

# MULTNOMAH BAR ASSOCIATION

## Annual Report 2010



MULTNOMAH BAR ASSOCIATION (MBA) WAS FOUNDED in 1906 as a voluntary, nonprofit, professional association of lawyers and judges in the Portland metropolitan area. From the beginning, the MBA has provided metro-area lawyers with a forum for collegiality, judicial stewardship, continuing education, professional and business development and law-related community service. The mission of the MBA is to promote justice, service, professionalism, education and leadership to its members and to the community. The organization focuses its efforts and activities in support of this mission in three key areas: service to the public through stewardship of the justice system, service to MBA members and service to the profession. The MBA has 4,616 members, up from 4,440 the year before. Members are primarily lawyers from the Portland metropolitan area; the remaining members are judges from the state and federal courts, lawyers outside the Portland area and non-attorney staff working in law-related positions. The MBA Young Lawyers Section (YLS) serves members who are 36 years old and under or in practice six or fewer years, whichever is later.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT



Despite the economic difficulties and challenges facing us this past year, under the steady leadership of our President Leslie Kay and our Executive Director Judy Edwards, the MBA has had another successful and productive year working to fulfill and advance our mission. This past year, we focused on our core goals and tightened our fiscal belt to continue to provide our many member services, events and other activities as efficiently and effectively as possible. And that worked. We are boasting our largest membership with more than 4,600 members in 2010, and the MBA continues to be a healthy and vibrant organization with outstanding support from Judy and our staff team - Guy Walden, Kathy Maloney, Carol Hawkins, Ryan Mosier and Pamela Hubbs. Truth be told, this crew keeps the Association running smoothly.

This 2010 Annual Report highlights the Association's numerous programs, events and accomplishments. As you will see, we were quite busy during the 2009-2010 year with the 32 CLE programs, popular events like WinterSmash and the Annual Meeting, the steady work of reviewing judicial and pro tem candidates, raising money to support CourtCare and many other activities, programs and events. The work of the Association is done largely by our dedicated member volunteers who again this past year generously gave their time and skill to do the work of the MBA through our several committees – Court Liaison committee, CLE committee, CourtCare Campaign committee, Equality committee, Golf committee, Group Insurance committee, Judicial Screening committee, Membership committee, and Professionalism committee. We are sincerely grateful and appreciative of your commitment and service to the MBA.

As the MBA Board and our committees begin our work for the 2010-2011 year, I hope you enjoy reviewing our successes and accomplishments from 2009-2010, and we look forward to working with you this next year.

Sarah J. Crooks,

MBA President



2010-11 MBA Board

### 2010-11 MBA Board of Directors

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## FROM THE YLS PRESIDENT



### 2010-11 YLS Board of Directors

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Through the work of our six standing committees and special task forces, the YLS strives to provide leadership development opportunities, networking connections and a chance to apply legal skills beyond the billable hour, through a variety of pro bono and community service opportunities. In the last year, YLS members have done too many remarkable things to list here, but I want to extend my gratitude to every committee chair, committee member and volunteer for their hard work. A few highlights:

- The Membership Committee's famous Toys-for-Tots December social collected over 500 toys for disadvantaged children and hosted drop-in socials every month, with new venues and themes each time!
- The Futures Committee published several articles in the Multnomah Lawyer and on the YLS web page, exploring work-life balance, technology and sustainability issues. A chat-box feature fostered online discussions.
- The Service to the Public Committee partnered with Central City Concern to host mock interview days, helping disadvantaged citizens sharpen key employment seeking skills and pulled off another successful Community Law Week.
- The YOUthFILM Committee had record participation this year, as they expanded into more Portland Public School classrooms. Go to [www.theyouthfilmproject.org](http://www.theyouthfilmproject.org) to view some of this year's student films.
- The Pro Bono Committee paired our members with pro bono opportunities throughout the community, coordinating the drop-in legal clinic at Outside In and updating the Pro Bono handbook.
- The Professional Development and Education Committee created two new CLE series on Tort Law and Business Transactions and sponsored sold-out career enhancement seminars, such as "Secrets of Superstar Attorneys."

This year, in addition to strengthening our award-winning programming, the YLS will focus on expanding member services to our young lawyer parents. The results of our recent survey revealed that roughly 40 percent of YLS members are parents and another 29 percent expect to become parents in the next year. By offering parent support groups, lunch-hour and weekend programming and kid-friendly networking opportunities, we hope to better support this large portion of our membership. I encourage you to visit us at [www.mbar.org/yls.htm](http://www.mbar.org/yls.htm) to learn more about these activities and events.



2010-11 YLS Board

Kimberly R. Griffith

YLS President

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT



Judy Edwards,  
MBA Executive Director

Thank you for your membership and for volunteering! You make the organization strong and successful.

Please take time to read the short reports on the accomplishments of MBA and YLS committees and the Multnomah Bar Foundation (MBF). We thank you for your generosity to VLP, MBF's civics education and participation fund and to Multnomah CourtCare, the free childcare program at the downtown courthouse. We thank our firms for their sponsorships that help us provide social events at a reasonable cost.

One of the MBA core values is encouraging lawyers to provide pro bono legal services to those who otherwise would not have the means for legal representation. Your free legal service and financial donations benefit the community at large, especially when the economy slows and the need for free legal services increases as it has in the past 18 months. If you haven't yet taken the Pro Bono Pledge or haven't volunteered with the VLP, please look for the pledge and opportunities that interest you at [www.mbabar.org/probono.htm](http://www.mbabar.org/probono.htm).

I extend a special note of appreciation to our members, our leadership and staff for their dedication and efforts to make the MBA what it is today. We must always strive to be better and you are key to that goal. Please contact me if you aren't already part of the cadre of volunteers and would like to be. We offer one-time service projects, stepped commitments and yearlong committee appointments.

Judy A. C. Edwards

*Judy Edwards*  
Executive Director



Team MBA Board at WinterSmash

## MBA Staff

Judy Edwards  
*Executive Director*

Guy Walden  
*Associate Executive Director*

Kathy Maloney  
*Director, Events and Programs*

Carol Hawkins  
*Executive Assistant and  
Communications Administrator*

Ryan Mosier  
*Office and Membership  
Administrator*

Pamela Hubbs  
*Office and Foundation  
Administrator*

# MULTNOMAH BAR FOUNDATION

*Promoting community understanding of our justice system*



Thomas C. Sand,  
MBF President

The MBF is a 501(c)(3) charitable nonprofit organization. In its five years, the foundation has given over \$137,000 to nonprofit organizations with civics education and participation programs. [www.mbabar.org/foundation.htm](http://www.mbabar.org/foundation.htm).

election process and the importance of voting and their Voters' Guide which provides nonpartisan information to inform voters.

**MetroEast Community Media** (\$5,000) to produce a series of informational public service announcements on civic issues and encouraging civic engagement, broadcast them statewide and share with nonprofits and the library system.

**YOUTHFILM Project** (\$5,000) for their annual student filmmaking contest planned by the YLS, which focuses on the civics topic chosen each year by the ABA.

## New MBF Signature Project

The MBF announces its new project, a video series on the topics of: a day at the courthouse, the various courts, funding court operations and facilities, voter registration and being an informed voter, the unique aspects of Oregon's initiative measures, impartial courts and the rule of law and meaningful civic engagement and civil discourse. The MBF will work in collaboration with MetroEast Community Media to develop the series which will be broadcast on cable access stations around the state. Copies of the videos will be distributed to schools statewide and will be featured on YouTube, the MBA and ProtectOregonCourts Web sites, with links at various educational, civic organizations and news media Web sites.

## Multnomah CourtCare

The free childcare program serves families that must be in court and do not have childcare. Children between the ages of six weeks and five years are served by certified caregivers provided by Volunteers of America Oregon. Each year the MBA conducts a fundraising campaign to keep the center operating. Your donations make a difference in these children's lives, who otherwise would witness disturbing courtroom scenes. Instead, they receive one-on-one attention in a joyful environment.

[www.mbabar.org/courtcare.htm](http://www.mbabar.org/courtcare.htm)



## PRO BONO

### Volunteer Lawyers Project at Legal Aid Services of Oregon

The Volunteers Lawyers Project (VLP) at Legal Aid Services of Oregon (LASO) pairs volunteer attorneys with low-income clients in need of civil legal services. LASO coordinates the OSB Debtor-Creditor Section Bankruptcy Clinic, Domestic Violence Project, Pro Se Assistance Project, Senior Law Project and Legal Aid Night Clinic. Additionally, the VLP posts cases on the ProBonoOregon Listserv – an electronic direct placement project.

In its 29th year, the VLP continues to connect pro bono lawyers with low-income clients who otherwise would not receive legal representation. VLP pro bono attorneys provide an array of legal services ranging from brief advice to contested litigation. During 2009, 334 volunteer attorneys reported over 3,700 hours of pro bono service and we know that the actual number of pro bono hours completed is significantly higher, as many attorneys do not report their hours.

The VLP receives essential financial support through the MBA dues check off program, members' use of the MBA credit card and the MBA Golf Committee's Annual Championship Tournament. Through the support of the MBA and its members, the VLP is able to increase access to justice to clients who could not otherwise afford to obtain legal assistance.



### Multnomah County Courthouse

MBA leaders continue to work with the county and the courts to keep the need for a new downtown courthouse visible and a priority for the community. Because of the importance of the effort, the MBA Board established the "Future Courthouse Committee" as a standing committee of the organization. Please let us know if you would like to serve on the committee or one of its work groups with shorter, more discrete tasks. Over 20 studies in the past 50 years have focused on the courthouse seismic weaknesses, systems, security concerns and operation challenges. As one legislator said, "I understand the need. Tell me the how." His comment describes the biggest challenge at hand: finding a revenue source to pay for bonding of the courthouse.

[www.mbar.org/courts.htm](http://www.mbar.org/courts.htm)

### MBA Social and Networking Events

Members tell us that they appreciate having opportunities to meet and get acquainted with their colleagues. Last fall's "Absolutely Social – A Grape Escape," featured competitive blind wine tasting and was attended by 250 members. The "WinterSmash" event focused on a family evening of bowling and pizza; 250 attended and it raised \$15,500 for Multnomah CourtCare. Twenty-three sponsors generously supported the event. For the sixth year in a row, Harrang Long Gary Rudnick, the King Pin Sponsor, underwrote the evening's food and beverage. About 450 people attended the MBA annual meeting, dinner and judges reception in May at the Marriott. This year we added more socials to the mix, starting with the Bench, Bar and Bagel breakfast and later a First Thursday reception with diversity-related bars.

## 2010 MBA AWARDS

### MBA Merit Award

Mark Fucile and Mary Pool were presented with the 2010 MBA Merit Award for their contributions to the MBA and the legal community. Mark Fucile has provided ethics education and advice to MBA members via his Ethics Focus articles in the *Multnomah Lawyer* since 2003 and is a frequent MBA CLE presenter. Mary Pool chaired and served with distinction on the MBA Equality Committee where she led the Diversity Statement efforts for the committee, from drafting the statement to a successful marketing plan.

### YLS Award

Collin McKean, Joshua Ross and Slone Pearson received the 2010 YLS Merit Award. Collin co-chaired the YLS Futures Committee and was instrumental in improving YLS technical capabilities, including enhancements to the YLS Futures Committee's Web site. Joshua's years of service benefited the section in many ways, from forming an alliance with the City of Portland to coordinating the "9th Grade Matters" Youth Corps program, to the YLS Service to the Public and Futures committees. Slone's efforts on the YLS Service to the Public Committee led to three new programs that support Central City Concern, including coordinating volunteers for a mock interview program, providing access to legal information services for veterans and planning a social and fundraiser. Jennifer Woodhouse received the YLS Rookie of the Year Award for service to the YLS Pro Bono Committee, co-chairing the Pro Bono Opportunities Handbook subcommittee and recruiting new volunteers for pro bono projects.



Mary Pool receives MBA Merit Award



Collin McKean, Jennifer Woodhouse, Justin Leonard, Slone Pearson and Josh Ross

### THE MBA PROFESSIONALISM AWARD

#### Garry Kahn

Garry has been a civil litigator, primarily handling plaintiff's side cases, for over 40 years. His colleagues describe him as "honest, stringently ethical, good humored and tenacious ... ." Judges, lawyers and clients uniformly say that he is exceedingly professional in all of his practice and community roles. Over the years, he has served in many bar leadership roles, including president of the OSB, Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and as circuit court judge for two years. Garry dedicates time to mentoring younger lawyers, participates in community service, takes pro bono cases and has served on the boards of Legal Aid Services of Oregon and Oregon Law Foundation. When asked to describe what professionalism means to him, he replied, "Professionalism is the courage to care about and act for the benefit of our clients, our peers, our careers and the public good."



Garry Kahn selected for MBA's biggest award

THE MBA  
PRESIDENT'S AWARD

The Honorable Michael Marcus

Judge Marcus' long-term dedication to the legal community and championing the development of eCourt through his participation on Oregon Judicial Department Technology Committees and eCourt Implementation and Steering Committees made him an excellent choice for the first MBA President's Award. He has advocated for crime reduction through evidence-based sentencing, which he calls "Smart Sentencing." His work as the director of litigation at Multnomah County Legal Aid Service changed the landscape of landlord-tenant law in Oregon, establishing the major precedents that still guide judges today. At the same time, he mentored generations of legal aid lawyers, challenging them to practice law at a national level of excellence while maintaining a deep commitment to clients.



Judge Marcus receives first MBA President's Award

PRO BONO AWARDS

Pro Bono Award of Merit

Evans Van Buren began volunteering for Legal Aid's Senior Law Project in 1978 when it first started. He has helped about 1,920 pro bono clients in the past 32 years and prepared countless wills, answered countless questions and eased the concerns of countless low-income seniors.

Senior Law Project Volunteer of the Year Award

After becoming an Oregon bar member in 2006, Anne Steiner almost immediately started volunteering with the Senior Law Project. Her flexibility in helping the project, volunteering to attend hard-to-staff clinics in east Multnomah County and filling in for other volunteers on short notice flagged her as a model for pro bono work. In 2009 alone, she staffed 10 Senior Law Project clinics and helped 47 pro bono clients.

Michael Haglund Award

Matthew Sorensen is this year's recipient for his substantial contributions to the statewide Low Income Taxpayer Clinic at LASO. He began volunteering as a way to get legal experience and contributed nearly 100 pro bono hours in 2009. He manages about 10 cases at a time and assists with other pending tax cases. He is particularly adept at dealing with clients in a way that puts them at ease.



Evans Van Buren and Matthew Sorensen receive pro bono awards

2009-10 MBA COMMITTEES

Continuing Legal Education Mark Hackett, Chair

- Planned and presented 32 CLE accredited classes with diverse panels of experienced specialists. Topics included special requirements, such as child abuse reporting, in addition to annual classes on presiding court updates for the four area counties.
- Attracted over 1,000 members who attended at least one class. A calendar of CLE topics through December 2010 may be found at [www.mbabar.org/programlist.php](http://www.mbabar.org/programlist.php).

Court Liaison Dana Scheele, Chair

- Published judicial profiles, "Tips from the Bench" columns and "News from the Courthouse" in each issue of the *Multnomah Lawyer*.
- Organized two brown bag informational sessions with Multnomah County judges.
- Explored ways in which members and the MBA can assist with court resources such as volunteers and AV equipment.
- Recruited a recent law school graduate to write newsletter articles on what goes on in Multnomah County court facilities.

CourtCare Campaign Kristin Winnie Eaton, Chair

- Raised over \$102,000 through the efforts of the MBA, its board, YLS, Membership Committee, the "A Jungle Gym in the Jungle" CourtCare fundraising campaign and the generosity of the legal community.
- Recognized Davis Wright Tremain for the largest firm donation and Buchanan Angeli et al for the largest per capita donation.



Kristin Eaton, Dana Sullivan, Francie Cushman and Hwa Go

Equality John Connors, Chair

- Communicated with and supported the OSB Affirmative Action Committee, OSB Diversity Section, OMLA and Opportunities for Law in Oregon.
- Published articles in the newsletter featuring the diversity efforts of firms.
- Gave presentations to students at Parkrose High School and PSU.
- Promoted the Statement of Diversity Principles which has been signed by 158 firms/organizations and 553 individuals.

Golf Dylan Cernitz, Kelly Evans, Co-Chairs

- Organized four golf outings for members, sponsors and nonmembers, including the annual Championship Golf Tournament, raising \$10,000 for the Volunteer Lawyers Project at LASO.
- Scheduled golf outings only at courses that extend family benefits to all spousal equivalents per the MBA Board policy.
- Held one scramble for law students and the legal community to foster a cooperative relationship, one event on a challenging, private course and one family-friendly tournament to appeal to a wide range of golfers.



David Kracke, Craig Nichols, Kathy Root, Shawn Abrell and David Giles.

Group Health Insurance Stephen Connolly, Chair

- Monitored and negotiated a low-cost, quality, group health insurance program for MBA members; met with the two major medical providers. [www.mbabar.org/discounts-mbahealthplan.htm](http://www.mbabar.org/discounts-mbahealthplan.htm)
- Initiated a new Standard Insurance Disability plan for the membership.
- Covers approximately 2,200 attorneys and staff, plus their dependents, in the MBA plans.

## 2009-10 YLS COMMITTEES

### Judicial Screening Committee *Richard Vangelisti, Chair*

- Screens judicial candidates and makes recommendations to the Governor annually.
- Recommends changes to the screening process if needed.
- Screened 14 pro tem candidates during the 2009-10 year.



### Membership *Akira Hesbiki, Chair*

- Planned and organized a variety of socials – the “Bench, Bar & Bagels” social, a wine tasting event with the YLS and a social with diverse bar associations.

- Planned “WinterSmash,” which is a family friendly bowling event that benefits Multnomah CourtCare.
- Visited three law firms to find out what their lawyers want from MBA membership and to explain what services and benefits are available to members.

### Professionalism *Helen Hierschbiel, Chair*

- Planned a half day “What you didn’t learn in law school” seminar, coordinated the Mentor Program with 68 mentor-mentee pairs, presented six professionalism training sessions including one at Lewis & Clark Law School, distributed the MBA Professionalism Statement and published seven “The Corner Office” articles in the *Multnomah Lawyer*.
- Reviewed the nominations of MBA Professionalism Award candidates and made finalist recommendations to the board.

- Promoted the Pro Bono Pledge, Take a Matter that Matters; asked law firms to adopt a written pro bono policy and to donate to legal aid service organizations, with the goal of increasing access to justice.



### Membership *Rachel Amatuzzi, Chair*

- Planned and presented a wine tasting networking event with the Financial Planning Association and Oregon Society of CPAs, a new admittee reception, a pool tournament, a pub quiz trivia night, a tour of the Lompoc Brewery and a wine tasting social with the MBA.
- Held the “Meet the Judges” drop-in social in April featuring a raffle which raised over \$1,000 for CourtCare and collected toys for “Toys for Tots” at the December social.
- Published the New Admittee Survival Guide.



*Young lawyers attend the joint MBA and YLS wine tasting social*

### Pro Bono

#### *Will Glasson, Chair*

- Distributed the Juvenile Rights and Domestic Violence handbooks and updated the electronic version; held the third wine event to raise money for printing the handbooks.
- Updated the Pro Bono Opportunities in Multnomah County.
- Collaborated with other local pro bono organizations to plan the annual Pro Bono Fair.
- Continued to recruit and maintain lists of pro bono volunteers for Attorneys for Youth and the Nonprofit Project.

### Professional Development and Education

#### *Duke Tufty, Chair*

- Organized and presented three CLE series. Topics included “Common Legal Issues in a Down Economy,” “Young Litigators Forum” and “Tort Law.”
- Organized two additional seminars, “Beyond the JD” and “Secrets of Superstar Attorneys.”



*Kyoko Wyse and Casbauna Hill at pro bono fundraiser*

### Service to the Public *Jodie Ayura, Chair*

- Presented the 2010 Community Law Week activities, which included legal information booths and Tell it to the Judge.
- Developed new programs supporting Central City Concern, including a mock interview program, legal information services for veterans and a social and fundraiser.
- Visited local schools to give a video presentation and lead a discussion about the importance of staying in school, organized community service days with local nonprofits and coordinated volunteer attorneys who acted as judges in Multnomah County Animal Services hearings.
- Continued the Imprint Program, which helps students develop writing and analytical skills while discussing an assigned novel with their volunteer lawyer pen pals.

### Futures Committee *Collin McKean and Sarab Petersen, Co-Chairs*

- Authored six articles on futures topics for the *Multnomah Lawyer*. Posted all articles on the committee’s web page and provided an opportunity for readers to give feedback on the various topics.
- Presented a panel presentation on alternative fee options, which was recorded and may be found at [www.mbabar.org/YLSFuturesCommittee.htm](http://www.mbabar.org/YLSFuturesCommittee.htm).

### The YOUthFILM Project

#### *Ted Broberg, Chair*

- Planned and organized The YOUthFILM Project video contest for students, culminating in an awards ceremony and public screening.
- Attracted 112 students and 33 teams that created 33 videos; award-winning films may be viewed at [www.theyouthfilmproject.org](http://www.theyouthfilmproject.org).



*Chief Justice De Muniz with winners*



## MBA FINANCIAL REPORT

McDonald Jacobs Accountants and Consultants conducts a financial review each year and provides a consolidated report of the MBA and MBF financial activities. The organizations’ fiscal years are the calendar year. The 2009 reviewed statements showed total combined assets for the MBA and MBF, including cash, receivables, health insurance premiums, prepaid expenses and net equipment at \$1,216,344. Not including health insurance premiums, the combined assets of the MBA and MBF were \$966,238. MBA revenues for 2009 were \$815,369 and expenses were \$830,303. Approximately \$393,540 of revenues came from dues, representing 48% of the total. Non-dues revenue comes primarily from seminars, affinity programs, committee activities, events, sponsorships, newsletter advertising and interest. MBA dues for 2010 are \$110 for regular members. Dues are waived for new admittees and full-time judges and are reduced for second year, retired, disabled and associate members. Dues remain the lowest nationally for voluntary bars of similar size.

Steven K. Blackhurst  
*Treasurer*

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Oregon Gay and Lesbian Law  
Association  
Oregon Hispanic Bar Association  
Oregon Minority Lawyers Association  
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Pacific Continental Bank  
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Portland Marriott Downtown Waterfront  
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*Aurora Moore and Anneke Haslett  
of Legal Northwest Staffing  
Specialists*

For more information about the  
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visit our Web site, which is searchable.

[www.mbabar.org](http://www.mbabar.org)