

## mba | ANNOUNCEMENTS

### New Free CLE Content for Members

The video webcast of the seminar entitled “How to Start a Firm, Leave a Firm, or Retire From the Practice of Law” is now available in the Members Center at [mbabar.org](http://mbabar.org). The seminar is worth two hours of practical skills OSB MCLE credit. MBA members receive access to a rotating selection of six different CLE seminars each year – a \$300 value. The free webcast content is refreshed every two months, so stay tuned!

### Race for Justice is June 14

St. Andrew Legal Clinic (SALC) presents its 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Race for Justice on Saturday, June 14, at the Madeleine Parish - 3213 NE 24<sup>th</sup> Ave in Portland.

The 5K fun run/walk and the Kids’ Fun Run directly support the mission of SALC, a nonprofit law firm that provides family law legal services for low-income families. Your participation or donation helps SALC continue the important work of ensuring that the law works for everyone.

Post-race events include a pizza party and awards ceremony.

- \$50 entry fee until May 31
- \$60 from June 1 to race day
- \$35 Students and first-year associates
- \$10 Kids’ Fun Run (ages 3-10, no T-shirt)

Free to participants who raise \$100 or more in pledges.

To register online or set up your own pledge-raising page, visit [SALCgroup.org](http://SALCgroup.org). Get race updates on Facebook at [facebook.com/standrewlegalclinic](http://facebook.com/standrewlegalclinic). For questions, contact Kenny Macdonald at [kmacdonald@salcgroup.org](mailto:kmacdonald@salcgroup.org) or 503.281.1500 x321.

### Noon Bicycle Rides

Take a noon break for a short, fast ride with hills. Meet at SW Yamhill and Broadway between noon and 12:10 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays. Contact Ray Thomas at 503.228.5222 with questions, or just meet at the start.

## CourtCare’s 11th Annual Fundraising Campaign

by Amy Angel  
CourtCare Campaign Committee Chair



Since its opening in 2001, CourtCare has improved access to justice for families by making free, drop-in childcare available at the Downtown Multnomah County Courthouse for parents with business at the court. In addition to being a safe, convenient location for parents to leave their children, this program helps to reduce the number of court appointments that need to be rescheduled and removes the potential that children might witness conflicts or disrupt court business.

Many families are already stressed to their limits when they are attending court for divorce proceedings, protective orders, custody battles, eviction proceedings, or criminal charges. Many do not have childcare options which would allow them to attend court without their children. Fortunately, CourtCare eases that dilemma at a time when stress levels are already running high.

One parent who recently called upon CourtCare commented, “I didn’t know what to do and then my lawyer told me you could help me. This sure made things easier

today.” Not only does CourtCare give parents peace of mind, it’s fun for the kids, too. In another review of the childcare services provided at the courthouse, a parent mentioned, “I have a hard time getting my kid to leave here. Everywhere else, he screams when I leave, but here, he screams when I come back to get him!”

Following the success of the CourtCare program in the downtown courthouse, we are pleased to announce that CourtCare is expanding to the East County Courthouse.

CourtCare is funded primarily through generous contributions made by firms and individual members of the legal community to the Multnomah Bar Foundation. All donations are tax-deductible as the MBF is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. The funds raised allow CourtCare to welcome approximately 80 children each month into a safe, fun and caring environment.

The MBF is proud to support CourtCare and asks that you consider making a donation to benefit the program to assist in its continued success. This year’s CourtCare Campaign runs from May 5-23, with a goal of raising more than \$75,000. Every dollar helps. To learn more about CourtCare or the campaign, please contact me at [aangel@barran.com](mailto:aangel@barran.com) or 503.228.0500. Also, please see the insert to make a donation by mail or visit [mbabar.org](http://mbabar.org) to make a donation online or to view a brief video about the CourtCare

## The Corner Office PROFESSIONALISM

### Professionalism Begins at Home

The Corner Office column usually highlights the need for lawyers to treat each other with professionalism and civility in the legal community. But professionalism cannot stop at the courthouse steps. Despite our superhuman aspirations, lawyers depend on their colleagues and staff.

Truth be told, extending the code of professionalism to behind office doors radically increases the efficiency, job satisfaction and loyalty of our co-workers. There are many reasons why this is so.

Consider, for example, the difference in productivity and positivity between staff that is berated, made to feel inadequate or embarrassed in front of colleagues, and staff that is made to feel a valued part of the legal team. The point is not whether or when such conduct may subject a lawyer to civil liability or professional discipline. The point here is more fundamental: at the end of the day, staff who feel valued as members of the lawyer’s team are far more likely to go the extra mile on the lawyer’s and client’s behalf. We all make mistakes, and we all can use help from others to constructively identify and avoid mistakes. But if we want staff to be looking out for us and our clients, they should know that we are looking out for them as well.

The benefits of professionalism at “home” do not stop with staff. We all want our lawyer-

colleagues to be creative, thoughtful and well-motivated. We are more likely to receive their best effort if they understand that we appreciate and value their contributions.

I once heard a partner say, as a criticism of a colleague, that Partner X thought he could call up any associate at 2 a.m. and make that associate come to the office to work on a matter. I would like to think that I could do so as well, but not because I am all-powerful or inspire fear. Instead, I would like to think I could depend on associates in a bind because I have strived over the years to express my genuine gratitude and respect for them. If I call at 2 a.m., they will know that my need is real and will trust that I will value their sacrifice and commitment to get the job done. And because of that, my associate will show up ready to work hard. Despite reputations to the contrary, I think it also goes without saying that any partner calling a colleague at 2 a.m. should be prepared to take and respond to a similar call in the future should the need arise.

Applying the same standards at our firm “home” also makes sense from an overall client relations perspective. If for no reason other than because we are busy people, our non-lawyer and lawyer colleagues frequently interact with our clients. A lawyer whose public persona is civil, but private persona is rude, will eventually see his or her disregard

rub off on colleagues and staff. A lawyer who has set the tone of courtesy and civility with the treatment of his or her office colleagues is more likely to find that those office colleagues treat clients with courtesy and civility.

We should do unto others as we would have them do unto us, rather than as we fear they may do unto us if we do not get to them first. I want to stress, however, that nothing in this analysis is dependent upon ethics or morality. Pure self-interest should inspire bringing professionalism home. Whether they realize it or not, even the most self-important and self-impressed lawyers can and will do better if they have the honest and devoted support of those with whom they work. And that support must be earned, not bought.

*The Corner Office is a recurring feature of the Multnomah Lawyer and is intended to promote the discussion of professionalism taking place among lawyers in our community and elsewhere. While The Corner Office cannot promise to answer every question submitted, its intent is to respond to questions that raise interesting professionalism concerns and issues. Please send your questions to [mba@mbabar.org](mailto:mba@mbabar.org) and indicate that you would like The Corner Office to answer our question. Questions may be submitted anonymously.*



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