District of Oregon

2008 – 2009 Lawyer Representative Report
District of Oregon

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Report submitted by Richard Vangelisti (Co-Chair)

II. 2008-2009 Report of District Activities

- ## A. Better Practices for Better Communities Conference

- Lawyer Representatives assisted with the District's "Better Practices for Better Communities Conference," which occurred on April 2 and 3, 2009, in Portland, Oregon. This conference was formally sponsored by the District of Oregon and the United States Probation Office. The purpose of the program was to train professionals in the District of Oregon on evidence-based practices, review model programs, and mobilize community resources to facilitate the creation of a "one-stop" reentry facility for State, Federal, public, and private reentry services. The Reentry conference was held at the Mallory Avenue Community Enrichment Center, a 22,000 square foot facility located in North Portland, hosted by Pastor Frederick Woods. The guests speakers included Pastor Woods, Dr. Faye Taxman, Dr. Wilson Compton (NIH), Douglas Burris (Probation Chief, Eastern District of Missouri), Dr. Dan Close, Melissa Aubin (PhD, JD, current U.S. Supreme Court Fellow), Chief Judge Ann Aiken, Hon. Leo Sorokin (District of Mass.), Hon. Brooke C. Wells (District of Utah), Karin Immergut (US Attorney, Oregon) Michael Shrunk (District Attorney, Multnomah County), County Commissioner Chair Ted Wheeler, Oregon Attorney General John Kroger, Richard Crawford (Probation Chief, District of Hawaii), Senator Margaret Carter (Co-Chair Ways and Means); Senator Vicki Walker; Represenative Floyd Prozanski (Chair, House Judiciary); Representative Chip Shields, along with a panel of graduates and success stories that left everyone inspired.

- The Best Practices for Better Communities Conference was designed to bring people from various agencies together to explore ways to reduce recidivism, improve public safety and facilitate successful offender reentry into society. Through the use of guest speakers and an open forum, participants discussed and shared experiences of what works and what doesn't as well as building relationships with people from other agencies to collaborate in improving Oregon's Reentry Programs

- Across the country nearly 650,000 people are released from state and federal prisons every year, and even more reenter communities from local jails. Typically more than 50 percent of those released from incarceration will be in some form of legal trouble within 3 years. Evidence has shown that evidence-based practices and effective reentry programs can greatly reduce current rates of recidivism. Using sound practices can help rebuild broken lives and reduce jail and prison populations while improving public safety and reducing overall costs.

II. 2008-2009 Report of District Activities (continued)

- The U.S. District Court and the U.S. Probation Office, District of Oregon, have already adopted the use of Evidence-based Practices in several areas and plan to expand their use over the coming months. The District of Oregon Reentry Court is a court-involved, evidence-based program in which voluntary participants under federal supervision commit to individualized plans emphasizing sobriety, employment, and constructive problem solving. The program encourages participants to develop a high and sustained level of satisfaction with a productive and prosocial lifestyle and thereby desist from crime and substance abuse. Participants engage in monthly team meetings, with each other and the reentry court team (composed of a district court judge, assistant U.S. attorney, assistant federal public defender, probation officer, and treatment services personnel), who issue rewards and sanctions matched to each participant's level of progress. The reentry court team encourages participants to access an array of services designed to meet particular reentry needs. (For more information about the District of Oregon's program go to our web page and download *The District of Oregon Reentry Court: Evaluation, Policy Recommendations, and Replication Strategies*.) (www.ord.uscourts.gov)

• B. District of Oregon Conference

- The District of Oregon held a District Conference in Eugene, Oregon on November 29 and 30, 2007. The title of the Conference was "The Only Easy Day Was Yesterday: The Challenges of Legal Communication in the 21st Century." The Conference brought together numerous federal and state court judges, a healthy dose of lawyers from a broad range of practices, community business members, and representative of our Federal congressional officials. The first day featured panels on oral and written communication in court with a wine and cheese social with Oregon's own David Gremmel of Rouge Creamery. The second day featured speakers and panels on a wide range of topics including diversity, training on how to change the law, digital media and storytelling, serving business clients, and cross boarder cultural challenges. The program was privileged to have national speakers including Judge Berle Schiller of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and Professor Ana Maria Merico of the James E. Rogers College of Law at University of Arizona.

III. Current Projects and Efforts to Improve Administration of Justice in The District of Oregon

- ## A. District Conference in Fall 2009

- Oregon's Lawyer Representatives are currently working with one another and the District of Oregon's new Chief Judge Ann Aiken on the District Conference to occur in Fall 2009. We are exploring a two-day conference covering a wide range of topics. The possibilities include:

  - **Business Client Perspective on Efficient Case Resolution and Litigation Costs;**
  - **Innovative Success Stories – Attorneys Creative Solutions and Ordinary Lawyers Achieving Extraordinary Results;**
  - **Attorney Networking;**
  - **Climate Change and Sustainability;**
  - **Water Law;**
  - **Bankruptcy and Foreclosure; Economic Outlook;**
  - **Ordinary Lawyers Achieving Extraordinary Results;**
  - **Evidence Based Sentencing – Taking Back our Community;**
  - **Legislative Updates;**
  - **Changing Careers and Professional/Personal Balance;**
  - **When Practice Makes Permanent: A Guide to Undoing, Unlearning, and Deconstructing the Things that Used to be Important; and**
  - **Professionalism in Practice.**

- We look forwarding to using our time in Monterey to determine the theme of our upcoming conference.

- We expect to invite a national speaker to the District Conference. As with our last District Conference, we hope to work with numerous organizations in Oregon to plan and sponsor the conference, including: Ninth Circuit Lawyer Representatives, Oregon Women Lawyers, Oregon Chapter of the Federal Bar Association, Lane County Bar Association, Oregon State Bar Leadership College, and the Oregon State Bar Federal Practice & Procedure Committee. Consistent with prior attendance, we expect a diverse attendance of judges and lawyers from all areas of the state and those from many practice areas.

III. Current Projects and Efforts to Improve Administration of Justice in The District of Oregon (continued)

- **B. Communications Between Lawyers and Judges of District of Oregon**

- Prior to the tenure of Chief Judge Aiken (which began in Februay 1, 2009), the District of Oregon (through an invitation by then Chief Judge Ancer Haggerty) formally welcomed the Oregon Lawyer Representatives to the Judges' Monday lunch meetings on a periodic basis and that practice will continue during her tenure. Since her assumption of the duties of the Chief Judge, communication is frequent with Chief Judge Aiken through e-mail and conference calls with the Co-chairs of the Oregon Lawyer Representatives on a range of issues relating to bench/bar relations. The Oregon Lawyers Representatives (an extraordinarily diverse group by design) communicate with one another through e-mail and periodic conference calls. The Lawyer Representatives and the lawyers at large in Oregon have a strong relationship with the bench. These relationships in Oregon are thriving because (1) relative small size of the bar; (2) the bar associations in Oregon are active and vibrant; and (3) Oregon's ongoing commitment to professionalism. These strong relationships foster a free flow of information relating to the efficient administration of justice in the District of Oregon.

- **C. Annual Report**

- The Lawyer Representatives are discussing creating some type of "annual report" to the District of Oregon. The primary purpose of the report is to carry forward information learned at the Ninth Circuit conference and transmit feedback gathered from the federal practitioners on the ways to improve the administration of justice in the District of Oregon. The report may contain formal recommendations and a mechanism for ensuring decisions by the Court on those recommendations. Ideally, the report will be a medium to ensure a rich and continual dialogue between the Court and the Lawyer Representatives who represent the lawyers at large.

Oregon Chapter of The Federal Bar Association

- **Annual Dinner of the Oregon Chapter of the FBA**

- The Annual Judges Appreciation Dinner of the Oregon Chapter of the Federal Bar Association was held May 28, 2009, at the Mark O. Hatfield United States Courthouse located in Portland, Oregon. A social hour was held on the 16th floor terrace overlooking the Willamette River, and dinner was served on the main floor of the Courthouse. As part of the evening the US District Court Historical Society honored the public service and unveiled portraits of six of Oregon's magistrate judges which are on display in the 16th floor lobby of the Courthouse. The portraits are of: The Honorable Donald Ashmanskas (Portland), The Honorable Stephen Bloom (Pendleton), The Honorable John Cooney (Medford), the Honorable William Dale (Portland), the Honorable John Jelderks (Portland), and The Honorable George Juba (Portland). Oregon has a strong tradition of integrating its magistrates and Article III Judges, and our magistrates are full and essential participants in Oregon's Federal bench. Following dinner the *Judge Ancer L. Haggerty High School Civil Rights Essay Contest* winners were introduced (Jennifer Nguyen, Peter Landgren, and Harish Vemuri) , and the *Judge James M. Burns Federal Practice Awards* were presented this year to Karin Immergut (United States Attorney) and Richard Vangelisti (Vangelisti Kocher). The evening was a remarkable gathering of over 350 members of the bar and bench, which was closed by Chief Judge Aiken reminding us to celebrate our privilege of practicing in our professions and living in the State of Oregon.