

LEGAL NEWS

Group Seeks To Open Oregon Legal System

An initiative petition has been filed with the Oregon Secretary of State to repeal laws that prohibit competition in legal services.

According to the sponsors, Citizens for Affordable Legal Services, laws created in 1937 regulating the legal profession in Oregon, hurt 80 percent of low and middle income persons in the state because they cannot afford to hire attorneys.

The laws forbid non-attorneys, independent paralegals and legal technicians from giving legal services.

The Oregon State Bar, an association of attorneys, also has the power to prosecute other professions, including real estate agents, insurance agents, title companies, estate

planners and escrow companies for alleged malpractice of law.

The initiative sponsors say a nationwide study by the American Bar Association shows there is a huge unmet need for legal services that independent paralegal and legal technicians could provide.

They also cite Attorney General Janet Reno as calling for an expansion of the role of the independent paralegal.

"It's time to eliminate the laws that prevent competition in the legal system," the sponsors said. "In a world where legal forms are available in books, on software and at stationary stores, prohibitions are unbelievable."

Gordley Gets Rule To Promote Access

Democratic State Rep. Avel Gordly of northeast Portland has won approval of a measure giving special consideration to citizens who travel long distances to attend legislative meetings.

Gordly said she worked with House Majority Leader Rep. Ray Baum, R-LaGrande, on the new rules to encourage statewide public participation in the legislative process.

The rules give scheduling preference to those citizens who travel 100 or more miles from their home to attend legislative proceedings.

Scheduling problems in past sessions have made it necessary for citizens to spend up to two days to make a five minute presentation, Gordly said. The lack of priority scheduling presented a hardship for many citizens living a long distance from the state capitol.

"Oregonians from all areas of the state need to have a voice in state government," Gordly said. "Citizen testimony is a critical part of the decision making process and legislators rely on their input to shape the laws that affect us."

The language of the rule reads: "Citizens that have traveled 100 miles or more to testify before the committee will be given first priority in scheduling the order of witnesses."

Legislator Gets Assignments

State Rep. Avel Gordly, D-Portland has been named to the following legislative committees: Water Policy Committee, Ways and Means Education Subcommittee and the House Special Committee on Sexual Harassment.

"These committee assignments will allow me to work on legislation and issues critical to the quality of life in District 19," said Gordly, a northeast Portland resident.

Gordly said her constituents have expressed strong concerns regarding education reform and the financing of public education.

"I think they will be pleased that I'll serve on a committee where their concerns will be voiced," she said.

Gordly said her legislative district is bordered on the north by one of the state's major waterways, the Columbia River, where contamination in various forms is an issue. Senator Ron Cease, whose district is also bordered by the Columbia River, will also serve on the Senate Water Policy Committee.

"Together we will make a strong team representing the interests and issues of the constituents we represent," she said.

Gordly encourages constituents to contact her office at the state capitol to express their ideas, issues and other concerns. She can be reached at (503) 986-1419.

Blazers, Weyerhaeuser Team Up To Recycle

Weyerhaeuser and the Portland Trail Blazers are teaming up to help keep Oregon clean by supporting the statewide organization Stop Oregon Litter and Vandalism (SOLV).

"Weyerhaeuser and the Blazers share a joint commitment to recycling," said Marshall Glickman, Blazer president. "The Blazers are reusing and recycling construction materials from our new arena, the Rose Garden. We intend to promote recycling within the entire Rose Quarter and continue to reduce waste once the arena is completed."

The joint "Rebound, Reshoot, Recycled!" campaign begins this month. For every "recycled" shot the Blazers score from an offensive rebound, Weyerhaeuser and the Blazers will donate \$20 to SOLV. The

promotion will end April 20 with a check presentation to SOLV at half-time during the Los Angeles Lakers game. Blazer and Weyerhaeuser officials expect the campaign to raise more than \$10,000 for SOLV.

"SOLV improves the quality of life for Oregon residents by cleaning beaches, rivers, and city neighborhoods throughout the year," said John Wilkinson, Weyerhaeuser vice president of Oregon timberlands and a member of SOLV's Founders Circle.

"SOLV, Weyerhaeuser and the Blazers share a commitment to reducing waste and conserving natural resources. The 'Rebound, Reshoot, Recycled!' campaign is an excellent opportunity to encourage Oregonians to recycle and to support SOLV."

Crime Stoppers

In the last two years, calls to Crime Stoppers, from people throughout the community, were responsible for the clearance of over 200 felony crimes.

Crimes solved through Crime Stoppers include homicide, arson, commercial burglary, bank robbery, theft, armed robbery, forgery, fraud, kidnap and rape. In many of those crimes, police had either exhausted all leads or had few leads to go on.

Very few agencies can match the efficiency of Crime Stoppers. Board members volunteer their time and raise the money needed to pay rewards. No taxpayer dollars are involved. The Crime Stoppers coordinator, who is a Portland Police Officer, is paid by the City.

The real credit for the success of the Crime Stoppers program goes to the media, law enforcement, and the people form the community, for their involvement, cooperation, and commitment.

Remember, as always, Crime Stoppers offers a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information, reported to Crime Stoppers, that leads to an arrest in any unsolved felony crime, and you need not give your name. Call Crime Stoppers at 823-HELP.

Coffee, Tea & OPB

It's that time of year again when OPB puts the "fun" back into "fundraising." Coffee, Tea & OPB returns for a fifth year, this time at Portland's Memorial Coliseum, February 10, 11 and 12. We'd like your help in spreading the word about an event that's become a winter tradition with many families in the region.

The Northwest's finest coffee, tea and dessert merchants will share space in the "world's largest coffee-house" with the region's best entertainers and wordsmiths: Live jazz blues, classical and folk performers, and readings by favorite Northwest authors and poets. Children will be treated to entertainment just for them in the KIDZONE.

General admission is \$6.00, children 12 - 18, \$4.00, children under 12 free when accompanied by an adult. Scrip is sold at the event to purchase food and beverages.

Convenient parking and transportation are available through TriMet and Smark Park Garages. All the details are enclosed.

Please feel free to call us at OPB, or the event producers, Metropolitan Events Public Relations, if you have questions.

Kittles' Dogs Come To Portland

Seventeen of the dogs involved in a case of animal neglect against Vickie Kittles have been transported to the Oregon Humane Society. The society is seeking foster homes for the dogs who many become available for adoption pending the outcome of Kittles' trial in Astoria.

Upon their arrival at the Oregon Humane Society, the dogs began a screening process to determine their sociability and health status. Arrangements are being made for the dogs to be bathed and groomed prior to being made available to foster homes.

"Criteria for foster homes will vary on a case by case basis pending the outcome of staff assessments and to the health and disposition of each

dog," said society operations director Sharon Harmon. Most of the dogs available at the society are small to medium sized.

"We are seeking foster homes for the dogs, but we hope to find people who will eventually adopt these pets should they become available," said Harmon. The society has received offers of help from local groomers, veterinarians and Brian Connolly, the Oregon Iams pet food distributor.

People interested in providing foster homes for the Kittles dogs are being held at the Oregon Humane Society are asked to call (503) 285-7722, extension 215 for further information.

MORE DRIVERS MOVE TO OREGON

If you think there were more cars on Oregon's streets and highways last year, you're right.

"Nearly 80,000 people turned in out-of-state driver licenses when they applied for an Oregon license in 1994," says Natalie Barnes, public affairs representative for the Oregon Department of Motor Vehicles. "That was up more than 5 percent from 1993."

Barnes adds that, although the tally of licenses surrendered is not an actual count of everyone who moves into the state, the numbers do help to show where new Oregonians are coming from.

Surprisingly, the number of

Californians coming into Oregon dropped in 1994. About 31,000 drivers turned in California licenses for Oregon licenses during the year, compared with about 32,000 in 1993.

Although the number of California drivers decreased, drivers coming from other border states - Idaho, Nevada and Washington - increased.

The number of drivers moving to Oregon during 1994 was the largest tally since 1979.

"The largest-ever count of incoming drivers as in 1975, when over 95,000 out-of-state drivers moved to Oregon, Barnes said.

Employment In Oregon: December 1994

• Oregon Unemployment Rate 5.1% -- up 0.3 from November
• National Unemployment Rate (seasonally adjusted) 5.4% -- down 0.2 from November

Oregon's unemployment rate rose to 5.1 percent in December, a 0.3 percentage point increase from November's rate of 4.8 percent. Despite the one-month rise, Oregon's unemployment rate remains at a low level by historic standards.

The national unemployment rate continued its declining trend, dropping to 5.4 percent in December, from 5.6 percent in November.

"Oregonians continued to benefit from a strong economy at the close of 1994," said David Cooke, an economist with the state Employment Department. "An unemployment rate of close to five percent, coupled with strong jobs growth across many

sectors, means that most people continue to find employment."

In Oregon, 51,300 jobs were created in 1994 -- a 3.8 percent annual growth rate which has not been surpassed since May 1990. Growth in many of the state's economic sectors remained strong in December. The number of nonfarm payroll jobs in Oregon increased by a seasonally adjusted total of 2,500 jobs in December.

Skill Building Opportunities

Want to make new friends, learn conflict resolution, tenant empowerment and advocacy techniques while providing expertise to a successful pilot program? S.A.F.E. (Special Advocates For Elders), one of only five housing ombudsman programs in the nation, utilizes the skills of volunteers to implement collaborative problem solving methods between management and elder tenants. S.A.F.E. volunteers meet weekly in housing projects in their

own neighborhoods in Multnomah County. Bill Brooks, a S.A.F.E. volunteer says, "The S.A.F.E. volunteer experience is challenging and gratifying both professionally and personally. I recommend it!" In addition to specialized training, new team members will be mentored by previous S.A.F.E. volunteers.

Trainings are offered once in 1995 and limited to 20 citizens dedicated to the professional learning experience and a highly skilled way of helping

people through volunteerism. We are an equal volunteer opportunity organization. Anyone age 18 to 101, persons with disabilities, multi-ethnic individuals, all encouraged to apply! Questions? Call the Portland Multnomah Commission on Aging (PMCoA) at (503) 823-5269 or TTY 823-6868 and ask for a S.A.F.E. application. Training starts Saturday, January 28, 1995, 9 to 3pm held at the World Trade Center in downtown Portland.

Call (503) 288-0033 or Fax (503) 288-0015 to place a Career or Classified ad in The Portland Observer.

Advertise In
The Portland Observer
Call 503-288-0033

LICENSED IN OREGON SINCE 1975
Singles & Seniors, I can help you!
"1st Class Guarantee"
A-ZEBRA
RMLS Realty Inc.
300 NE Multnomah, Suite #27
Portland, Oregon 97232
(503) 230-1390 • (Res.) 287-6837

Dad's Oil Service
Speedy Service
Friendly Call
For Quote
MasterCard VISA
heating oils
Best Cash Prices
104 NE Russel
Portland, OR 97212
282-5111

Columbus IND
5230 N. E. 28th
Portland, OR. 97211
503-287-5349 or 283-4509
Christopher C. Smith
SPECIALIZING IN:
-- Construction Clean Up --
-- Janitorial --
-- Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning --
OTHER SERVICES
Empty Home & Apartment Restoration
Window Cleaning, Floor Cleaning

The Secured
VISA CARD
You can now get your own VISA CARD
Even if you have had:
• BAD CREDIT
• NO CREDIT
• BANKRUPTCY
• LOW INCOME

How to Apply:

- Complete, sign and mail the Application/Agreement below to:
American State Bank
2737 N.E. Martin Luther King Blvd
Portland, Oregon 97212
- Be sure to include your money order or personal check in U.S. dollars for \$625.00 or more (in increments of \$600) made payable to American State Bank. Receipt of funds opens a savings account in your name. Each increment of \$600.00 deposited in your savings account establishes a \$500 line of credit for you.
- Your new VISA card will arrive within three weeks. If your request is denied for any reason, you will receive all your money back, including the \$25.00 application fee.

Any Questions:
Call our Bankcard Department
(503) 282-2216.

CREDIT DISCLOSURES: Application Fee \$25, Annual Percentage Rate 18%, Late Payment Fee \$15, Annual Membership Fee \$45, Cash Advance Fee 5% or 2% whichever is greater, Over The Limit Fee \$15, Grace Period 23 days. We use the average daily balance method to compute the balance.

SECURED VISA APPLICATION / SAVINGS ACCOUNT AGREEMENT

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Home Phone: (____) _____ Work Phone: (____) _____
Social Security Number: _____ Birthdate: _____
Name of Employer: _____

My check of (not less than \$625.00) _____ is enclosed.
Yes, I want to open a VISA account. I understand that the interest savings account at American State Bank will serve as collateral for my Secured VISA account and is fully insured by FDIC.

Signature: _____ Date: _____
American State Bank, Portland, Oregon • Member FDIC

