



MULTNOMAH BAR ASSOCIATION
EST 1906

2008 ANNUAL REPORT

Multnomah Bar Association

The 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 4,422 members. Members are primarily lawyers from the Portland metropolitan area and 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 under the age of 36 or in practice less than six years.

Letter from the President

Michael Dwyer



The 2008 Annual Report summarizes the work of the MBA over the past year under the leadership of President Thomas Brown and Executive Director Judy Edwards. The MBA was fortunate to have Thom's steady hand and thoughtful judgments, and Judy's focused attention and persistence. They kept our association's successful programs and events on track while at the same time helping us navigate a stream of challenges and opportunities.

The MBA is a vital organization. We continue to enjoy a sound financial position, enabling us to maintain our dues at a low level unmatched by any bar association in the country of our size. This was possible because of sound, conservative investments, increased membership enrollment, strong affinity relationships with businesses and generous event sponsorships by members.

The MBA provides its members with valuable benefits. We were once again able to offer a variety of health plans at competitive rates, no small achievement given the turbulence in the health care sector. Our low cost CLE programs draw well and receive positive feedback. Our social events, such as the fall social, WinterSmash bowling tournament and summer golf tournaments enabled members to enjoy the company of colleagues. With the return of the spring awards dinner, we were able to celebrate the achievements of our most deserving members, including the coveted MBA Professionalism Award given to Jeff Batchelor.

Our committees worked hard to perform their million tasks, from screening judicial applicants, to seeking diversity in our profession, to maintaining healthy dialogue between bench and bar. Our Pro Bono Pledge Task Force launched the Pro Bono Pledge, enabling members to make a written commitment to offer legal services for citizens who otherwise would have no access to justice.

None of these many successes would be possible without the hard, often thankless work of the MBA's tireless staff and our member volunteers. The MBA's vitality is a reflection of the efforts of these many people. To all of you who shouldered these duties this past year, I issue heartfelt thanks. You made the year another good one.

Michael Dwyer is a partner with Dwyer & Miller; his practice focuses exclusively on mediation and negotiation. He is a graduate of UCLA and Loyola of Los Angeles Law School.

MBA LEADERSHIP



MBA Board. Taken at the May 2008 MBA annual meeting

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YLS Board. Taken at May 2008 MBA annual meeting

MBA Staff

Judy A. C. 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*

Karen Norris, *MBF Development Coordinator*

Executive Director's Report

Judy A. C. Edwards

Volunteers are the lifeblood of an organization like the MBA. We thank you for continuing your membership and for volunteering to make your organization and the legal community stronger and more visible. We value all members and their support. If you are not currently involved in the MBA, please consider volunteering. Contact any of us on the staff.



The MBA leadership adopts important policy decisions and provides direction to the various committees, task forces and work groups so that together, we are able to expand and improve services to our membership. Please take time to read the short reports about each of the MBA and YLS committees and the Multnomah Bar Foundation.

Because of your generosity, the MBA is able to continue operations of Multnomah CourtCare, a free childcare program at the Multnomah County Courthouse. You also donate pro bono legal services to low-income people and numerous charitable nonprofit organizations. Although we do not have specific data on just how much time and money the legal community contributes to help low-income people with access to justice, we all know it is a significant figure. Thank you for your time and financial support.

This year, the MBA adopted a pro bono pledge program that seeks to increase the number of firms and individuals involved in pro bono legal work. If you haven't yet signed the MBA Pro Bono Pledge, please consider doing so. You will find the pledges and a link to developing a firm pro bono policy at www.mbabar.org.

The MBA Web site and the upcoming www.protectoregoncourts.com site provide considerable information to the legal community and the public. Please note: if you haven't yet updated your practice area listing on our Web site, you may still do that by contacting the MBA office.

It is an honor to serve as your Executive Director. If you have any comments, suggestions, opinions or questions, please contact me. The MBA staff is here to support you and the legal community.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judy Edwards". The ink is dark and the signature is written in a fluid, personal style.

Letter from the Young Lawyers Section President

Andrew M. Schpak

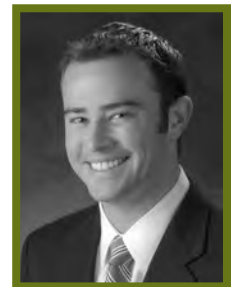
Last year, the MBA Young Lawyers Section and its programs continued to flourish. David Bean served as its president. In that capacity, he brought his unique personality and sense of humor to the position and the YLS Board. John Belknap, Catherine Brinkman, Cally Korach, Emily Nazarov and Kelly Struhs completed their terms as board members, although most of them remain active in the YLS through today. The MBA recognized the YLS' growth and progress this year by awarding it the MBA Award of Merit.

Each of the five YLS committees did great work this year, including organizing the programs that each presents on a yearly basis. But what is more impressive is the fact that each committee did more than it has in past years, and that the results of those added efforts were so impressive. Although I have always been impressed with what the YLS accomplishes, I was particularly struck by how the YLS was able to expand its offerings this year while maintaining its strong core programming. All the while, the YLS established a better relationship with the MBA Board. Thom Brown and David Bean helped bring the MBA and YLS boards together over the past year, and incoming President Michael Dwyer promises to help us continue on this course.

There are more exciting developments on the horizon in the coming year, including the creation and growth of our new Futures Committee as well as the Young Lawyers Summit. I am honored and excited to serve as president alongside such a talented group of board members, and I am optimistic about all that we will accomplish for members of the bar as well as members of the community. I will be focusing on including as many YLS members as possible in the coming year, as well as increasing the collaboration between the YLS and other organizations. My goal is to leave the YLS better than I found it, but that is no small task given the extraordinary work that the section already accomplishes.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrew Schpak". The signature is written in a fluid, personal style.

Andrew M. Schpak, Barran Liebman, focuses his practice on employment law and labor. He graduated from Cornell Law School.



MBA PRO



MULTNOMAH BAR
■ FOUNDATION ■

Multnomah Bar Foundation

Promoting community understanding of our justice system



Ruth Beyer, President

Founded in 2005, the Multnomah Bar Foundation (MBF) is a 501(c) (3) charitable and educational nonprofit. The purpose of the foundation is to advance respect for the rule of law, promote civics education and participation and support programs related to the law. Two dedicated funds have been established. For more information about the funds, how to contribute to them or apply for a grant, please contact Karen Norris at the MBA.

MBA 100th Anniversary Community Gift Fund

The fund makes grants to nonprofits for programs that promote civics education and participation. Grants have been made to:

- The Oregon League of Women Voters, for its Constitution Day program for middle and high school students and its voter education publication.
- Elders in Action, for expansion of its peer education program that empowers older adults to use the justice system better and avoid being victims of fraud or abuse.
- MBA YLS, to increase its Community Law Week programs, including the YOUthFILM Project, which asked students to learn about and produce short films on “The Rule of Law.”
- The Classroom Law Project, for expansion of its middle and high school, “We the People” programs.
- Northwest Constitutional Rights Center, to build upon its “Campaign to End Racial Profiling” and “Community Policing and Civilian Oversight” programs, which increase the organization’s capacity to conduct legal rights workshops for communities of color, recent immigrants, the homeless and other underserved populations.



YOUthFILM Project Awards

Multnomah CourtCare Fund

The fund supports the operations of the free drop-in childcare center in the Multnomah County Courthouse, for children between the ages of six weeks and five years and whose parents have business in the courthouse and no other childcare. Since opening its doors in December 2001, over 6,500 young children have used the program. Through the efforts of the MBA and its board, the CourtCare Advisory Board, the MBA Fun Committee, the 2007 “A Jungle Gym in the Jungle” CourtCare fundraising campaign and the generosity of the legal community, over \$115,000 was raised this spring for the program’s 2008-09 operating year.



Child in CourtCare's drop-in childcare center

Public Outreach

The MBA supports two public outreach efforts. For five years, we have assisted the Multnomah County Circuit Court’s Judicial Outreach Committee with its legislative open houses and speakers’ bureau. The speakers’ bureau has completed 155 presentations to nonprofits, civic organizations, chambers of commerce, churches and neighborhood groups.

The second effort continues to work on increasing the awareness and understanding of the need for a new Multnomah County Courthouse, a fair and impartial justice system and its impact on our daily lives and community. In the past year, the MBA has been successful in working with the local media to have op ed pieces and articles printed on topics such as county courthouse facilities, judicial independence, CourtCare, the YLS YOUthFILM Project and Imprint Program, YLS handbooks, member and practice area profiles and various events and seminars.

Pro Bono - Volunteer Lawyers Project at Legal Aid Services of Oregon

By Catherine L. Keenan

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 five pro bono projects, including 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 Pro Bono Oregon Listserv, an electronic direct placement project.

During 2007, over 1,600 clients were served through the VLP pro bono projects. Clients like Clara, an elderly woman with a cognitive impairment after a stroke, who risked losing her home due to \$10,000 in credit card debt. Her pro bono attorney negotiated with Clara’s creditors, assisted her with refinancing and saved her home from foreclosure. Another pro bono attorney helped Elaine, a terminally ill grandmother who needed help drafting guardianship paperwork so that her granddaughter (who was in her custody) would be cared

PROGRAMS

for after her death. VLP pro bono attorneys provide an array of legal services ranging from brief advice to contested litigation. Two hundred and thirty attorneys volunteered with the projects in 2007, reporting 2,583 hours of pro bono service. (We know that the actual number of pro bono hours completed is significantly higher, as many attorneys do not report their hours to LASO.)

In addition to client assistance, VLP staff informs attorneys of pro bono opportunities and provide support to those attorneys when they take a case. The program receives essential financial support through the MBA dues check-off program, members' use of the MBA Bank of America credit card and the MBA Annual Golf Championship. 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.

MBA Social and Networking Events

Members tell us that they appreciate having an opportunity to meet and get acquainted with their colleagues outside the courthouse. Last fall's "Absolutely Social – A Grape Escape," featured wines from specialty Oregon winemakers and was attended by 200 members. The "WinterSmash" focused on a family evening of bowling and pizza; 250 attended and it raised \$16,000 for Multnomah CourtCare. Twenty-



Lisa Miller, Thom Brown and Michael Dwyer at the 2008 Open House



Markowitz Herbold Glade & Mehlhaf took the prize for the best team score at WinterSmash

nine sponsors generously supported the event. For the fourth year in a row, **Harrang Long Gary Rudnick**, the King Pin Sponsor, underwrote the evening's food and beverage. Members and friends attended the fifth annual MBA office open house in February. Over 400 members attended the MBA annual meeting, dinner and judges reception in May at the Marriott.



Judge Dale Koch at the MBA Open House

2008 MBA Awards

MBA Merit Award

Linda Meng and the MBA Young Lawyers Section were presented with the 2008 MBA Merit Award for their contributions to the MBA and the legal community. **Linda** chaired the Equality Committee in 2007-08. For several years, she co-chaired the OSB First Year Honors Program and has been a proven leader in various diversity-related efforts. The **MBA Young Lawyers Section** received the award for their energy and enthusiasm and for managing and expanding programs such as the Imprint Program and YOUTHFILM Project.

YLS Award of Merit

Denise Gorrell, Yumi O'Neil and Iaysha Smith received the 2008 YLS Merit Awards. **Denise** serves on the YLS Pro Bono Committee and led a successful fundraising event to raise money to publish the committee's handbooks.



2008 YLS Merit Award winners

Yumi received the award for her work on the YLS Professional Development and Education Committee and co-chairing the "You be the Judge" seminar. **Iaysha** has served on the YLS Service to the Public Committee for four years; she helped plan public courthouse tours and helps organize Community Project Days.

Jeffrey M. Batchelor The 2008 MBA Professionalism Award Recipient

One colleague described his commitment to fairness and respect for every participant in a legal dispute by saying, "He serves as a mentor to young lawyers and was noted for being a role model to practicing lawyers of all ages." Chief Justice Paul J. De Muniz commented that he "has earned universal respect from the Oregon bench for his competence, professionalism and unmatched integrity."

Another colleague said, "He has practiced law at the highest level of ethics and integrity. His professional and personal ethics are recognized and highly regarded by members of the bar and bench ... Mr. Batchelor has consistently treated colleagues, adversaries, the bench, staff and his clients with respect." He has worked as a mediator since 1995,



Thom Brown congratulates Professionalism Award recipient, Jeffrey M. Batchelor

as an arbitrator since 1989 and has served as a special master in federal court and as a discovery referee in state court. Many of Batchelor's cases have made new laws in the Oregon courts.

Continuing Legal Education – Jacob Gill, Chair

- Planned and presented 29 CLE accredited classes. The diverse panelists were 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 800 members who attended at least one class. A calendar of CLE topics through December 2008 may be found on the MBA Web site.

Court Liaison – David Meyer, Chair

- Enhanced communication between the court and the bar by providing newsletter articles and columns, on topics such as judicial profiles, “News from the Courthouse” and Judge John Wittmayer’s popular “Tips from the Bench.”
- Oversaw development of the MBA courts page, published *Jury Verdict Reports* on the MBA Web site and updated the *Judicial Practices Survey*.
- Fostered coordination of information and schedules between the four area county courts.

Equality – Linda Meng, Chair

- Communicated with and supported the OSB Affirmative Action Committee, OSB Diversity Section, OMLA and Opportunities for Law in Oregon.
- Submitted three articles for the newsletter featuring the diversity efforts of firms and individuals.
- Gave presentations to students at Tubman Middle School and PSU.
- Implemented a plan to promote minority lawyer membership and participation in the MBA, added a diversity page to the MBA Web site, and helped plan a diversity seminar.



MBA Equality Committee’s panel at PSU, “Breaking Barriers: Diversifying Access and Careers in the Law” with Ken Mitchell-Phillips, Hon. Adrienne Nelson, Nathan Vasquez and Elisa Donozo

Golf – Brenda Baumgart, Chair

- Held five golf outings for members, sponsors and non-members, with the annual Championship Golf Tournament raising \$5,000 for the Volunteer Lawyers Project at LASO.



1st Place Low Net Firm team from Perkins Coie

- Scheduled golf outings only at courses that extend family benefits to all spousal equivalents per the MBA Board policy.
- Held one scramble and one family-friendly tournament to appeal to a wider range of golfers.

Group Health Insurance – David Dean, Chair

- Monitored and negotiated a low-cost, quality, group health insurance program for MBA members; met with the three major medical providers.
- Offered a new Providence plan to members formerly on the PacifiCare/United Health plan; retained the same number of participants in the overall program.
- Covers approximately 2,300 attorneys and staff, plus their dependents, in the MBA plans.

Judicial Screening – Martha Hodgkinson, Chair

- Screened 10 pro tem candidates and provided a list of those deemed most qualified by the committee to the Multnomah County Circuit Court Presiding Judge and Supreme Court.
- Reviewed the screening process and made recommendations to the MBA Board.

Professionalism – Brad Tellam, Chair

- Continued professionalism presentations at Lewis & Clark Law School.
- Coordinated the Mentor Program; 118 people and 59 mentor-mentee pairs participated.
- Presented four professionalism training sessions; distributed the MBA Professionalism Statement; published two “The Corner Office” articles in the *Multnomah Lawyer*.
- Reviewed the nominations of 11 MBA Professionalism Award candidates and made finalist recommendations to the board.

Public Outreach – Tamara Russell, Chair

- Wrote text for the new www.protectoregoncourts.com public education Web site sponsored by the MBA.
- Assisted the YLS Community Law Week public outreach effort and tours of the courthouse.
- Will move forward in an ad hoc basis, utilizing volunteers’ expertise on a case-by-base basis.



Professionalism Mentor Debbie Guyol and Mentee, Laura Forester

Committee Accomplishments

Pro Bono Pledge Taskforce – Scott Howard, Chair

- Developed a Pro Bono Pledge, *Take a Matter that Matters*, with the goal of increasing access to justice.
- Asked law firms to pledge to adopt a written pro bono policy and to encourage participation in the individual lawyer pledge.
- Asked firms and individuals to financially support legal service organizations; 33 firms and 223 individuals have signed the pledge to date.

** The MBA donated \$25,000 to the Campaign for Equal Justice to support the Volunteer Lawyers Project in Multnomah County and to help provide additional staffing required for the *Take a Matter that Matters* initiative.

Young Lawyers Section Committee Activities

Membership – Christiane Fife, Chair

- Encouraged members to participate in the YLS through a wide range of social activities and services, including joint socials with OMLA and CPAs, a social with Presiding Judge Jean Maurer, a new admittee reception and a third year law student social.
- Held the “Meet the Judges” drop-in social in April featuring a raffle which raised over \$1,300 for CourtCare and collected toys for “Toys for Tots” at the December social.
- Published the *New Admittee Survival Guide*.



Attendees at the YLS Fundraiser for CourtCare

Pro Bono – Susan O’Toole, Chair

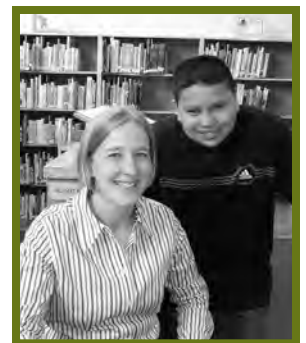
- Updated the Juvenile Rights and Domestic Violence handbooks; organized its first Pro Bono Wine Fundraiser, to cover printing costs of the handbooks.
- Sent representatives to the Pro Bono Fair to promote and enlist new attorneys in pro bono programs.
- Continued the Nonprofit Project and Attorneys for Youth Program.

Professional Development and Education – Kimberly Griffith, Chair

- Presented three, nine-part CLE seminar series in the fall, winter and spring.
- Organized two separate CLE accredited professional development events, “You be the Judge/Arbitrator” and “The Road to Partnership,” for newer attorneys to ask questions of seasoned legal professionals and learn what to expect of the various career paths available.

Service to the Public – Jennifer Durham, Chair

- Continued Community Law Week programs, including legal information booths, “Tell it to the Judge” and clothing drive for “Dress for Success;” returned courthouse tours to the week’s activities.
- 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.
- Expanded the Imprint Program, which helps students develop writing and analytical skills while discussing an assigned novel with their volunteer lawyer pen pals, from four classrooms to five.



Vicki Smith, Bodyfelt Mount, with her YLS Imprint student partner

The YOUthFILM Project – Lainie Dillon, Chair

- Planned and organized The YOUthFILM Project video contest for students, culminating in an awards ceremony and public screening.
- Expanded to additional schools and 40 students.



Amanda Emerson, Marisol Cordero-Goodman and Ginger Skinner enjoy a YLS Social

MBA Financial Report

McDonald Jacobs Accountants and Consultants conduct a financial review each year and provide a consolidated report of the MBA and MBF financial activities. The organizations' fiscal years are the calendar year. The last reviewed statement, 2007, showed total combined assets for MBA and MBF, including cash, receivables, prepaid expenses and net equipment, at \$934,851, up from \$848,794 the year before. The latest report showed MBA assets at \$724,582 and MBF at \$211,161. MBA revenue for 2007 was \$834,868 and expenses were \$763,354. Approximately \$396,440 came from dues, representing 47% of the total revenue. Non-dues income comes primarily from newsletter advertising, seminars, committee activities, events, sponsorships and affinity programs. MBA dues for 2008 are \$100 for regular members; dues are waived for new admittees and full-time judges and are reduced for second year, retired or disabled and associate members. Dues remain the lowest nationally for voluntary bars of similar size.



Lisa M. Umscheid
Treasurer

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Troy Moody, The Naegeli Reporting Corporation, and member Sonya Fisher attend the MBA Open House



Team members from Legal Northwest at WinterSmash 2008

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El Gaucho



Hwa Go, Fun Committee Chair, holds the Big Liebowski award won by her firm, Harrang Long Gary Rudnick, for having the most participants at WinterSmash

Nike

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