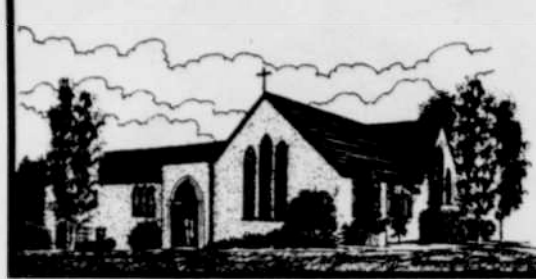


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**NORTHWEST news****JUDGE NOT...**

**Oregon Citizens Alliance summoned to court** by Jonathan Kipp

A lawsuit will be filed next week accusing the Oregon Citizens Alliance, sponsor of the anti-gay Measure 9, of making fraudulent transfers of money, according to Portland attorney Brent Foster.

The new legal trouble for the conservative Christian organization stems from a judgment handed down by a Multnomah County court in the early 1990s. Catherine Stauffer, a free-lance photographer and contributor to *Just Out*, sued Scott Lively, executive director Lon Mabon's right-hand man, and the OCA Educational Foundation.

She accused him of assaulting her in 1991, and a jury awarded her more than \$31,000. An appeals court later upheld the ruling.

Although Lively recently started making good on his debt when he discovered he couldn't practice law in the state of California with the judgment hanging over his head, the OCA never paid its portion—more than \$17,000. The organization claims the educational foundation—its central entity—is broke.

But Stauffer's attorneys, Foster and Thane Tienson, say more than \$1 million has passed through the OCA's bank account since the judgment. They allege that as money came in, Mabon's wife, Bonnie, quickly would transfer it to other accounts, donate funds to other organizations (like Exodus International, which works to "reform" homosexuals) and pay bills—many of which were payments to their own company, BJM Technical Support.

"There is no question the OCA has transferred funds through the educational foundation to other entities," Foster said. These entities, he added, put the money out of reach to satisfy Stauffer's judgment.

This is illegal, Foster explained. Oregon law prohibits fraudulent transfer of funds in an attempt to avoid creditors.

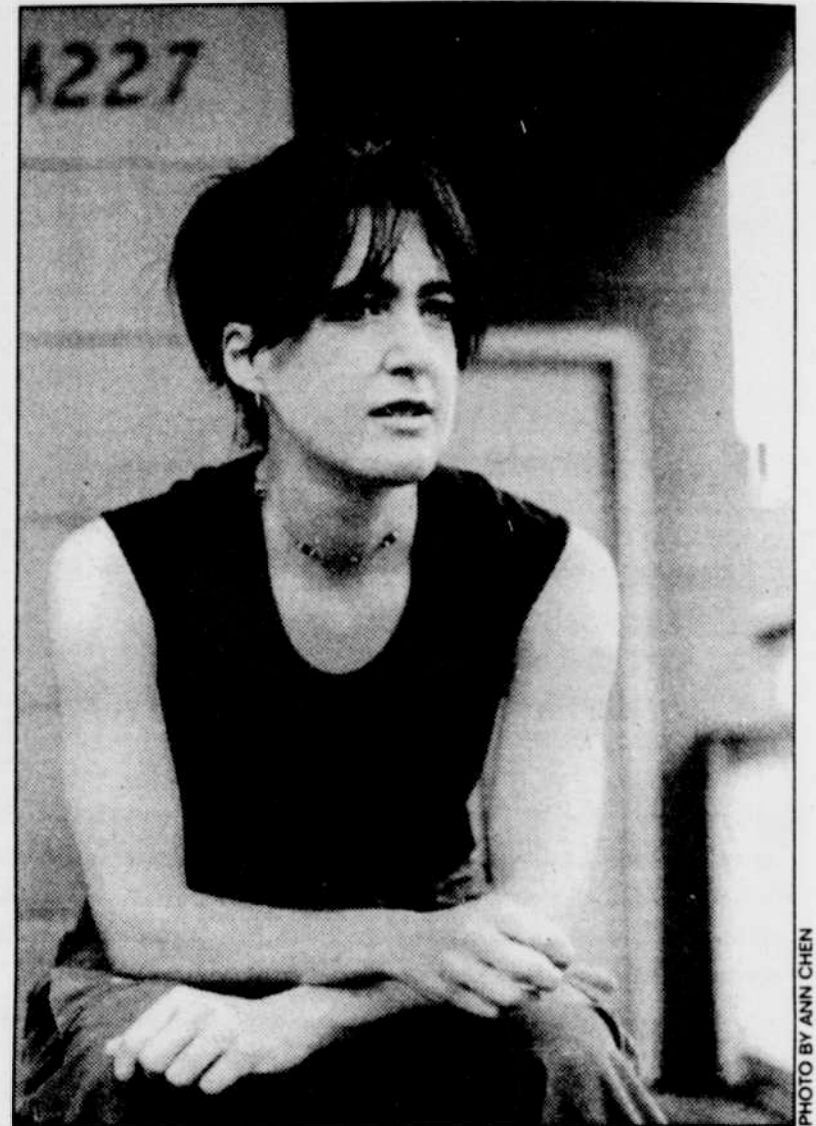
The Mabons spent a portion of two days in recent weeks at the Multnomah County Courthouse testifying under oath during a judgment debtor examination. The hearing was conducted to review the OCA's financial records.

Earlier, Stauffer's attorneys got a restraining order from the court prohibiting the organization from transferring or using any assets of the educational foundation that should be used to satisfy her outstanding judgment. *Just Out* and representatives from two other media outlets gained access to the hearings against the wishes of the Mabons and their attorney.

At the Sept. 20 court appearance, the lawyer repeatedly advised his clients not to answer questions posed by Foster and Tienson. Lon Mabon did testify that he knew little about the financial goings-on at his headquarters.

He said Bonnie, who is the treasurer of almost 10 OCA-related organizations, is in charge of such matters. Mabon said he doesn't know who owns the car he drives or how much the couple pay in rent for their apartment.

They live at the OCA headquarters, located in Brooks near Salem, and run their business out of the same location. Two weeks later, Bonnie Mabon testified that the couple pay no rent because they are considered "caretakers" of the property.



The Oregon Citizens Alliance owes free-lance photographer Catherine Stauffer more than \$17,000

They said they have not taken salaries from the OCA in years—he since 1992 or 1993, she since 1996. They support themselves by running a mailing business started around 1996.

Their customers? The OCA family of organizations.

Foster said issues about conflict of interest are pervasive throughout the OCA's organizations. The Mabons claim they, and the current OCA organizations, are not liable for the debt owed to Stauffer because the educational foundation has no money and no assets.

Stauffer's attorneys asked Lon Mabon if he ever had thought about paying the judgment. His attorney advised him not to answer.

At the Oct. 2 hearing, the atmosphere was markedly different. The Mabons' once-aggressive attorney objected to few questions posed to his clients; in fact, he read the *New York Times* throughout much of the testimony.

Bonnie Mabon testified that she has been returning checks made out to the educational foundation since the court froze the account. She testified that she did not know how much money was returned and denied keeping any record of the attempted donations.

The checks in question were returned with letters explaining that the donations couldn't be accepted, she testified. The correspondence, the Mabons admit, was written on Yes on 9 letterhead—a new entity they insist has no legal connection to the educational foundation.

Foster and Tienson think the couple violated the restraining order on the account by returning the funds. The lawyers plan to argue to Circuit Court Judge Ellen Rosenblum that the Mabons be found in contempt of court.

"It's clear the restraining order on the educational foundation's funds was violated," Foster said. "The OCA again thumbed its nose at the court."

At the center of the fraud charge is a donation made by longtime supporter Opal Van Kommer last February. She wrote a check to the OCA's Trust Fidelity Investments—an account

PHOTO BY ANN CHEN