-esteem ever be seriously threatened. I had to be perfect as a lawyer and anything less was unacceptable. I never took any steps to ameliorate my depression and thoughts of suicide. Such is the nature of depression. A person suffering from depression often is constrained from seeking help.

I went to a gun shop to purchase a powerful pistol. I had not fired a weapon since serving two years in the Army 50 years ago. I did not want to survive. I knew of people with failed suicide attempts by gun only to live out their days in tortured agony and dependency. I did not want this. I was shown how to load and fire the gun. I paid close attention. I intended to be successful.

I went home and wrote a note to my family. I love my family, but I thought I had disgraced them and myself beyond restoration. I emailed my clients, advising them of the decision and their appeal rights. I also recommended that they retain new counsel. I did not tell them what I was going to do. I took an Uber to the cemetery where my grandparents are buried. Before exiting Uber, I texted a partner advising him of my error and apologized.

I milled around the cemetery, pausing momentarily before pulling out the gun. Alone, I thought, "Really, Simpson, is this how you want your life to end? Is this how you want to be remembered?" My cell phone started blowing up with calls. My wife had obviously found my note. I turned off my phone. I did not want to be dissuaded. I had reached the point of no return.

I wondered if the gun would fire so I test-fired a round into the ground. I was stunned by the loudness and kickback. I knew the shot would attract attention. I called 911 and reported that I discovered a body. I removed the spent shell and then pulled the hammer back from the pistol, watching the next bullet rotate into the firing chamber like the previous bullet did during the test firing. I pointed the gun to the side of my head. I pulled the trigger. The gun did not fire, it merely clicked. I was dumbfounded. I intended to kill myself. What happened? I knew the police would arrive soon. I did not want to shoot myself while an officer was approaching. I put the gun in my pocket. The officer drove up, stopping next to me. I told him I was wrong about the body, that it was a garbage bag. He said, "No problem, thanks for reporting it anyway." He drove away.

Totally bewildered, I walked out of the cemetery. A thought entered my mind to call a former close friend, Bruce Smith, also an attorney. We had been friends for years, but we had two hotly contested cases opposite one another. The relationship soured. I had not thought about calling him in five years. If he did not answer, I would return to the cemetery and finish it. He answered. He agreed to talk. He picked me up in his car and we went to a bar. We talked for two and a half hours and healed our friendship. Nevertheless, I was still determined to return to the cemetery and kill myself. I never disclosed this to Bruce.

When it came time to leave, I asked Bruce to drop me off at the gas station across from the cemetery and that I would wait for an Uber. As I departed his car, he asked, "Where are you going?" I told him, "To wait for an Uber." He said, "No, it's cold, I will wait with you," I said, "No, go ahead, it is late." He said, "I'm waiting with you." I attempted to leave his car three times that night for the cemetery and each time he stopped me. He subsequently took me home.

Driving down my street toward my house, we observed five or six police cars. Bruce looked at me and demanded, "What the hell is going on?" I muttered something ridiculously unbelievable. I asked him to drive me to the main road two miles away. As I finally left his car, Bruce grabbed my arm and asked, "You are going home, right?" I lied again and said, "Yes." I still intended to kill myself. However, after leaving his car, I had a sudden change in thinking. I could not kill myself after he had driven 12 miles to take me home. I could not leave Bruce with that memory.

"I noticed the police cars were gone. I telephoned by wife. She was ectastic. She bolted out the front door crying and hugged me. She was elated and devastated at the same time.

As I walked home, I experienced an enveloping sense of peace, in stark contrast to the nightmarish distress which had consumed me. My suicidal thoughts abated. Approaching my home, I noticed the police cars were gone. I telephoned my wife. She was ecstatic. She bolted out the front door crying and hugged me. She was elated and devastated at the same time.

My wife called the police, advising them of my return. Shortly, two police cars and a paramedic unit appeared. I told them my desire for suicide had ceased. A police officer said that because of my threatened action, I would have to be detained for three days at Eastern State Hospital. My gun was confiscated. A police officer searched me for other weapons and then escorted me outside. I was handcuffed and lodged in the backseat of a cruiser, all in front of my home and neighbors.

En route to the hospital, I recalled my past inappropriate comments about people in mental hospitals. I was put in an unlocked room and checked on every 15 minutes. Staff had to unlock the restroom when I needed to use it and be in the bathroom when I showered.

I was truthful in my responses to all questions, but I did not volunteer, I pulled the trigger, or I tried multiple times that night to finish my mission. I was afraid if I told them this, they might confine me longer than three days. I only shared that I had changed my mind about suicide.

During my stay at Eastern State Hospital, a clinical psychologist, Dr. Donald Crowe, helped me understand that my self-worth should be based on who I am, not what I do in my profession. Through diagnostic testing, he discovered I had a cognitive memory impairment. Physicians at the University of Kentucky later confirmed this, and that my depression most likely caused the memory impairment. These physicians ruled out dementia and Alzheimer's disease. I learned that my memory problem could be substantially, if not totally, corrected with the healing of the brain bleed, appropriate medication, nutrition and proper sleep. I have improved considerably and got progressively better. But for my involuntary commitment, I would have never gained this valuable insight and information.

Ten days after my attempted suicide, I met with my clients. I apologized and informed them of their right to sue me and the statute of limitations. I still think about my mistake almost every day, but I am no longer suicidal. Before all this, I had been highly skeptical of counseling's efficacy. I was convinced that by sheer willpower anyone could conquer what I thought were merely "emotional problems." I was wrong. Competent counseling combined with appropriate medication is immensely helpful. My internist, Dr. Chitra Raghavan, my consulting psychologist, Dr. Marty Seitz, and my nurse practitioner, Kristy Carter, helped save my life.

But too many people have prejudicial attitudes about those who need mental health care. A stigma attaches to mental health treatment which does not attach to treatment for cancer, heart disease and the like. Yet, the pain and incapacity from being mentally overwhelmed can be as pernicious as any physical malady we readily acknowledge. I know. I have experienced both.

As I started to heal, I began reading about suicide, its contributing risk factors and its incidence. The threat of suicide is significant. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that suicide rates increased 36% between 2000 and 2021. There were 48,183 suicides in the United States in 2021 or one death every 11 minutes. Lawyers are two to three times more likely to die by suicide than non-lawyers over 18. (See "Stressed, Lonely, and Overcommitted: Predictors of Lawyer Suicide Risk", February 11, 2023, by Patrick R. Krill for an excellent discussion of risk factors regarding lawyer suicide. *mdpi.com/2227-9032/11/4/536).*

But why publicly share these intimate, personal revelations, which may unnecessarily generate doubts about my fitness to practice a profession I love, especially since my memory and mental health have greatly improved? I have had four major hearings since Jan. 25 where I performed exceptionally well. I feel better mentally and think more clearly than I ever have. I have back-up support from other attorneys

Getting Help

It's Real. It's Available. It Works.

— By Douglas Querin —

Bruce Simpson's story is not only about the emotional pain of a severely distressed lawyer but one of someone who did not seek available treatment. It is a cautionary reminder of how close he came to tragedy and how critical it is to ask for help, so things don't get to that point.

Suicide remains one of the leading causes of death in the United States. Research shows that lawyers, in particular, face disproportionately high risks of depression, anxiety, substance misuse and suicidal thoughts. The 2016 national study by the American Bar Association and the Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation confirmed what many suspected: while lawyers experience elevated levels of mental and behavioral health conditions when compared to the general population, most do not seek the treatment they need. This reluctance leaves many in our profession at greater risk.

In his account, Bruce describes a long history of untreated depression, anxiety, stress and the weight of professional pressures — factors that combined with his isolation and reluctance to seek support nearly led to disaster. What could have made the difference? Reaching out. Early in his career, or even as his crisis deepened, professional counseling, medical treatment, or simply confiding in trusted colleagues, friends, or family could have helped him navigate the darkness. Instead, stigma and skepticism kept him silent.

Too often, lawyers avoid seeking help out of fear — fear of judgment, fear of stigma, fear of seeming weak. But Bruce's eventual realization carries an urgent truth: Help is not only available, it is effective. "It works!" His courage in sharing his story is meant to break the silence and encourage all of us to normalize conversations about mental health and suicide in our profession.

Support doesn't only come from professionals. Family, friends and colleagues can also play a lifesaving role. Sometimes, people in pain don't — or can't — reach out. That is often when we, as members of their support network, may have the opportunity to step forward. We don't need special training; we only need genuine concern. Listening without judgment, validating feelings and offering a steady, compassionate presence can provide the safety and connection that can make all the difference.

If you or someone you know is struggling, please know this: You are not alone. Help is here. It works. And reaching out may save a life.

For more resources and in-depth discussion, please see the OAAP article "Help Is Available: Growing Concern About Lawyers and Thoughts of Suicide," in the July 2023 edition of the *Bulletin*.

Contact the Oregon Attorney Assistance Program for help for yourself or if you are concerned about someone else. Call (503) 226-1057. Additional resources include:

- **Multnomah County Mental Health Crisis Hotline**. They have supported a number of lawyers and all feedback has been unconditionally positive. (503) 988-4888.
- **National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.** They also have a website (988lifeline.org) with specific resources for different communities. Call or text 988.
- If it is an emergency, you can go to your nearest emergency room department. If you are going to call 911 about a personal experiencing a mental health crisis, please see this article for tips: *https://www.nami.org/Your-Journey/Family-Members-and-Caregivers/Calling-911-and-Talking-with-Police/*

And to learn more about how to talk about suicide, check out these resources:

- **The Five Action Steps.** *www.BeThe1To.com*
- **The Lighthouse Project** – Columbia Suicide Severity Risk Screen. *https://cssrs.columbia.edu/the-columbia-scale-c-ssrs/about-the-scale/*
- **QPR (Question, Persuade, Respond).** *Qprinstitute.com*
- **Language Matters: Safe Communication for Suicide Prevention**. *https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/healthy-living/language-matters-safe-communication-suicide-prevention.html*

Additional resources include:

- **Suicide Prevention Resource Center**. *sprc.org*
- **American Foundation for Suicide Prevention**. *afsp.org*
- **Anxiety and Depression Association of America**. *adaa.org*
- **The Centers for Disease Control**. *cdc.gov/suicide/index/html*

Douglas S. Querin JD, LPC, CADC1*, is senior attorney counselor for the Oregon Attorney Assistance Program.*

with whom I co-counsel on every case. We divide the work so there is no additional cost to the client.

Here is why I am sharing this. People are more vulnerable to being mentally shattered, given certain life crises, than they sometimes can appreciate. I do not want anyone I can influence, lawyer or not, to descend into an unstoppable spiral to the point of no return.

I am grateful to have another chance; not everybody attempting suicide gets one. I have witnessed the wreckage a suicide attempt can have on one's family and friends. It is gut-wrenching. I can only imagine the horrific suffering of family members and friends of someone who dies by suicide. I did not realize the catastrophic impact suicide can have on others when I planned my own.

We have one opportunity in life, of course, and as miserable as it may get, such hardships can be mitigated and even remedied with assistance. Some of us may need more help than others. Our future can be better than our past. I am experiencing it.

But we must stop whispering about suicide when we learn of someone's attempt. It should not be the subject of juicy gossip that must be immediately and "secretly" shared. This is harmful. On the contrary, I appreciated the few people who compassionately reached out to offer me support when they learned of my attempt.

The data is compelling that suicide is an escalating public health problem. As a society, we must institute prompt and improved measures which address suicide prevention. Moreover, as a profession, if we proceed with the same ineffective response, what does this say about our concern for young people aspiring to be lawyers? We owe them and fellow attorneys of today more than what we are doing. We are killing ourselves at an alarming rate.

I do not know the answers. I have ideas. I am available to listen and share with any lawyer contemplating suicide. I am not a licensed counselor. I am only a volunteer with the Kentucky Lawyer Assistance Program, but I am also someone who has been to the bottomless abyss of the darkest place. I am not sure I will ever be able to articulate with enough clarity the awfulness of the worst place any human being can venture. I do not want you to go there. There is a path forward which is not permeated with sadness or misery. Rewarding therapeutic help is available and more importantly, it works! Please, for yourself, your family, and your friends, reach out for it. ■

Bruce Simpson received his B.A. and MSW from the University of Kentucky, as well as his J.D. from the University of Kentucky J. David Rosenberg College of Law. Simpson serves as an attorney at Bruce Simpson Law, PLLC, with the last 25 years focusing on land use law; first 15 years, civil trial lawyer. He is a board member and past president of the Children's Advocacy Center of the Bluegrass and a board member at the Kentucky Equal Justice Center. He has also served as past president of the Fayette County Bar Association and Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky. Simpson also volunteers with the Kentucky Lawyer Assistance Program. Simpson can be reached via email at: bruce@bsimpsonlaw.com.

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Experiences Abroad, Military Service Enhance Abby Fitts' Dedication to Helping Others

A Worldwide Perspective

By Melody Finnemore

Bulletin Photo File

Abby Fitts

Abby Fitts has lived and traveled around the world and, through her family's legacy of military service, learned early on that helping others is one of the greatest callings a human being can have.

As an employment and litigation attorney for Barran Liebman, she combines that passion for community service, her military and international perspectives, and her legal experience to help employers find solutions to myriad problems.

Fitts was in the U.S. Navy for a decade, following in the footsteps of her grandfather, who served during World War II, and her father, who served during Vietnam. When Fitts was in the third grade, her family moved to Sanaa, Yemen, and lived there until the first Gulf War forced them to evacuate for a few months. She returned to finish her seventh-grade year in Yemen before the family moved to Seoul, South Korea, where she attended high school.

"Even though I didn't live in the United States for most of my childhood, I grew up with a responsibility to serve and a different view of being an American than probably most Americans had growing up in the States," she says.

Once fluent in Korean and Mandarin Chinese, Fitts received an associate's degree from the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California. As a member of the Navy, she worked as a cryptologic technician conducting real-time operations on watch floors in the Pacific theater. Fitts rose in rank quickly, and in 2005, she was pinned as a chief petty officer, something she considers a pivotal moment in her life. Fitts went on to lead teams of joint service members conducting real-time intelligence operations in support of Joint Chiefs of Staff reconnaissance missions.

"One of the most important things I learned in the military is that the highest calling a person can have is serving others, and that has informed my life as an attorney and in my extracurricular work as well," she says. "It's just the desirability and the mission to make the world a better place."

Career in the Law Beckons

While still in the Navy, Fitts obtained her bachelor's degree in Asian studies in 2008 from American Military University, minoring in Chinese. At the time, she had two young children and her husband, Joe, was deployed to Iraq for 16 months. Fitts and her family moved to Joe's family farm in Independence, Oregon, after they both were out of the service. They welcomed their third child in 2009 to complete their family.

Farm life was new to Fitts and she relished her time as a stay-at-home mom and the pie-baking business she started with her mother-in-law at that point. Her desire to help others while using the experiences and education she already had achieved eventually moved her professional life into its next phase.

Fitts worked a summer in Washington, D.C. at the U.S. Department of Justice's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section. She is pictured with two of her children.

Fitts (second from left) is shown with her family at the Army-Navy football game in 2024. Her son and daughter are both cadets at West Point. Her youngest also plans to serve after high school.

Fitts was a mother of three when she graduated from Willamette University College of Law in 2016.

Fitts finds relaxation in spending time with her donkeys.

"I've always liked helping others and I didn't know at the time how good it would feel to help by being a lawyer," she says, adding she enjoys working with words as well as people. "It was a gamble that ended up working out."

She enrolled at Willamette University College of Law and, like many law students, tried on various kinds of law to see what fit. She spent a summer at the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C., helping at the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section. She also assisted her mentor professor, Warren Binford, for three years and learned how to apply rigor to her work and the tremendous value of a good law librarian.

One of the most pivotal moments in law school came when a guest professor, Mark Hoyt, introduced her to the excitement of working one-on-one with clients who needed counsel in solving their business-related problems. After earning her law degree in 2016, she worked at a business law firm that encouraged her to pursue her interest in litigation and employment law along with transactional advising. She recalls feeling overwhelmed in those early days when a more experienced colleague put a large book on her desk and asked her to learn about ERISA (Employee Retirement Income Security Act).

"I remember thinking, 'Who is ERISA?' and now I'm really glad I met ERISA," Fitts says with a laugh. "I really fell in love with employment law. It's a fascinating mix of the academic application of complex laws in a way that meets real people and real businesses when they need it. There's also this component of humanity that gets applied in my work."

She ran her own small practice for seven years, advising and representing employers in the mid-Willamette Valley. During this time, Fitts spent time helping people in her own Polk County through pro bono work at the local domestic violence shelter and serving as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for children in the dependency system. These experiences not only gave her opportunities to practice advocacy in a courtroom but, more importantly, to help meet the needs of those she considers her neighbors. Last January, Fitts joined Barran Liebman and enjoys her fit with the Portland firm.

"I love working with my clients, and I am hands-down so grateful for the opportunities to learn from some absolute rock stars in employment law," she says. "The chance to work with some of these folks who have been at the forefront of developing case law is a true honor."

Among the challenges involved in Fitts' work is the plethora of regulations employers must navigate, and the potential for them to get into serious trouble for not complying with requirements they may not even know about.

"A lot of employers can't afford an entire HR team or even a full-time HR person, and starting a business can be expensive," she says, noting many employers feel like they are working in the dark and need someone to help navigate obstacles. Her favorite moments as an employment lawyer are when she provides common-sense solutions to a client's problems.

A large portion of her work includes advising employers on compliance and best practices for handling immigration enforcement, and providing guidance about how employers and their staff should handle the

Have an Item for the *Bulletin*?

The *Bulletin* welcomes short items about Oregon lawyers and law firms for the Bar People pages of the magazine. Notices are published at no cost. Email notices to: *editor@osbar.org*

Submissions are subject to editing and published in the order received. The *Bulletin* publishes photographs (single headshots only) in "Moves" and "Among Ourselves" and "In Memoriam." The fee is $20 for each photograph. The notice itself is free.

Paid professional announcements are also available. Inquire at ronnie@bigredm.com. **Questions?** Call Ronnie Jacko, (503) 445-2234.

situation if ICE officers come to their workplace. Fitts estimates she speaks about the issue at least three times a month and writes frequently about it.

Her work includes representing agriculture employers in workers compensation defense against Oregon OSHA complaints regarding workplace safety and heat illness prevention protocols, and defending multiple employers against Oregon Employment Department investigations into classifications of independent contractors.

Fitts also advises employers on best practices and compliance with Oregon and federal wage and hour laws, including salaried exempt, non-exempt, minimum wage and overtime compliance. She advises employers on compliance with state and federal leave laws as well as disability accommodation laws.

Family, Community Come First

In addition to helping employers through her work, Fitts is dedicated to volunteering her time to support her community. She serves as a board member for several organizations, including the Oregon State Bar Agricultural Law Section, the Monmouth-Independence Community Foundation, the West Point Parents Club of Oregon and Southwest Washington, and the Friends of Seoul Foreign School.

Fitts has been a CASA since 2018 and served as an attorney mentor for Willamette University College of Law from 2017-20. She was an advocate and representative for clients of S.A.B.L.E. house from 2018-24. The Oregon State Bar honored Fitts for her pro bono work in 2021, and she received the MAPS Credit Union Community Award in 2023.

In her free time, Fitts' favorite thing to do is spend time with her family. Her husband, a U.S. Army veteran who flew Black Hawk helicopters and is a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, works as a CPA. Their son John, 20, and daughter Faith, 19, are both cadets at West Point. Their son Josh, 16, is a junior in high school and plans to go into the service as well.

Fitts' other hobbies include "pretending" to work in her garden and hanging out with her two donkeys, Eeyore and Dexter. She also continues to enjoy meeting people from other communities and credits her upbringing for her appreciation of other cultures.

"I think I gained a beautiful perspective. I have friends from almost every country, I can communicate in several languages, and I see the world as a much smaller place than I probably would have if I hadn't lived around the world," she says. "I have a tremendous appreciation for almost every single kind of food, and I can probably find something in common with almost everybody." ■

Melody Finnemore is a Portland-area freelance writer. Reach her at precisionpdx@comcast.net.

Pendulate to Shift Your State

Angsting About Anxiety?

By Laura Mahr

iStock/VioletaStoimenova

If anxiety has become a constant companion in your daily life, you're in good company. An American Psychiatric Association Poll published in May 2025 revealed that 67% of Americans are anxious about current events happening around the world, 62% are anxious about keeping themself or their family safe, and 61% are anxious about paying their bills or expenses.[1] When we face growing uncertainty, rapid change, and complex challenges, it's entirely normal — albeit uncomfortable — to feel increasingly anxious. Decreasing our anxiety is important to professionally performing our best for clients and service to the public.

Our profession is especially vulnerable to compound anxiety (layered stress from multiple sources that build on each other), which intensifies overall anxiety. For many of us, today's current events exacerbate the stress inherent in the legal profession's day-to-day work. For attorneys and judges who are expected to be calm and clear under pressure, the resulting anxiety from stress overload may take us off guard, making it difficult to perform at optimal levels.

As national and global dynamics evolve and stressors mount, our profession needs effective, targeted tools to navigate the increasing pressure. Fortunately, practical strategies grounded in evidence-based science are already available — and can be tailored to meet the distinct demands of the legal profession. Somatic (body-centered) practices are especially effective for decreasing anxiety, as they can be used quickly and easily when anxious sensations first arise.

Anxiety vs. Anxiety Disorder

Anxiety shows up in many forms — such as racing thoughts before a big event, throat tightness during a difficult conversation or waking at night with a heavy chest. The difference between feeling anxious and having an anxiety disorder lies in the intensity, frequency and impact of the experience. *Feeling anxious* is a normal, temporary response to stress or uncertainty. It is your body's way of preparing to deal with a specific challenge — like facing a high-stakes interaction with a challenging person. This kind of anxiety usually passes once the situation is resolved.

Anxiety disorder, on the other hand, is a medical condition marked by ongoing, excessive anxiety that persists even without an immediate threat. An anxiety disorder can interfere with daily functioning, professional performance, concentration, relationships and sleep. It may be accompanied by more acute symptoms such as panic attacks and require professional support to manage effectively.

The purpose of this article is to offer a concrete tool to practice when you're *feeling anxious*. If anxiety feels less like a visitor and more like a roommate, consider seeking help from a professional who specializes in helping clients with anxiety disorders.

Anxiety Extends Beyond the Mind and into the Body

To effectively manage anxiety, it's necessary to recognize that anxiety is not only a cognitive state but also a bodily signal — our nervous system's way of alerting us to a perceived threat. Flight, fight, and collapse are all survival strategies that helped our ancestors escape physical threats such as being chased by a large predatory animal. Our bodies continue to respond to mental or emotional threats as if they were physical threats. For example, if you read an email from a disgruntled client, your legs might tense up as if to run away; or your hands may clench up as if to fight; or you may suddenly feel completely exhausted, as if to collapse.

Common somatic anxiety symptoms include rapid heartbeat, muscle tension, shallow or rapid breathing, clammy hands and stomach discomfort. Feeling numb when anxious is also possible. At times, when the nervous system becomes overwhelmed by stress or fear, it shifts into a protective shutdown mode. This response dampens sensations and emotions to reduce distress and create a sense of safety. Numbness is a sign that the nervous system is trying to manage high levels of activation by "turning down the volume" on emotional and physical sensations.

All Talk and No Action Increases Anxiety

If there is one thing that our profession excels at, it is talking! Talking about anxiety has value in that it can describe what is happening under the surface. However, talking about anxiety without engaging body centered regulation tools can retrigger the stress response, keeping you in a stress-activation loop. Rumination loops can reinforce anxiety-producing thoughts without resolving the underlying physiological distress.

I distinctly recall the stress-activation loop that developed when I was transitioning from practicing law to becoming a resilience coach and well-being trainer. I felt anxious about making such a significant career change, and the more I discussed it, the more anxious I became. Each conversation revealed additional unknowns about how to make the shift successfully; increased unknowns led to greater doubts, which in turn escalated my anxiety. With heightened anxiety came diminished confidence about making the shift, thereby decreasing my motivation to make the change. I felt stuck. It wasn't until I began working with skilled mind-body-centered practitioners that I was able to interrupt this cycle. Using a combination of Somatic Experiencing (SE) and Internal Family Systems (IFS), I was able to calm the doubt and restore my confidence so that I could move forward with greater ease.

Somatic Tools Help Manage Anxiety

One reason I am passionate about integrating somatic practices and IFS work into my current work with individual clients is that they are incredibly effective. Somatic tools are mind-body techniques that focus on your internal experience; they are key for managing anxiety because they engage the body's natural ability to regulate the nervous system — facilitating the shift out of a flight, fight or collapse response and back to equilibrium.

By focusing on physical sensations rather than anxious thoughts, somatic practices interrupt rumination and anchor attention in the present moment. They allow anxiety to be processed and released through the body. This shifts the body and mind out of anxiety and into a state of physical calm and clearer thinking in the present moment.

Shifting Your State

I recently attended the 2025 Somatic Trauma Healing Summit Advanced Methods in Body-Based Therapies hosted by the Mindsight Institute (*mindsightinstitute.com*). Each expert emphasized the importance of using somatic practices to process trauma and anxiety through the body, facilitating an effective *shift of state*. Mindfulness and somatic practitioners use the term "shifting state" to describe intentionally changing your internal experience — your current emotional, mental, and physiological condition — to respond more effectively to any situation.

When you shift your state, you can move an anxious nervous system from a place of "upregulated" activation inherent in the flight or fight responses into a "downregulated" state that feels more physically settled and mentally coherent. Conversely, if prolonged or acute anxiety leaves you feeling overwhelmed and collapsed, you can "upregulate" your state into a more energized and clear state.

There are numerous ways you may already be shifting your state without consciously thinking about it. For example, if you go for a run after an emotionally heavy workday, you may enjoy the upregulation from a "runner's high." If you try to sleep and have too much upregulated energy, you may enjoy the downregulating effects of listening to or playing calming music. You may hold a warm cup of tea or pet a purring cat to downregulate; or drink caffeine or play with an energetic dog to upregulate. Do you use food, alcohol or other substances to up- or down-regulate as well?

Pendulate to Shift Your State

One effective somatic practice to shift your state is called "pendulation." Coined by Peter Levine, the founder of SE, pendulation helps to build capacity to stay present with difficult sensations by pairing them with positive or neutral ones. Pendulation helps move awareness out of an anxious state (stress, tension, or overwhelm) and back to regulation (calm, safety, or ease) by using either an internal or external resource. Internal resources might include a soothing sensation in your body — like feeling the warmth in your arms or imagining a peaceful place in your mind. An external resource could be a calming sound, a supportive friend, or something in your environment that helps you feel grounded. Both types of resources are effective, and the good news is: we have access to them anytime, anywhere.

Try pendulating for yourself using the basic steps outlined below:

1. Tune into body sensations that let you know that you are feeling stress or anxiety activation. For example, is your forehead creased or are your shoulders raised?
2. Shift your awareness from the activation to a calming resource. For example, the sun shining through your window or the warmth of the sun on your skin.
3. Pendulate your focus from the resource to the activation for a short, tolerable, amount of time (five seconds). Then shift your attention back to the calming resource, spending more time focusing on the resource than on the activation (15 seconds or longer).
4. Track the sensations between tension and ease.
5. Repeat a number of times (three to five minutes) if it feels like the anxiety is calming/regulating as you pendulate. Stop if it feels like it is exacerbating the anxiety. The rhythmic back-and-forth helps the nervous system process activation without overwhelm, gradually restoring balance and expanding the capacity to tolerate stress thereby reducing anxiety.

Pendulation in Practice

Pendulation is accessible and available right when anxiety arises. You don't need to put on your running shoes or find a kitten to pet. It can be used in court, during a meeting or even at a stoplight. Here are a few examples of how attorneys or judges might use pendulation to reduce anxiety during the workday:

Pendulating using breath as a resource. Rafael is trying his first case in front of a jury. The more he thinks about voir dire, the more anxious he feels, noticing his breath becoming shallow and rapid while his thoughts spiral into worst-case scenarios. Using pendulation, he gently shifts his focus back and forth between his tense, irregular breathing into a slower, deeper, calming breath. Every time he returns to the steady breathing pattern, he feels his shoulders relax and his mind clear, helping his nervous system downregulate while preparing him to face the trial with greater calm and clarity.

Pendulating using a visual resource. Judge Baker, experiencing tightness in her chest during a complex trial, takes a moment during a break to gaze at the trees gently swaying outside the window. She consciously shifts her attention back and forth between the wind in the trees and the emotionally charged facts of the case. This visual pendulation helps her nervous system downregulate, allowing her to stay present to the hearing and feel at ease when she leaves court at the end of the day.

Pendulating using a calming sensation as a resource. Austin, a family law legal aid attorney, frequently works with clients navigating high-conflict custody cases and carrying histories of trauma. When signs of emotional overload arise — like a sinking stomach or feeling sleepy — Austin intentionally shifts their attention to calming sensations, such as the feeling of the sturdy chair beneath them. This brief shift helps up-regulate their nervous system, shifting them out of collapse thereby enabling them to stay present, focused and more resilient throughout the day.

Finding Your Way Back to Center

Shifting your state using pendulation is not about forcing yourself to feel differently when you are in distress. It is about guiding the nervous system into a more optimal regulated state by following the body's innate wisdom. With practice, you develop the ability to regulate your nervous system — up-regulating or down-regulating as needed — to face challenges with greater clarity and confidence. If you try it out, I would be interested to hear: What resources help you shift your state and find your way back to center? ■

Laura Mahr is an Oregon and North Carolina lawyer and the founder of Conscious Legal Minds LLC, providing well-being consulting, training, and resilience coaching for attorneys and law offices nationwide. Through the lens of neurobiology, Laura helps build strong leaders, happy lawyers, and effective teams. After bringing herself back from the brink of burnout with the tools she now teaches, Laura brings lived experience and compassion to thousands of lawyers, judges, and support staff each year in her writing, coaching, and CLE trainings. Her work is informed by 13 years of practice as a civil sexual assault attorney, 30 years as a teacher and student of mindfulness and yoga, and 10 years studying neurobiology and neuropsychology with clinical pioneers. www.consciouslegalminds.com. This article originally appeared in the Fall 2025 edition of the North Carolina Bar Journal.

ENDNOTE

1. The American Psychiatric Association, *bit.ly/40XTOhd.*

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BAR ACTIONS

Discipline

Note: More than 15,000 people are eligible to practice law in Oregon. Some of them share the same name or similar names. All discipline reports should be read carefully for names, addresses and bar numbers.

SUSAN M. CARTER

OSB #206877
Clatskanie
60-day suspension

Effective Nov. 1, 2025, the disciplinary board approved a stipulation for discipline and suspended Clatskanie lawyer Susan M. Carter for 60 days for violations of RPC 1.3 (neglect of a legal matter), RPC 8.1(a)(2) (failure to respond to disciplinary inquiries), RPC 5.5(a) (unauthorized practice of law), ORS 9.160(1) (representing oneself as qualified to practice law while not an active licensee of OSB) and RPC 5.5(b)(2) (holding oneself out to the public as admitted to practice in this jurisdiction when not).

While representing a client in litigation, Carter failed to compel discovery responses, serve deposition notices, timely respond to two motions for summary judgment and timely file a trial brief. During the bar's investigation, Carter failed to timely respond to inquiries regarding the foregoing conduct.

In a separate instance, Carter filed court documents and appeared before the court while her license to practice law was administratively suspended for failing to pay Professional Liability Fund (PLF) premiums.

The stipulation acknowledged that Carter's conduct was aggravated by multiple offenses, substantial experience in the practice of law and a pattern of misconduct. Carter's conduct was mitigated by an absence of a prior record of discipline, absence of a dishonest or selfish motive, and remorse.

JENNIFER N. TOWNE

OSB #120175
Lake Oswego
60-day suspension

Effective Sept. 17, 2025, a disciplinary board trial panel suspended Lake Oswego attorney Jennifer N. Towne for 60 days for her violations of RPC 1.3 (neglect of a legal matter), RPC 1.4(a) (duty to keep a client reasonably informed about the status of a matter and promptly comply with reasonable requests for information), RPC 1.16(d) (duty to return client file after termination and refund unearned fees) and RPC 5.3(a) (duty to supervise non-lawyer personnel).

In two client matters, Towne routinely failed to timely file documents on her clients' behalf, oftentimes relying on untrained staff to facilitate simple yet critical tasks that resulted in significant delay. In one of the client matters, Towne failed to respond to client requests for updates and failed to notify her client of key case events. In that same client matter, Towne failed to provide her client with a complete file until nearly seven months after a request was made.

The trial panel applied various aggravating and mitigating factors as recognized by the ABA Standards for Imposing Lawyer Sanctions. ■

BAR NEWS

Decisis Now Available for Legal Research

The Decisis legal research benefit is live and available for all licensees to use. The Fastcase contract ended on Sept. 24, and Decisis is now the legal research benefit for all Oregon licensees. A live training is available to watch for free on the OSB website at *www.osbar.org/decisis*. FAQs about the new platform are available at *www.osbar.org/_docs/decisis/DecisisFAQ.pdf*.

The Decisis platform offers a live chat staffed with attorneys to help with your legal research. Customer service is available seven days a week. You are also welcome to contact us at *legalpubs@osbar.org* if you have general questions about using Decisis.

Important Changes to 2026 PLF Primary Coverage

The PLF Board of Directors and OSB Board of Governors have approved several changes to the 2026 PLF Primary Coverage Plan, effective Jan. 1, 2026. All covered parties are advised to review these changes before the beginning of the year. You can find information about the 2026 changes and impact of coverage on the PLF website at *osbplf.org* and attached to your 2026 annual PLF assessment notice. If you have questions about these changes or how they might affect your practice, please contact the PLF at (503) 639-6911.

Mentors Needed

Are you a lawyer in good standing who has been practicing for at least five years? Would you like to share your wisdom with a new lawyer and earn MCLE credits for your assistance? The New Lawyer Mentoring Program is actively seeking new mentors.

Visit *www.osbar.org/nlmp* to learn more about the program and apply to be a mentor. Your help could make a difference in the life of a new lawyer.

PLF Assessment Due Jan. 12

The 2026 annual PLF assessment notices have been sent to all active OSB licensees. The deadline to pay your assessment or file an exemption is Jan. 12, 2026. You can pay your assessment, set up installment payments or file an exemption on the PLF website at *osbplf.org/coverage/pay-assessment.html*. If sending payment by mail, please note that it must be physically received by the PLF by Jan. 12, 2026. Postmark dates are not sufficient. If you have any questions, please contact the PLF Accounting Department at (503) 924-1771 or *plfaccounting@osbplf.org*.

270 Applicants Pass July 2025 Bar Exam

Seventy-four percent of the 362 applicants who sat for the July 2025 Oregon Bar Exam received passing marks, according to official results released in mid-September. Of the 270 people who passed, 260 were taking the test for the first time. Ten who passed were repeat applicants.

Those who passed the bar exam in July were sworn in on Oct. 9. For a complete list of applicants who passed the exam in July, visit *www.osbar.org/admissions/examresults_july2025.htm*. ■

Oregon State Bar

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Oregon State Bar

Education & Research

CLE Seminars and Legal Publications

OSB CLE Seminars

Go to osbar.org/seminars and search by program code to register

Uncharted Waters: Navigating Nonprofits' Legal Challenges

Cosponsored by the Nonprofit Organizations Law Section

Friday, December 5, 2025, 8:25 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.

In-person at the Oregon State Bar Center and via Webcast

Total CLE Credits: 5 General and 1 Ethics (Oregon specific) credit

NOLS25

Representing Oregon Homeowners

Cosponsored by Legal Aid Services of Oregon with support from Oregon Housing and Community Services

Wednesday, December 10, 2025, 8:55 a.m. – 4 p.m.

In-person at the Oregon State Bar Center and via Webcast

Total CLE Credits: 6 General

ROH25

OSB CLE Cyber Monday Sale

Cyber Monday Sale on December 1

Get an unlimited 20% discount on all OSB CLE online seminars — on demand and MP3 downloads — purchased on Cyber Monday. Use coupon code **CYBER25** on December 1

Register at osbar.org/seminars and search by program code.

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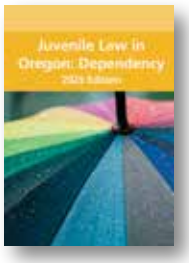
Order legal publications by logging in to the online product catalog at **www.osbar.org/bookstore**



***Available for Preorder: Juvenile Law in Oregon: Dependency* (2025)**

This new edition reflects statutory changes made to the Juvenile Code through the 2025 Legislative Session and uses updated terminology throughout the book.

It incorporates the Oregon Indian Child Welfare Act (2020), detailing its procedural requirements and placement standards. A must-have resource for practitioners representing children or parents in dependency situations.

Coming Soon: Legal Ethics in Oregon

(*formerly The Ethical Oregon Lawyer*)

BarBooks Online exclusive:

The "**Water Quality**" chapter in *Environmental Law in Oregon* is being completely revised and will be available only on BarBooks™ online library. Watch for this updated chapter to be posted in December.

Contact the OSB CLE Service Center for More Information: (503) 431-6413, (800) 452-8260, ext. 413, or cle@osbar.org

Among Ourselves

James W. Durham, past president of the Oregon State Bar and retired general counsel of Exelon Corporation, has been elected president of the Union League of Philadelphia Life Member Club. The Union League of Philadelphia has 4,500 members and has been consistently voted the No. 1 city club in the United States.

Theresa Turner from the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office has earned the IMPACT Award from the Western States Organized Retail Crime Alliance. She currently leads the DA's Task Force on Retail Theft.

Eric Palmer, deputy district attorney for Multnomah County, recently received the Donald G. Petruzzelli Award from Oregon Chapter 31 of the International Association of Arson Investigators. Palmer was recognized for his work on the 2023 fire that destroyed the May Apartments in the Goose Hollow neighborhood of Portland. The nomination for the award noted the fire went to five alarms and was the largest in the city in decades. A jury found Garrett Repp guilty on multiple charges and he was sentenced to 16 years in prison.

Tonkon Torp attorney **Sadie Concepción** is a founding member of the Tilikum Choir Community Board of Directors. The Tilikum Choir Community brings together enthusiastic singers from the Portland Metro area to foster connection and create joy through high-quality, passionate choral singing. Concepción became involved with the group as a member of its chorus. When the choir conductors and directors expressed the desire to register the choir as a nonprofit, Concepción led the registration effort, alongside Tonkon colleagues, representing the choir on a pro bono basis.

Tonkon Torp attorney **Lauren Bernton** has joined the board of directors for Chess for Success, a nonprofit that uses chess as a tool to build community, connection and confidence. Through chess, all students in CFS afterschool programs are introduced to practices of mindfulness, distress tolerance, emotional regulation and interpersonal skills. Bernton is a partner in Tonkon Torp's litigation department, where she focuses her work on commercial disputes with an emphasis on complex real estate litigation.

The Oregon City Attorney's Association recently announced its annual awards (*all winners work in the specified section of the Portland City Attorney's Office*). **Naomi Sheffield and Beth Woodard** were named co-recipients of the Outstanding Achievement Award. They currently serve, respectively, as the chief deputy city attorney and a senior deputy city attorney in the litigation section. **Trevor Byrd,** deputy city attorney in the public records division, earned a Notable New Lawyer Award, as did **Alex Dietz,** an assistant deputy city attorney in the litigation section. **Mike Porter** won the 2025 OCAA Leadership in Law Award. He's a senior deputy city attorney. **Denis Vannier** earned the 2025 OCAA Excellence in Mentorship Award. He's a senior deputy city attorney in the litigation section and serves as the city's primary appellate attorney. ■

Moves

Tom Tongue has been named Schwabe's chief executive officer, succeeding Graciela Gomez Cowger, Schwabe's outgoing CEO. As a fifth-generation Oregon attorney, Tongue brings over 26 years of experience serving as corporate counsel to Schwabe's prominent clients. He previously served nine years on the firm's board of directors and five years as chair of the firm's business practice group. Schwabe also recently completed a multi-floor office renovation at PACWEST in the heart of downtown Portland. The renovation reimagines Schwabe's headquarters with modern design features, open collaboration zones, private wellness areas, client-focused amenities, and panoramic views of the city and Willamette River. The design emphasizes sustainability by incorporating natural light, reusable materials and efficient systems.

Victoria Baker has been hired as an associate with Baker Sterchi Cowden & Rice in Portland. Her practice includes representing individuals, businesses and governmental entities in a wide variety of matters, including commercial disputes, government liability, mass tort defense, class actions and § 1983 claims.

Bergman Oslund Udo Little, a Pacific Northwest law firm with a focus on catastrophic injury cases, has announced it will be known as Oslund Udo Little, reflecting recent transitions within the firm. **Vanessa Firnhaber Oslund, Chandler Udo** and **Brendan Little** are the leadership team. With the addition of its childhood sexual abuse practice, the firm has broadened its mission to also serve survivors of abuse and provide them a voice in court. Reach the firm's updated website at *oslundlegal.com*.

Bob Barton, an accomplished Pacific Northwest trial attorney, has joined Miller Nash in the firm's litigation department. He

has more than three decades of courtroom experience and his practice spans a wide range of litigation, including trucking and transportation claims, product liability, commercial litigation, industrial accidents, wrongful death, catastrophic loss, personal injury and other tort cases. He has tried hundreds of cases to verdict in state and federal courts and has successfully argued numerous cases before the Oregon Supreme Court and Court of Appeals, solidifying his reputation as a trusted advocate in the most challenging legal arenas.

Christine Moehl is now part of Schwabe's Bend office as part of the healthcare and life sciences industry groups. She brings experience advising clients on a range of employee benefits matters and assisting employers and service providers with compliance under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA). Moehl specializes in providing clients with practical and understandable solutions while navigating complex government systems.

Christopher Weathers has joined Miller Nash's sports, entertainment and media team. Based in the firm's Portland office, Weathers is a seasoned transactional attorney who focuses on helping clients create, protect and monetize their content across every platform. Weathers advises a wide range of clients, from major distributors, studios and production companies to independent creators and emerging startups, as well as businesses outside the sports, media and entertainment industries that need strategic support for content-related matters.

SBH Legal has hired three new associates. **Morgan Terhune** represents Oregon and Washington employers and insurers in workers' compensation and related employment defense matters. Prior to SBH, Terhune practiced family and appellate law and

externed at the Oregon Supreme Court. **Sierra Sawyer** represents Oregon employers and insurers in workers' compensation and related employment defense matters. Prior to joining SBH, Sawyer practiced at a firm specializing in business litigation and transactions before transitioning to a boutique workers' compensation defense firm.

Naomi Kitchen-Huan represents Oregon and Washington employers and insurers in workers' compensation and related employment defense matters. Kitchen-Huan has rejoined SBH after clerking with the firm last summer.

Tom Vogt is now an of counsel attorney in the business department of Tonkon Torp. Vogt's practice is focused on mergers and acquisitions, emerging companies, securities and general corporate work. He has considerable experience drafting and negotiating key documents for strategic transactions and securities offerings of all sizes, including a wide range of purchase agreements, joint venture and LLC agreements, and SEC filings. Alongside his transactional practice, Vogt works with emerging and established companies in an ongoing counsel role, reviewing and drafting NDAs, consulting agreements, distribution agreements and commercial contracts.

Anuj Shah has joined the law office of Stoll Berne as an associate attorney. Shah's practice will focus on complex litigation matters, including business and securities litigation, data privacy, and class actions.

Schwabe welcomes associate **Kyle Torseth** to the firm's Portland office as part of the natural resources industry group. Torseth brings over a decade of experience working as in-house legal counsel with deep knowledge of acquisitions and dispositions, invest-

ment structuring, contract negotiations and management agreements. ■

In Memoriam

Peter L. Barnhisel passed away on Dec. 9, 2024, of metastatic melanoma. He was 85 years old and had practiced law until a few months before his death, coming very close to his stated goal of "dying at my desk."

Pete was born in Portland and grew up in Klamath Falls. He played football and wrestled for Klamath Union High School, then attended Stanford University. He then served as a U.S. Navy junior officer in the Pacific. Honorably discharged, Pete enrolled in the University of Oregon School of Law. There he met undergraduate Norma Jean Jones. He graduated and was admitted to practice in 1966, marrying Norma that same year.

After four years with the Spears Lubersky firm in Portland, Pete moved to Corvallis to partner with John Fenner. Pete was a skilled trial lawyer and tried cases throughout the state with an almost boisterous enjoyment. He rejected the term "litigator" as a euphemism for "lawyers who never try cases." He was known for carefully prepared and reasoned arguments to judges and juries.

His later practice focused on estate planning and probate. He authored the first six editions of the bar's *Guardianships and Conservatorships* publication, an essential resource for all practitioners for over 30 years, beginning in 1993.

Pete's extraordinary commitment to bar service was demonstrated by full terms on the Board of Governors, the Board of Bar Examiners, the State Professional Responsibility Board and as lawyer representative and ultimately chair of the federal 9th Circuit Judicial Conference.

His public service pinnacle was five years as a member and later chair of the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission. He traveled

throughout the state, meeting with tribes, landowners, hunters, conservationists and developers to understand their competing interests and concerns. His law partners referred to this period as Pete's "Pendleton shirt phase."

Pete was devoted to his wife and two children, Greg and Stacy. Their families cherished annual family gatherings in Puerto Vallarta and at Black Butte Ranch.

He is survived by his sister, Sally, his son Greg (Alison Colbert), his daughter Stacy (Josh Haber), and four grandchildren, Jack, Beckett, Harper and Milo. His beloved Norma survived him by only five days.

His law partners, community and family miss Pete greatly. We remember not only his legal accomplishments but also his kindness, keen sense of humor and acceptance of people from all walks of life.

David Ernst passed on July 28, 2025, at age 64, sharing a too-short lifetime of laughter, love, and unwavering generosity and kindness.

Born on Oct. 2, 1960, in Troutdale, Dave was the youngest child of Gloria and Walter Ernst. He grew up alongside siblings Nancy Hasselblad and Bob Ernst, who, together with his mother, survive him. Dave graduated from Reynolds High School, studied music at Oregon State University and earned his law degree from Lewis & Clark Law School.

Dave served over 25 years at Bullivant Houser Bailey, rising to firm president, before becoming a nationally recognized food safety attorney at Davis Wright Tremaine. Dave was not only a leading food safety attorney, but he was a consummate trial attorney with an innate ability to connect with jurors. At DWT, Dave excelled as a mentor, culminating in his role as succession planning partner assisting other lawyers on the path to retirement. Even after retiring from his law practice, his passion and dedication persisted as a food safety mediator and advisor on succession planning.

Dave genuinely connected with people in whatever he was doing. Dave led with compassion and purpose, lending his expertise to countless organizations. He chaired the board of Business for Culture & the Arts and contributed to the boards of Classroom Law Project, Portland Youth Philharmonic, Portland Baroque Orchestra and Lewis & Clark Law School's Board of Visitors.

But Dave's family was his truest passion. He and his wife of 38 years, Kathryn, raised two beloved children, Abby (a mental health therapist in Portland) and Brian (an attorney in Seattle). Dave recently welcomed Emilie Kurth as his daughter-in-law, and he adored his grand-dog, Gio.

A lover of the world's marvels, Dave visited all 50 states, plus Greenland, Iceland, Italy and beyond, creating unforgettable memories with family. Dave could also proudly name the county seat of each Oregon county, occasionally quizzing his colleagues. Wherever he went, his presence brought smiles, from bike rides in the Alps to backyard gatherings over gin and tonics.

Dave's grace, humor, and kindness touched everyone with whom his path crossed. He is and will be deeply missed. Remembrances in Dave's honor can be made to the Civics Learning Project. ■

Additional Notices

Lawrence Evans
74, Lake Oswego, Aug. 3, 2025

Monique Renner
48, Klamath Falls, Feb. 1, 2025

Masha A. Kazakova
34, Anchorage, Alaska, May 30, 2025

Jan P. Londahl
82, Portland, May 2, 2025

Martin Leuenberger
76, Sumpter, July 29, 2025

Robert K. Naslund
85, Eugene, April 23, 2025

Martin Drobac
90, Santa Cruz, California, Jan. 5, 2025

James J. Kolstoe
69, Eugene, Aug. 10, 2025

Dennis Vavrosky
82, Portland, June 4, 2025

Melissa J. Ward
50, Salem, Dec. 9, 2024

Oregon State Bar

Announcing a Convenient New Pro Bono Program

Oregon Free Legal Answers

In partnership with the American Bar Association

The OSB has launched a convenient new mechanism to offer pro bono legal services. Free Legal Answers allows you to log onto a secure website at your convenience, choose a legal question you are qualified to answer (submitted by a low-income Oregonian), and provide brief pro bono advice and other resources. Answer only as many questions as your time allows. Areas of law that are in demand include family law, housing, debtor/creditor and consumer law. This program has been lauded by lawyers around the country as a convenient and meaningful pro bono model. For more information: **Oregon.freelegalanswers.org**.

Questions? Visit oregon.freelegalanswers.org

CLASSIFIEDS

OFFICE SPACE

BEND, OREGON - Office for rent with space for support (cubicles or office). Newer building is located one block from the courthouse. Ample parking, two conference rooms, reception for greeting clients, etc. Reasonable price depending on needs. Call Tim at (541) 383-3755.

FANTASTIC DOWNTOWN PORTLAND legal professional office space near Pioneer Square. Great offices and cubicle spaces available to rent on available to rent on the 10th Floor 520 SW Sixth Avenue. Bright spaces with large windows, sunlit with nice urban views on West hills; on public transit and with off-street parking garage. Collegial, respectful, colleagues in small and solo firms. Excellent secure bike parking, exercise facility, tenant lounge, and building security. Monthly rent is prorated from 6/1/24. Offices: $750-$950; cubicle space for $300; lower rents possible for combinations. Printer/copier/phones/postage/internet available. Possible paralegal. Contact admin@henkelslaw.com / phone 541.270.6001 to see the spaces.

HILLSBORO OFFICE SPACE - One block from the courthouse. Free parking. Large office with secretarial space (furnished or bring your own), full-service building, including all utilities, internet, janitorial and kitchen. All you need is a computer to get started. $750.00 per month. Call Matt at 503-348-6001 or email Matt@Kehoesandslaw.com.

INTERIOR OFFICE AVAILABLE. Four blocks to Multnomah/Federal courthouses. Air conditioned, shared conference room, elevator with security system, kitchen, shower room, receptionist and bike rack. $450. Contact Desiree` at drousseau@stollberne.com

LAKE OSWEGO KRUSE WAY – Class A Office Building. 4248 Galewood Street, Lake Oswego, OR 97035. Primarily Attorneys. Partner-sized, windowed offices. Receptionist, Phones, High Speed Internet, Conference Rooms available or included. Free parking. Office lease prices range from $600 to $1400 per month. Phone numbers or ported numbers available. Call for information. John (503) 675-4343.

LAKE GROVE CROSSING EXECUTIVE SUITES, LAKE OSWEGO – Near Mercato Grove, 4035 Douglas Way, Lake Oswego, OR 97035. Newly remodeled executive office space available. All private, windowed offices. Common area amenities, including free parking, use of breakroom, conference room, and workroom. Prices begin at $950 per month.

OFFICE SPACE – Two spaces available, a second-floor office and first floor in tandem double office in a building with 4-6 other lawyers, East Portland, Hollywood District, negotiable rent includes utilities. Conference Room available. Call to view, leave a message. (503) 236-4000.

OFFICE SPACE – Two spaces available, a second-floor office and first floor double office in a building with 4-6 other lawyers, East Portland, Hollywood District, negotiable rent includes utilities. Call to view, leave a message. (503) 236-4000.

OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE PREMIER PORTLAND LOCATION - 1000 SW Broadway, ninth floor, 742 total sq. ft. Two offices, a common area large enough for up to three support staff, private entry, separate suite numbers, and signage. Located on a floor with a fitness center and direct access to a parking garage. The building provides the use of a large conference room located on the ninth floor with a capacity of 42. You will also have use of our private conference room that seats twelve, reception area, break room, internet, and phone system. The building has seven levels of secured and monitored parking. We are located two blocks from Pioneer Square and near theaters, hotels, and restaurants. Internet and phones included. Available immediately. Contact Chris Roy, at chris@roylawgroup.com or 503-926-4653.

OFFICES FOR RENT Dayton Building. Office spaces available 838 SW 1st St Portland, 2 blocks to federal courthouse; highly accessible; surrounded by restaurants, bars, shops, services. Conference rooms, gyms, showers and bike storage. 1,485-4,200/sf available, $18-$25/sf full service. https://838sw1stst.relahq.com. Contact: Kris Hobson Vogt Kris@solderaproperties.com Phone: 213.675.0990

OFFICE SPACE – Two spaces available, a second-floor office and a small first floor office (desks included) with optional reception area for a paralegal in a building with 4-6 other lawyers, East Portland, Hollywood District, negotiable rent includes utilities. Call to view, leave a message. (503) 236-4000.

SEE OFFICES AVAILABLE FOR RENT - Two furnished offices available near Clackamas Town Center. $600/mo for interior office and $800/mo for large office with exterior windows. Internet and janitorial services included. Tenant will have access to a break room and two conference rooms. Contact (503) 517-0054 or kim@source-law.us.

THREE OFFICES AVAILABLE on the same floor in a modern office building on South Corbett Ave in Portland. The offices have a private entrance, private bathroom, and off-street parking for 3 vehicles. The building has a shared waiting room, conference room, and lunchroom. The building has an elevator and is ADA compliant. Current tenants include four attorneys and a financial planner. $2600/PM with lease. Contact Greg Terranova at 503 220-0251.

TIGARD TRIANGLE WASHINGTON COUNTY OFFICES AVAILABLE – 7128 SW Gonzaga Street; Suite 100; Portland, OR 97223. 1 or 2 adjacent offices for rent (can rent either one or both), each with 2 adjoining cubicles available as of March 15, 2025, located in long-time established Portland area CPA firm. Portland (or Tigard) address can be used from this 97223-zip code (but not taxable in City of Portland). Fantastic and convenient location with immediate access to I-5 and Hwy 217 features up to 2 private offices each with 2 adjacent cubicles (each office/cubicle set can be split into one or rented together), 2 dedicated conference rooms (one with video conferencing), kitchen area, reception / lobby, and ample workspace. Generous parking allowance with EV charging station for tenants provided. Secure building with video cameras and access controls. Temperature controlled and secured dedicated IT room. Office suite cleaning and Wi-Fi included. Building phone system can be expanded to include these offices if required. For questions, office diagram and layout, or to arrange a tour, please contact Janice Holcomb of TruePoint Analytics at 847-345-7884. Rents are $1,750 per month for each office which includes 2 cubicles for each office.

TIGARD TRIANGLE WASHINGTON COUNTY OFFICE SUITE OPPORTUNITY – 7128 SW Gonzaga Street; Suite 230; Portland, OR 97223. Our long-time law firm tenant no longer requires its 1,432 Sq. foot second-story office space as of April 1, 2025 (may be available earlier). Portland (or Tigard) address can be used from this 97223-zip code (but not taxable in City of Portland). Fantastic and convenient location with immediate access to I-5 and Hwy 217 features an elevator, 4 private offices, dedicated conference room, kitchen area, reception / lobby, and ample workspace. Generous parking allowance with EV charging station for tenants provided. Secure building with video cameras and access controls. Temperature controlled and secured dedicated IT room. Office suite cleaning and Wi-Fi included. Building phone system can be expanded to include this suite if required. Complimentary access to other conference rooms available in the building can be also arranged. Anchor tenant is a long-time Portland CPA and financial litigation consulting firm that has enjoyed a long-term working and referral relationship with its former law firm tenant. A reputable law firm is desired in this space as the convenience of serving the CPA firm's clients has been a value-add. For questions, suite diagram, or to arrange a tour, please contact Janice Holcomb of TruePoint Analytics at 847-345-7884. Base rent is $2,981 plus estimated CAM charges of $1,070 per month ($4,077).

SMALL OFFICE with built-in bookshelves, $400 or $600 with adjacent secretarial/storage space. Large, partially furnished office with big windows, private balcony and secretarial space, $750. Small, quiet building in downtown Portland located on the corner of SW 6th and Clay on the transit mall, blocks from Multnomah County Courthouse and Justice Center, and US District Court buildings, one block to fitness center. Rent includes full reception and telephone answering from 8 to 5 M-F, use of library w/fireplace and conference room, standard office equipment, notary onsite. Building is shared with several experienced attorneys. Flexible lease dates. Parking available $200/month. 521 SW Clay. Kari: 503-226-3607.

WEST LINN, OREGON - Office space available for four attorneys. Conference room, library, kitchen, reception area for greeting clients, space for support staff, and ample off-street parking. $1000/month per attorney. Mike Walsh mikewalsh373@gmail.com John Hutchison Hutchison.john@comcast.net 503 656-1694.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

It is the policy of the Bulletin to only list opportunities for employment that are consistent with OSB Bylaw 10.

ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY - Criminal Defense/Family Law. We are a full-service family law and criminal defense firm providing services throughout Oregon and are seeking an associate divorce and family law attorney. We are seeking a licensed attorney to provide excellent representation to our clients on a variety of matters in the Portland Metro area. Requirements and Qualifications: JD from an accredited law school. License to practice law in Oregon. Litigation experience (1-2 years preferred; less for the right candidate). Benefits: Medical, Dental and Vision Insurance. Aflac options. Quarterly bonus. IRA retirement matching up to 3%. Firm pays OSB dues, malpractice insurance, and for up to 15 CLE credits per year. Compensation will depend on experience but will be competitive with salaries from the Oregon State Bar Economic Survey. Please email cover letter, resume, law school transcript (if a recent graduate) and references to: assistant@romanolawpc.com.

BUSINESS ATTORNEY (3-5 YEARS EXPERIENCE) – Join Our Mid-Size Firm. Are you a business attorney

looking for a fulfilling career without sacrificing work-life balance? Lynch Murphy McLane LLP is seeking a skilled and motivated associate attorney with 3-5 years of experience in business law to join our team in our Portland or Bend office. About Us: We are a well-respected, client-focused mid-size law firm that prioritizes high-quality legal work while fostering a balanced and supportive workplace that values collaboration, professional development, and work-life balance. Position Overview: The ideal candidate will have experience advising businesses on legal matters, including entity formation, contract negotiation, mergers & acquisitions, and regulatory compliance. This role offers an exciting opportunity to work with a diverse range of clients, from startups to established corporations. Key Responsibilities: Provide legal counsel on business transactions, contracts, and corporate governance. Draft, review, and negotiate business agreements and commercial contracts. Assist clients with entity formation, structuring, and compliance matters. Conduct legal research and risk assessments for business operations. Support clients in mergers, acquisitions, and other business transactions. Work collaboratively with colleagues and clients to develop strategic legal solutions. Qualifications: Juris Doctor (J.D.) from an accredited law school. Licensed to practice law in Oregon. 3-5 years of experience in business law, corporate transactions, or related areas, real estate knowledge a plus. Strong contract drafting, negotiation, and analytical skills. Excellent written and verbal communication abilities. Ability to manage multiple projects and meet deadlines. What We Offer: True Work-Life Balance – Reasonable billable hour expectations and flexibility in scheduling. Competitive Compensation – Salary, performance incentives, and benefits. Collaborative & Supportive Culture – A team-oriented environment where your contributions are valued. High-Quality Work Without Big Law Pressure – Meaningful cases, direct client interaction, and impactful legal work. To apply, please send your resume and a cover letter to Kaci Price at kprice@lynchmurphy.com.

FAMILY LAW ASSOCIATE, CENTRAL OREGON - Brincat & New is a family law firm with offices in Bend and Portland. We are looking for an associate attorney for our Bend office. Our ideal candidate has 2-5 years of experience, preferably in family law or other litigation. Our Bend office is centrally located in the St. Clair Place building downtown. Flexible start date available. Compensation consists of signing bonus, base salary, commissions, parking, health insurance reimbursement, employer-matching retirement account, and substantial vacation/paid time off. Relocation stipend available as needed. Please submit a resume, cover letter with salary requirements, and references to jordan@brincat-new.com and tabitha@brincat-new.com.

FAMILY LAW ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY - Established Salem law firm looking for an attorney licensed in Oregon with a minimum of 3 years' experience in family law. Focus is on divorce, child custody, parenting time and child support with trial experience. Our firm has a strong reputation of helping individuals through difficult times with integrity and compassion. Looking for a candidate with strong interpersonal skills who is a team player and able to work in a fast-paced environment. Must be personable and professional in appearance. Excellent supportive staff. Competitive salary and benefits. If you meet these qualifications, please forward cover letter and Resume to lstipe@ferder.com

FAMILY LAW ASSOCIATE – Four Point Legal, P.C. in Portland. We are seeking an attorney with three or more years of family law experience to join our hard-working team. Successful candidates must possess strong technical skills and the ability to work efficiently with minimal supervision in a fast-paced environment. We are looking for someone who connects well with people and can develop quality client relationships. We are a small, busy firm limiting our practice to family law, estate planning and business law. Our firm is founded on four key values: trust, respect, teamwork, and results. We are growing and looking for people who share our beliefs about making the lives of our clients and coworkers better. We believe in a good work-life balance, because bringing your best self to work benefits everyone. We offer a competitive salary, health and dental insurance, 401k with employer match, and flexible PTO. If you are interested in joining our team, please email a resume and cover letter to info@fourpointlegal.com.

FIRM ADMINISTRATOR – Watkinson Laird Rubenstein, P.C., a well-established, mid-sized firm based in Eugene, seeks an experienced administrator. This position is responsible for the administrative and operational functions of the offices and overall supervision of non-attorney staff. The administrator works closely with the Executive Committee to facilitate the efficient operation of the firm and promote firm culture and values. Primary responsibilities include staff recruitment and training, preparation of financial statements and the firm's budget, overseeing accounting, managing the daily operations of information systems, overseeing facilities, equipment, and vendor relationships, and coordinating firm marketing and events. Bachelor's degree in a business-related field and at least five years of experience in a senior office management position in law or a similarly-regulated profession such as accounting, healthcare, or finance required. Competitive salary and excellent benefits. Qualified candidates should send their résumé and a cover letter to jrudebeck@wlrlaw.com

HODGKINSON STREET MEPHAM ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY – Civil Litigation. Hodgkinson Street Mepham Portland, Oregon. Job Information: Workplace Type: On site. Location: Portland, Oregon. Company Name for Job: Hodgkinson Street Mepham, LLC. Position Title: Associate Attorney – Civil Litigation. Job Function: Associate. Job Type – Full-Time. Job Duration: Indefinite. Min. Education: JD. Min. Experience: 2 + years preferred but we will consider all qualified candidates. Required Travel: -0- to 10%. Requirements: Admitted to the Oregon State Bar. Admission to the Washington State Bar is a plus. Description: Hodgkinson Street Mepham, LLC is a Port land based civil litigation defense firm specializing in the defense of medical malpractice and personal injury cases. We are an 8 attorney firm that is seeking to add an associate with strong writing and communication skills. We are now entering our 16th year as a firm. Our lawyers enjoy working together and collaborating on cases to provide the best representation possible for our clients. Initially, your job duties will include working closely with lead attorneys on case pleadings, discovery, depositions, motions, and trial preparation. We request that a writing sample be submitted with ap plications. You will have an opportunity to develop and manage your own caseload. Hodgkinson Street Mepham offers a competitive salary and excellent benefits package. If you would like to find out more about our firm, please visit our website at: https://www.hodgkinsonstreetmepham.com/. Hodgkinson Street Mepham is an equal opportunity employer. We welcome all applicants and strive to provide a workplace in which all employees feel included, respected, and valued

LITIGATION ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY – Eugene law firm. Hershner Hunter, LLP, the largest full-service business firm in Eugene, is seeking an associate attorney to work in its busy litigation group, specializing in commercial, employment, construction and real property litigation. This is a partner-track position. We welcome candidates with 0-3 years' experience, including law school graduates taking the Bar exam this summer for employment starting in the Fall; interest and experience in employment law is preferred but not required. Candidates should send materials to Nicholas Frost, at nfrost@hershnerhunter.com. Hershner Hunter, LLP is an equal opportunity employer.

LITIGATION ATTORNEY (3-5 YEARS EXPERIENCE) – Join Our Mid-Size Firm. Are you a litigation attorney looking for a fulfilling career without sacrificing work-life balance? Lynch Murphy McLane LLP is seeking a skilled and motivated attorney with 3+ plus years of experience in litigation law to join our team in our Portland or Bend office. About Us: We are a well-respected, client-focused mid-size law firm that prioritizes high-quality legal work while fostering a balanced and supportive workplace that values collaboration, professional development, and work-life balance. Position Overview: The ideal candidate will have experience handling a variety of civil litigation matters, including business disputes, breach of contract, and partnership disputes and other corporate litigation matters from case inception to resolution. This role offers the opportunity to actively litigate actively, manage cases and work directly with clients. Key Responsibilities: Client communication. Manage litigation cases, including pleadings, motions, discovery, and trial preparation. Represent clients in court proceedings, mediations, and arbitrations. Conduct legal research and draft persuasive legal arguments. Collaborate with colleagues to develop litigation strategies. Maintain strong client relationships and provide strategic legal counsel. Qualifications: Juris Doctor (J.D.) from an accredited law school. Licensed to practice law in Oregon. 3+plus years of experience in civil litigation. Strong ability to advocate and negotiate. Excellent written and verbal communication abilities. Ability to manage multiple projects and meet deadlines. What We Offer: True Work-Life Balance – Reasonable billable hour expectations and flexibility in scheduling. Competitive Compensation – Salary, performance incentives, and benefits. Collaborative & Supportive Culture – A team-oriented environment where your contributions are valued. High-Quality Work Without Big Law Pressure – Meaningful cases, direct client interaction, and impactful legal work. Technological tools to help you work effectively and efficiently. To apply, please send your resume and a cover letter to Kaci Price at kprice@lynchmurphy.com.

NORTHWEST SURROGACY CENTER, LLC - Northwest Surrogacy Center, LLC is seeking an Oregon attorney for the position of Legal Director. The Legal Director's role includes providing initial consultations with new families considering surrogacy; advising NWSC staff and management on legal issues; drafting and negotiating contracts and presenting at conferences. The ideal candidate will have the ability to communicate with a diverse population and must be comfortable working with LGBTQ+ staff, clients, and surrogates. Some travel may be required. Oregon or Washington State Bar membership required. NWSC has been building families through surrogacy for 30 years and was founded by Oregon attorneys. Our organization consists of a team of 40 who are dedicated to the well-being of Intended Parents and Surrogates as they assist them in creating their families. You will be joining a close-knit group that enjoy one another and are deeply invested in the success of NWSC and the well-being of our clients. Our office environment is intimate, supportive, collaborative, and focused. We work in a fascinating, unusual, rewarding

field. We want to hear why you want to work for our organization. The right answer is any answer – we are just interested in knowing. Our primary office is in the Grant Park area of NE Portland. We have satellite offices in Seattle and San Francisco. A hybrid work arrangement is negotiable, but at a minimum you would work in our Portland office three days a week. We offer a competitive salary and benefits package including health, dental, life and vision insurance and a retirement plan. Please send cover letter and resume to Molly O'Shea, Finance and Human Resources Director, molly@nwsurrogacycenter.com.

PRO TEM JUDGE - Tigard Municipal Court is seeking a pro tem judge to serve on an as-needed basis. The caseload primarily consists of traffic violations, including photo enforcement, and civil infractions. Applicants must be members of the Oregon State Bar in good standing with at least five years of criminal legal practice or judicial experience. Candidates will be required to provide proof of business insurance, Bar membership, pass a background check and a LEDS test and obtain a City of Tigard business license. The hourly rate is $150 per hour. The successful candidate will be hired as an independent contractor and not an employee of the City. The successful candidate will be expected to execute a personal services agreement with the City, a copy of the agreement is available upon request. Services are requested as the need arises, therefore there is no guarantee as to the actual amount of work, if any, to be assigned under any subsequent contract. Please submit your resume to Holly Fenton, Court Supervisor at hollyf@tigard-or.gov by December 1, 2025.

SEEKING TO ACQUIRE LANDLORD REPRESENTATION PRACTICES NW Landlord Solutions, an established landlord-tenant law firm is expanding and seeks to acquire other firms serving landlords exclusively. Flexible options available, including multi-year transition periods for sellers not yet ready to retire. Contact Quinn Posner at quinn@waevictions.com. All inquiries confidential.

TWO SPRUCE LAW, a woman-led law firm in Bend, OR, since 2006 is hiring an associate attorney for estate planning, probate, and trust administration. Training / mentorship provided for right candidate. Collaboration with paralegals is vital. Supervised Practice Portfolio Examination candidate considered. To apply see twosprucelaw.com/careers.

RECREATIONAL RENTALS

KIHEI, MAUI, HAWAII – Large ocean-view 1BR-2BA condo, LR sofasleeper, two pools/spas, tennis, across from beach. Attorney discounts. (503) 291-1423; Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=txEcuMFzELE – Pictures and Booking: samsandmireidaho@gmail.com.

PARIS APARTMENT – At Notre Dame, elegant 2 bedroom, 2 bath, with lift. PROVENCAL HOUSE – 4 bedroom, 4 bath house with pool and stunning panoramic view of Menerbes. Owned by Oregon Bar member: 202-285-1201 or angpolin@aim.com.

SUNRIVER – Cascara Vacation Rentals - A wide variety of homes & condos across Sunriver and beyond. Many include hot tubs, A/C, access to SHARC, and/or are pet friendly. Visit **cascara vacations.com or c**ontact us at (800) 531-1130 or cascara@cascara vacations.com Discounts for OS Bar members

SUNRIVER – Warm, cozy, 2 bedroom, 1 bath Ranch Cabin, ideal for a weekend getaway. Fireplace, TV, Wi-Fi, DVD, CD, BBQ, washer/dryer, fully furnished & well-equipped. Sleeps 4. $125/night + $125 cleaning fee (541) 944-2694.

SERVICES

BECOME A PARALEGAL 100% ONLINE AT UMPQUA COMMUNITY COLLEGE - Learn legal concepts and gain the communication skills necessary to be successfully employed in the legal community as a paralegal. Gain practical experience by working in the legal field as part of the completion of the paralegal degree program. Become career-ready for high-demand jobs. Over 90% of students are employed before they graduate. Taught by attorneys and highly experienced paralegals. Courses include legal procedures, legal terminology, family law, real estate law including landlord-tenant regulations, tort law, civil procedures, legal research and writing, estate planning and probate, and criminal law. Learn more about how to get your Paralegal Studies AAS degree: umpqua.edu/paralegal or call admissions: 541-440-7743.

CONTRACT PARALEGAL SERVICE - S&T SUPPORT, LLC – Seasoned Paralegals available on an as-needed basis. Backgrounds in estate planning, probate/trust administration, business law, and litigation. Will work remotely or on-site serving Salem, Portland and Eugene. Visit www.stsupportllc.com for services and staff. Call (503) 967-6023 or email tammy@stsupportllc.com to discuss your paralegal needs.

FORENSIC DOCUMENT EXAMINER – Trained by the Secret Service and US Postal Crime Lab examiners. Fully equipped laboratory. Qualified in state and federal courts. Retired from the Eugene Police Department. Jim Green, (888) 485-0832, www.documentexaminer.info.

TEMPLATES FOR OREGON ESTATE PLANNING, PROBATE AND TRUST ADMINISTRATION. Information available at nobleforms.com. Each set $100 per month. No contract. Cloud based. Clients can provide information to attorney in online form.

INVESTIGATION – Diligent Investigations is a full service investigation firm specializing in Surveillance, Background Investigations, Locates, Difficult Service of Process, Interviews and more. In Portland since 2012, Diligent Investigations has earned a reputation for professionalism and integrity. Contact Robert Grady (503-985-6659 or email: dilinves@gmail.com.

LAW PRACTICE STRATEGY - Tech moves fast, does your firm? Get practical weekly insights on legal operations, strategy, pricing, and more. Search "Agile Attorney" in Google or your preferred podcast player.

LEGAL NURSE CONSULTANT – Offering Board Certified Legal Nurse Consultants with the LNCC certification from the American Association of Legal Nurse Consultants---the gold standard in LNC credentialing. The ONLY certification recognized by the American Board of Nursing Specialties. Offering the following services: review files for standards of care and any deviations that may have occurred, provide chronologies/summaries, demonstrative evidence, translate and interpret medical records. Expert Witness location services. Average length of experience in nursing for our consultants is 20 years and includes experience in clinical areas such as: Corrections Healthcare, Critical Care, Telemetry, Long-Term Care, Workers' Compensation as well as many other specialty areas! Willamette Nurse Consultant Group, (971) 777-2687 info@willamettenurseconsultantgroup.com www.willamettenurseconsultantgroup.com.

LEGAL TRANSCRIPTION – Providing quality transcription services. Each transcript is proofread to audio and certified for accuracy. Excellent rates. Quick turnarounds available. View website at www.CourtScriptsLLC.com or email jmuirtranscriber@gmail.com.

NEED LITIGATION HELP? Seasoned litigator available for full or part-time engagements. Experience includes employment discrimination, ADA, fraud, intellectual property infringement, unfair trade practices, antitrust, municipal litigation, property, appeals, and other complex civil claims, in federal and state courts. John Mansfield, jemlaw1883@gmail.com, (503) 737-4717.

SEEKING SUPERVISOR ATTORNEY - My name is Rosa Leyva and I'm a law graduate from the University of Idaho College of Law. I can be contacted by email at 121218rosa.leyva@gmail.com or on my cell phone (208) 860-0557. I am seeking a supervisor that could provide the necessary support I need to participate in the SPPE program. Please reach out if you or an attorney you know is interested. I am able to do the work remotely or relocate for the job.

SEASONED TECHNOLOGY PROCUREMENT PROFESSIONAL SEEKING SPPE SPONSORSHIP with Decades of Experience and Driving Value for Global Teams. Technology Procurement: Extensive experience negotiating and drafting agreements with best-in-class suppliers across software; cloud; telecommunications; digital marketing; and generative AI – consistently achieving high-value savings and risk-balanced outcomes. Due Diligence & Risk Analysis: Skilled in evaluating vendor risk across data privacy; cybersecurity; and financial viability frameworks – partnering with stakeholders to strengthen third-party partnerships. Global Team Support: Deep experience supporting cross-functional, international teams – agile; adaptable; and collaborative across time zones and cultures. If your firm is open to sponsoring a SPPE candidate with decades of proven experience, I would welcome the opportunity to contribute to your team's success. Let's connect: lawrencesppe@gmail.com.

U.S. TITLE RECORDS - Nationwide, online property title and lien search. Abstractor services for document retrieval and deed images. Preliminary title reports. Same day service and results. https://www.ustitlerecords.com/

TO SUBMIT A CLASSIFIED

POSITIONS AVAILABLE
$30 for the first 20 words, 50 cents each additional word.

SERVICES
$40 for the first 20 words, 50 cents each additional word.

ALL OTHER ADS
$40 for the first 20 words, 50 cents each additional word. Oregon State Bar members receive a $10 discount on these ads.

COLOR
Color may be added to any ad for an additional $20.

BLIND ADS
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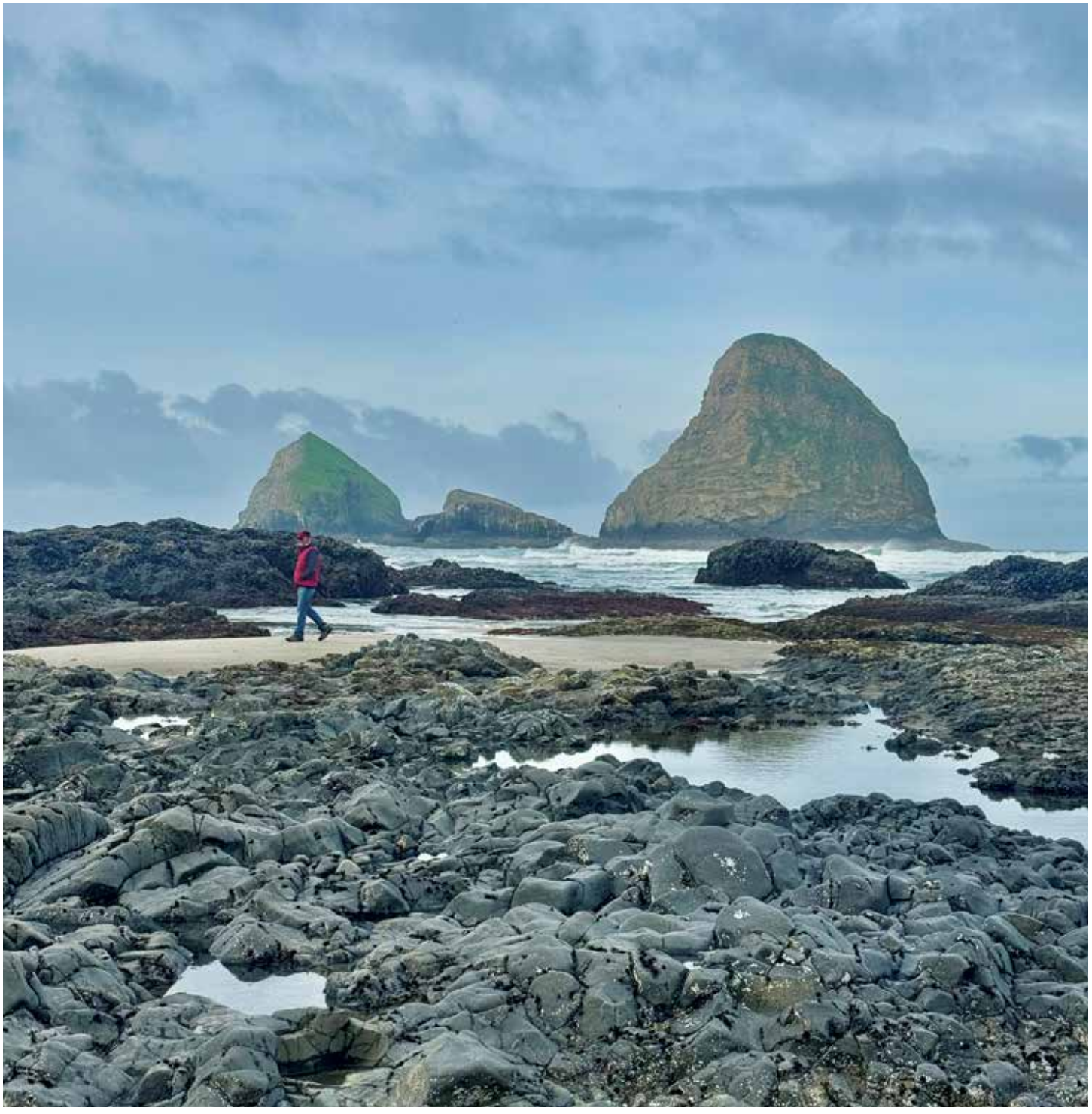

Photo Finish

Leslie Kay submitted this photo last year near her home in Oceanside during low tide. She calls it "Minus Tide" and it features OSB licensee Bob Joondeph in the foreground. ■

Do you have a photograph you'd like to share — beautiful flowers and towering trees, perhaps? Snow-covered peaks or a gorgeous sunset? Let *Bulletin* readers tag along on your next outing by sending your favorite images our way for "Photo Finish."

Send high-resolution images to Editor Michael Austin at *maustin@osbar.org*. Make sure to include your name, and tell us where the photo was taken and what made your trip so special.

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