

Oregon Lawyers Step Forward To Help Oregonians Living in Poverty

In 1996, Delia Lopez came to Oregon City Legal Aid office severely beaten and bruised but determined to end a long history of domestic abuse. Legal Aid lawyers obtained a restraining order against her husband, represented her in divorce proceedings, and secured her child support payments.

Today, Delia is employed, and she and her children sleep at night. The 600,000 Oregonians who live in pov-

erty have little or no access to medical care. They can be victims of domestic abuse. Homelessness is either a reality or a very real threat. These individuals often need the help of the legal system to obtain basic needs or to prevent violence to themselves and their children. Solutions lie within Legal Aid, the offices that provide the bulk of the legal services to the poor. In Oregon alone 30,000 people used the help of Legal Aid lawyers

last year. Unfortunately, congress' funding for Legal Aid has steadily eroded in the past several years. Adjusted for inflation and the growth of the population in poverty. Legal Aid funding has dropped to just 72 cents for each 1981 dollar.

Oregon's lawyer have led the nation in filling the gap left by Congress; they have formed the Campaign for Equal Justice to raise money for Legal Aid lawyers and foundations. While

many lawyers participate in poverty law clinics or take on the case of needy clients for no fee, they also stepped forward to raise a record setting \$516,000 for Legal Aid through the Campaign in 1997 and a record-setting \$590,000 in 1998. Each section of the Bar, including the Oregon Trail Lawyers Association, corporate lawyers, large law firms lawyers, Oregon Women Lawyers, law professors at our three law schools, the Oregon

State Bar, and local bar associations throughout the state have engaged in friendly competition to see who could raise the most money. Several Oregon foundations, including the Collins Foundation, the Meyer Memorial Trust, MJ Murdock Charitable Trust, PGE-Enron foundation, and the Rose E. Tucker Charitable Trust also have stepped forward with strong financial contributions. In fact, the Campaign has raised over \$4 million for Legal

Aid since 1991.

As Senator Ron Wyden has said, "the Campaign for Equal Justice shows that Oregon's legal community has a heart and a hardheaded commitment to pick up where the federal government has shortsightedly left off." Oregon's lawyers have shown both determined and generosity in this campaign, demonstrating their belief that unequal for anybody is injustice for everybody.

Home-Buying Fair

The Fannie Mae Foundation and the Portland Trail Blazers are co-sponsoring the third Fannie Mae Foundation Home-Buying Fair on Saturday, March 27, 1999 at the Memorial Coliseum Exhibit Hall from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and is free to the public.

The fair is designed to increase homeownership opportunities for low-and moderate-income potential first time home-buyers, by removing barriers. The fair will focus on the total home-buying process, including how to qualify for a mortgage, repairing credit problems and finding affordable financing. We intend to have approximately 100 exhibitors at the fair. Exhibitors will include lenders, housing community organizations, real estate professionals, mortgage insurers and counseling agencies. In addition, we will hold educational seminars throughout the day in English, Spanish, Russian and Vietnamese to allow consumers to ask questions about the mortgage loan process in a comfortable environment.

We have had the opportunity to educate over 7,500 residents on the home-buying process in the three previous home-buying fairs. Our research shows that at least 10% of the people who attend one of our fairs are able to buy a home within six months to a year of attending the fair.

If you are in the lending community, a government agency or non-profit, a realtor or have a product targeted towards first time home buyers and interested in purchasing a booth, please call (626) 396-5310.

Portland HUD

Portland, OR—As a part of Black History Month, the Portland office of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is hosting "Anywhere but here: Housing Discrimination in Oregon," a freestanding photographic exhibit chronicling the history of discrimination in Oregon. The display will be open to the public free of charge in the 7th floor Conference Room of the 400 Building in downtown Portland Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm for the remainder of February.

"Anywhere but here" covers 250 years of Oregon's history, from the first days of white settlements to recent waves of immigrants. The exhibit consists of nine connected panels, using a combination of photographs, personal quotes and educational text to recount Oregon's treatment of racial minorities and other marginalized groups. For those interested in learning more of Oregon's history, the exhibit presents a fascinating survey of our state's struggles with racial and cultural diversity.

The 400 Building is located at 400 SE Avenue on the Bus Mall; the elevators in the first floor lobby can reach the 7th room Conference Floor. For more information on viewing the exhibit at the HUD offices, please call Laurie Voshell at 326-2391 or 326-2561. For more information about future appearances of the exhibit or how to host the exhibit in your community, please call Michael Anderson at (503) 412-6000.

Four New Electronic Signs Allowed Under Court Order

Four new electronic billboards will be allowed to go up under an order issued yesterday by U.S. Magistrate Judge Donald C. Ashmanskas. Following citizen complaints and traffic safety concerns about two electronic billboards erected in December, the city of Portland issued stop work orders on four such signs, which received building permits but were not yet erected. The Court found that, at the time the stop work permits were issued, the City of Portland did not produce sufficient evidence to demonstrate that the signs posed a traffic hazard.

"I understand the Court's reasoning, but I'm certainly not

happy about the results," said City Commissioner Charlie Hales.

The locations of the electronic billboards signs allowed under the order are NE 28th Avenue and NE Broadway; SE 122nd Avenue and Division; NW Vaughn Street; and SE 13th Avenue and Tacoma. Electronic billboards are already in service at SE Third Avenue and Morrison and at SW Sixth Avenue and Grant.

Permit applications for these six signs were submitted prior to City Council action on December 23, 1998, which gave the City's Traffic Engineer authority to regulate electronic signs. The Traffic Engineer is developing regulations that will establish criteria for

where such signs may safely operate. Any electronic billboard applications received after December 23 will have to comply with the new regulations.

Today, the council will consider an additional measure that would prohibit electronic billboards and similar signs altogether. If approved, the ordinance will go into effect immediately.

"The ordinance I've brought forward would address the negative aesthetic impact of these kind of signs, not just the traffic safety issues," Hales said. "I don't believe there's any place in Portland where these signs would be desirable, even if they were not dangerous."

Business Community Supports Youth at the Zoo

The Oregon Zoo recently received financial support from the business community to diversity and strengthens the ZooTeen Program.

The subsequent Foundation, The Herbert A. Templeton Foundation, and U.S. West Foundation have provided \$15,000 to fund two years of the new ZooTeen Diversity Project, which will recruit at least 36 teenagers from underserved communities during the summers of 1999 and 2000. The ZooTeen program teaches students entering 9th grade to present educational programs to zoo visitors. ZooTeens also learn animal handling skills and develop job and career skills. Students are asked to volunteer two half-day shifts a week throughout the summer. The deadline for application to the ZooTeen program is March 1.

For more information or to receive application, call Karyn McGee, Youth Volunteer Coordinator, at (503) 220-2790.

U.S. Bank donated \$30,000 to initiate Zoo Animal Presenters (ZAP); a pilot program to recruit underserved youth. Ten high school students have been selected from the Boys and Girls Club throughout the Portland metropolitan region and will soon begin paid internships at the zoo. The students will assist in the care of the zoo's education program animal collection and serve as ambassadors to the public. In addition to animal care, the internships will receive training in public speaking and instruction in zoo science and conservation issues.

The ZAP team will continue their internships through 1999.

Call for a chance to win prizes! See below.

How low can you go?

Even though Oregonians are great recyclers, we still throw a lot in the can. What more can we do? We can prevent waste before it happens. Here are some simple tips to help keep it out of the can.

At home

- Reduce paper waste by stopping "junk mail"
- Make your own household cleaning products
- Reuse plastic and paper bags for lunches and groceries
- Use rechargeable batteries in toys and flashlights
- Call Metro about recycling remodeling waste
- Pay bills and make deposits electronically
- Give "waste-free" gifts such as theater tickets
- Leave grass clippings on the lawn ("grasscycling")
- Compost yard trimmings and fruit and vegetable scraps
- Hold a garage sale; donate reusable items to charities



At work

- Use ceramic mugs instead of disposable ones
- Save paper by making double-sided copies
- Buy copier paper made with recycled content
- Store documents on disk
- Update mailing lists to save postage and paper
- Route documents instead of making multiple copies
- Use e-mail whenever possible
- Donate usable computers, furniture and food



At the store

- Avoid products with excessive packaging
- Buy products in recyclable packaging
- Bring your own cloth or paper bags
- Buy in bulk; buy the economy size
- Buy products made with recycled content
- Buy durable, well-built products
- Buy cloth napkins instead of paper



At school

- Pack a waste-free lunch in reusable containers
- Write and draw on the back of old assignments
- Start a school recycling or composting program
- Set up a worm bin and let worms eat your food scraps
- Limit fast-food eating and the waste it produces
- Buy reusable and refillable pens and pencils
- Use rechargeable batteries
- Make your own games and toys from "junk"



Call Metro to learn more or to share your ideas for reducing waste.

Mention this ad and you will:

- Be eligible for a chance to win books about the best hiking, biking and eating places in the Pacific Northwest, compliments of Willamette Week (drawing held March 31)
- Receive a free 1999 Reduce Reuse Recycle calendar from Metro

Metro Recycling Information
234-3000

By promoting recycling and waste prevention, Metro is helping to conserve resources and create livable communities. Metro regional services also include your zoo, parks and greenspaces, marine facilities, and the convention center and other cultural and trade centers.



METRO
Regional Services
Creating livable communities