

OWLS Foundation Starts New Year with Appreciation Event

By Traci Ray

The Oregon Women Lawyers Foundation kicked off its 2014–2015 year on May 15 with an appreciation event at the University Club in Portland. The event was attended by many past officers of OWLS and the OWLS Foundation, and by the Foundation's 2014 Vernellia Randall Bar Exam grantee, Heather Murray, who talked about how important the grant has been to her.

The Foundation also rolled out its new marketing materials and endowment program. Kathy Root, president of the OWLS Foundation Advisory Board, announced that she had included the Foundation in her estate plan, a long-lasting source of funding.

The Foundation's board hopes to host annual appreciation events. Thanking Foundation supporters, sharing stories about the grants helping to support women and minorities in accessing and participating in the justice system, and fundraising to benefit future law students and graduates are all wonderful reasons to make this event a signature affair.

Traci Ray, the executive director at Barran Liebman, serves on the OWLS Foundation board.



OWLS Foundation board members at the Foundation's April 26 retreat (left to right): Standing: Kate Wilkinson, Phylis Myles, Sarah Freeman, Lori E. Deveny (president), Kristie Gibson (treasurer), Aruna Masih, Terri Kraemer, Katerina Kogan, Diane Rynerson (ex officio), Kate von Ter Stegge, Jodee Jackson. Sitting: Deanna Wray (president-elect), Jill Brittle, Maite Uranga, Trudy Allen (secretary and historian).

Meet OWLS Historian Amber Hollister

By Mary Anne Anderson

Amber Hollister, OWLS' historian and an OWLS board member, likes to "keep well-meaning lawyers out of ethical trouble." The Oregon State Bar's deputy general counsel since January 2011 and a mother of two young boys, she spends the first part of her workdays on mom duties, then launches into a full calendar fielding ethics calls, writing informal ethics opinions, providing legal advice to bar staff and the OSB Board of Governors, and reviewing appeals of dismissed disciplinary complaints. The daughter of a cabinetmaker and finish carpenter, she finds beauty in the intellectual craft of lawyering and derives satisfaction from "helping lawyers do the right thing."

Originally from Fairbanks, Alaska, Amber graduated in 1999 with a degree in political science from Reed College. This would perhaps come as no surprise to Amber's great grandmother, Gladys E. Montier, a "fiercely intelligent woman" who worked in Washington, DC, as a personal secretary to Ethel Kennedy and a clerk to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

After writing her thesis on toxic-reporting legislation and the accompanying environmental movement, Amber took the LSAT on a "lark." She

was admitted to the University of Washington School of Law, but deferred her admission a year to work in the Port of Portland's legal department and take time to be sure she wanted to invest her time and money in pursuing a law degree. The intellect and enthusiasm of Cory Streisinger, then general counsel at the Port of Portland, inspired Amber to commit to a career in law.

Following law school, Amber secured a clerkship with U.S. District Court Judge Robert Whaley in Spokane, Washington. That experience proved invaluable to Amber, who was the first in her immediate family to graduate from college. She considers Judge Whaley an important professional role model to this day.

Amber took a position with Perkins Coie's litigation practice group in August 2005. Although she learned a lot about lawyering as a result of that experience, Amber felt drawn to seek out a career in public service. Starting in January 2008, she served as deputy general counsel to former Governor Ted Kulongoski and enjoyed the unique experience of serving as legal counsel to a governor who was also a former Oregon Supreme Court justice.

At the end of Kulongoski's term, Amber transitioned into her present job, where

she performs challenging work and specializes in the area of professional responsibility and ethics. Unlike the days when her great grandmother was relegated to

support and secretarial positions, Amber finds herself in a "somewhat unusual" situation in today's legal community in that both her boss, General Counsel Helen Hirschbiel, and her boss's boss, Executive Director Sylvia Stevens, are women.

Amber is a proponent of balance and advises young lawyers to "[b]e true to yourself and have the courage to ask for what you want." When not busy being a mom and lawyering, Amber plays viola in the Sunnyside Symphony Orchestra, knits, listens to audiobooks, and enjoys travel, especially to Italy.

Mary Anne Anderson, a founding OWLS member, is a staff attorney at the U.S. District Court in Portland.



Amber Hollister