

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES

SEPTEMBER 29, 2007

In 2006 many members of the House of Delegates attended a presentation on a proposed new bar center. Delegate comments and questions guided the Board of Governors in its decision to move forward with the proposal. As a result, this December bar operations will move into a new facility that should serve the bar for the next thirty to forty years. The Professional Liability Fund will be housed in the same location, which will offer state-of-the-art conference facilities for CLE seminars and other events.

The current bar center in Lake Oswego, which was purchased in 1986 for \$2 million, sold this year for \$8 million. This sale, along with lease income, has made it possible to invest in the new building with no need for an increase in member fees. A series of open houses will be held over the next year to acquaint bar members with the new building. Other highlights and issues of the past year are summarized below.

IN SERVICE TO MEMBERS

- Developed a proposal, now before the Board of Bar Examiners, to establish admissions reciprocity with the Alaska Bar Association.
- Sent a recommendation to the Oregon Supreme Court to make ORPC 5.5, relating to multi-jurisdictional practice, permanent.
- Welcomed the second class of fellows into the bar's successful Leadership College.
- Established the Admissions Task Force comprising members of the Oregon Supreme Court, OSB Board of Governors, Board of Bar Examiners and the deans of Oregon's three law schools to explore the admissions process.
- Sponsored a package of law improvement bills through the legislative process – one bill died, two were voluntarily withdrawn and the other 22 have been signed by the governor.

- Approved sponsorship of a conference on the Future of the Legal Profession in 2008, to be held in conjunction with the House of Delegates meeting in Bend.
- Developed and implemented a new record retention policy for bar records; one result of the new policy is that dismissed complaints older than 10 years will no longer be retained.

IN SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC

- Continued to pursue increased funding for legal aid at the state and national levels, including meeting with Oregon's congressional delegation – the only state delegation united in its support for legal services funding – and securing \$700,000 in additional funds from the Oregon Legislature.
- Supported the Oregon Law Foundation in its successful efforts to generate substantial new IOLTA funds through its Leadership Bank program.
- Offered financial assistance to seven bar members with substantial student loan debt who are pursuing public interest careers, through the new Loan Repayment Assistance Program approved by the House of Delegates.

AS A PARTNER OF THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM

- Devoted substantial volunteer and staff efforts to legislative work in support of the judicial department, helping to secure the first salary increases for state court judges in over six years and creation of a commission to review the needs of state court facilities.
- Continued public outreach and education programs on judicial independence and judicial selection.