

OWLS Members on May Ballot

While dozens of OWLS members are on the primary ballot in May, most are in uncontested judicial elections. Three OWLS members are incumbents with opponents, and one is currently running for office for the first time.



Marisha Childs

Marisha Childs is running for Multnomah County Commission, District 1, with six opponents. This is her first time running for elected office.

Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici has four opponents in her bid for re-election in Oregon's District 1. Governor Kate Brown has 12 opponents, and Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum has one opponent.

To find out if you're registered to vote in Oregon, click here.

OWLS Fall CLE on Sept. 23

This year, the OWLS Fall CLE will feature Sari de la Motte and Rachel Beohme from FORTE.

Titled "Turn Up the Volume: Be Bold, Be Real, Be a Communication Rock Star," the CLE will take place on Friday, September 23, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Courtyard Marriott, 550 SW Oak St., in Portland.

Sari and Rachel will show you how to go beyond the limiting beliefs and communication difficulties that are holding you back, and give you concrete practical skills you can use today to present yourself as the rock star that you are.

OWLF Raises Valuable Grant Support at Awards Dinner

By Traci Ray

The Oregon Women Lawyers Foundation (OWLF), in conjunction with the 2016 Oregon Women Lawyers Roberts & Deiz Awards Dinner, raised much-needed support for its four Foundation grants, including the Vernellia R. Randall Bar Exam Grant, the Armonica Law Student Grant, the Justice Betty Roberts Leadership Conference Grant, and the Janis Hardman Medical Support Grant. The OWLF mission is to educate and support women and minorities in accessing and participating in the justice system, and one way to work toward this goal is to provide the four grants to law students and lawyers in our community.

At the dinner, Beatrice Grace, a recent recipient of the Bar Exam Grant, shared her story:

At the end of my last year of law school, the ability to study for the bar presented an impossible hurdle. I had no way to pay my bills, my rent. There would be no more financial aid. I was looking at having to work 12-hour shifts in the ER, while trying to study and raise two children. I thought I was going to have to uproot my children from the place they finally felt like was home, and move in with my mother, sister and niece, who had been our major support system throughout law school.

We had all worked so hard to get me to this point. I am the first person in my family to go to law school. I am the first person in my family to get an advanced degree, and it took all of us working to get me there. Now, this last mile seemed for all practical purposes, impossible. For the first time, I doubted my plan. I doubted my dream. I doubted myself for putting my family in this position.

Although I had little hope of winning, I applied for an OWLS grant, pouring my dreams out in an essay



Beatrice Grace

in one last cry for help. When I was awarded the grant, I felt like I had won the lottery, but better, because it wasn't just chance. Strong, smart, successful women had heard my call and supported me. My dreams, and my strengths, had value. They believed in my potential.

OWLS members and the Foundation put their money where their mouth was. My heart was reinvigorated, my belief in my ability restored. I studied so hard, every day, for the bar exam because I knew how lucky I was to have the support of an amazing and generous community, who believed in dreams, and had thrown me one last lifeline. But this is what women do: we give and we sacrifice, to build community, and create a better environment for those around us—environments of opportunity.

Through the amazing support of our legal profession, the OWLF raised over \$40,000 during the evening via a special appeal and a raffle for an Italian getaway, money that will continue to fund the grants that Beatrice described as being belief in her potential. To learn more about the Oregon Women Lawyers Foundation and to support the grants, please visit our website.

Traci Ray, an OWLF board member, is the executive director of Barran Liebman, in Portland.

OWLS Honors Two Leaders

continued from page 1

The awards are presented annually to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to promoting women and minorities in the legal profession and the community. OWLS was honored to celebrate former Presiding Magistrate

Jill Tanner and Kellie Johnson, two OWLS members who represent the very essence of leadership and mentorship.

Lisa P. Shevlin practices insurance defense at Liberty Mutual and is a Roberts & Deiz Awards Dinner Committee member.