



NEW LAW SCHOOL DEAN



SEEKS HARMONY

Marcilynn Burke worked in the Obama administration on public land issues before taking UO job *by Bob Keefer*

When she's not busy being a lawyer and administrator, Marcilynn Burke's favorite pastime is singing in a church choir. While she's also a fine soloist, Burke prefers to hear her mellow alto blend in easily with the voices of other singers around her.

"I am definitely the best choir member you'll ever meet," she says.

That's also the approach she has often used with her legal work throughout a career that's taken her from a Southern hometown to working as a top administrator at the federal Bureau of Land Management and serving as acting assistant secretary for land and minerals management in the Obama administration's Interior Department.

Formerly on the faculty at the University of Texas Law Center, Burke last summer took over as dean of the University of Oregon School of Law — drawn here, she says, by the school's environmental and natural resources law program along with its overall reputation as a law school.

Burke got her bachelor's degree in international studies at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill in 1991 and her law degree at Yale University in 1995. There she was editor of both the *Yale Journal of International Law* and the *Yale Journal of Law and Feminism*.

Since then she has worked in environmental and land use law during the era of the Sagebrush Rebellion, in which states have tried to take over federal public lands in the West; the original 2014 Bundy standoff in Bunkerville,



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