

Federal grant \$\$ will hire state Domestic Violence Prosecutor

Attorney General John Kroger today announced that he will use federal grant money to hire a Domestic Violence Prosecutor.

"The rash of domestic-related violence demonstrates the overwhelming need to combat this problem," said Attorney General Kroger. "It's crucial that we work together as a state to reduce family abuse."

Since the beginning of November, six women and three children have been killed in a rash of family-related abuse. The Department of Justice is seeking applicants for an Assistant Attorney General to serve as the new Domestic Violence Prosecutor in the Criminal Justice Division.

"The Department of Justice has an essential role to play in the coordinated community response to the public health and safety crisis posed by domestic violence in our state," said Sybil Hebb, director of legislative advocacy for the Oregon LawCenter. "We are thrilled that the new Domestic Violence Prosecutor will be able to lead the state's best practice prosecution response to this epidemic. Victim advocates look forward to working with the new position."

Domestic violence and family abuse take a great toll on some of the most vulnerable citizens in our state. District Attorneys, law enforcement, and service providers work hard to respond to the needs in this area. Through a grant under the STOP Violence Against Women Act, the Department of Justice is now able to provide support to increase the capabil-

ity of the state's prosecutors and the criminal justice system to effectively identify, investigate, and prosecute domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking.

The attorney selected for this position will work cooperatively with statewide partners to develop, coordinate and provide training programs for prosecutors, law-enforcement officers, service providers and others on issues of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. The attorney will also provide technical assistance and legal research to prosecutors and at times handle the prosecution of complex cases. The attorney will develop training materials, best-practice policies and other publications and serve on councils, committees and other groups as requested to assist in the development of a statewide approach to these issues.

Bruce Goldberg, M.D., director of Oregon Department of Human Services, emphasized the need for collaboration between his agency and the Department of Justice.

"As a state we must find a way to get women the immediate protection they need," Dr. Goldberg said. "We also must reduce the culture of violence. Fathers, husbands, and boyfriends who need it must get help, too."

Attorney General John Kroger leads the Oregon Department of Justice. The Department's mission is to fight crime and fraud, protect the environment, improve child welfare, and defend the rights of all Oregonians.

Print minimum wage posters from state web site

In a move to contain costs and preserve limited budget resources, the Wage and Hour Division of the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) has opted not to mail copies of the 2010 minimum wage poster to Oregon's 130,000 employers. The poster, which is required to be posted in all Oregon workplaces, is available for printing, free, on the agency's website: http://www.oregon.gov/BOLI/CRD/C_Postings.shtml. BOLI staff estimates that the move will save the agency about \$31,000 each year.

"This small change saves thousands of dollars in BOLI's budget and will not harm Oregon employers," said Commissioner Brad Avakian, chief of BOLI. "With each required poster available on our website for free, employers can print exactly as many as they need for their worksites and BOLI can focus its resources on providing technical assistance for employers and enforcing the law."

WU: Help for County transportation needs

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has inadequate transit services for commuters, residents, veterans, and elderly and disabled individuals. Public transit ridership in Columbia County grew 85 percent in 2008, the largest growth of all transit agencies in Oregon. Funds would be used to purchase land and construct a multimodal public transit facility, including an administration office, vehicle maintenance and storage facility, and park-ride/pool facility, which would be based in St. Helens. The facility would serve as a major public transit hub in Columbia County for all users, including commuters, demand-response, and dial-a-ride coordination and administration, as well as the maintenance of vehicles provided county-wide.

These projects are included in a partial omnibus that combines multiple appropriations bills, including Transportation and Housing and Urban Development; Commerce, Justice and Science; Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education; Military Construction and Veterans Affairs; and State and Foreign Operations.

BOLI is also warning Oregonians to beware of any solicitations from businesses that sell required postings for profit. Employers need to know that all legally required postings are available free from the issuing agency. BOLI also sells a composite poster, the eight most commonly required postings together on one 24" x 39" page, for just \$10 – about a quarter of what for-profit companies charge.

Oregon workers with questions about legal wages should contact the Wage and Hour Division at 971-673-0761 in Portland, 503-378-3292 in Salem or 541-686-7623 in Eugene. Employers with questions about minimum wage or any other employment law should call the

Technical Assistance for Employers Program at 971-673-0824. Additional information for both employees and employers is available at www.oregon.gov/boli.

The Bureau of Labor and Industries defends the rights of workers and citizens to equal, nondiscriminatory treatment in workplaces, housing and public accommodations and encourages and enforces compliance with state laws relating to wages, hours, terms and conditions of employment. The bureau also partners with business and labor organizations to build a skilled workforce in Oregon and trains employers to understand and comply with civil rights and other labor and employment laws.

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