

Quality of Life Committee

Activities and Accomplishments:

The Quality of Life Committee (“The Committee”) met six times in 2010. The Committee began its work by reviewing the Committee’s Charge, discussing goals for the year, and slotting new members into Subcommittees. The Committee’s goals and accomplishments for 2010 are as follows:

Goal 1: Submit one or more articles for publication to the OSB Bulletin on topics related to balancing home/work life.

Kevin Myles is in the process of writing an article on volunteerism and how it causes some attorneys to transition out of private practice. He is still performing interviews but the article will be submitted to the OSB Bulletin for publication soon.

Goal 2: Update the Committee website to include articles written by Committee members and explore ways to publicize the resources on the Committee webpage.

Goal 3: Work with OSB to consolidate the Committee’s two websites (as found on OSB’s website) into one website.

Goal 4: Update the Committee website to include a list of resources related to quality of life issues and the practice of law.

Unfortunately, The Committee was unable to make much progress on the websites. Currently, there are two:

<http://osbqol.homestead.com>

www.osbar.org/leadership/committees/qol/index.html.

The Committee has not been able update the “homestead” site and it currently contains outdated information. This is particularly concerning because the State Bar’s web site links directly to it. The Committee believes it would simplify matters if the two websites could be “merged” so that they both direct traffic to one site. The Committee proposes that the 2011 Committee focus on merging the two websites and updating the new site with current information as well as links to relevant resources.

Goal 5: Organize and present at least one panel at one of the Oregon law schools regarding a topic involving quality of life issues and the practice of law.

Goal 6: Explore working with the OAAP to organize and present a CLE on the topic of “lawyers at midlife” and transitions in the practice of law.

The Committee organized two programs:

On February 10, 2010, Committee members Tanya Hansen, Kevin Myles, Chair Debbie Trant, presented with Barbara Jo Smith on “Planning Now for a Satisfying Legal Career.” The program

was held at Willamette Law School. It was mostly attended by 1Ls and 2Ls and was well-received by those in attendance.

On April 21, 2010, Committee member Cass SkinnerLopata presented with Kristie Gibson and Charlotte Nisser on "How to go from law student to successful professional." The program was held at University of Oregon Law School and it was well-attended.

On September 29, 2010, Committee member Andrew Schpak presented with Kellie Johnson and Shawn Menashe on "How to Work a Room." The program was held at Lewis and Clark Law School. The program was well attended and a social followed.

Goal 7: Work on a survey to the members of the Bar regarding alternative work schedules and the use of innovative technologies that people are using to balance work/home life.

The Committee is pleased with the Survey's response rate (45%). The Survey also received many answers to open ended questions. The key concerns shared by the respondents were inadequate pay, limited vacation, and a lack of interest in work. The Subcommittee will assemble some proposals to be distributed at the first meeting of the 2011 Committee.

The Committee also discussed the possibility of designing model policies for firms and other employers to adopt. The Committee discussed the fact that it could also act as a clearinghouse for policies already in existence and/or help individuals develop proposed policies that fit their specific needs.

Recommendations for 2011:

The 2010 Committee proposes a few goals for the 2011 Committee:

Retain the current Goals set forth in the Committee Charge;

Focus on the websites and specifically condensing the new sites into one and making sure the one site contains up to date information and resources;

Review the results of the 2010 Survey and consider shaping programs and/or articles in order to focus on the issues commonly identified in the 2010 Survey;

Continue to present programs at Oregon law schools and aspire to present at least one program at all three law schools in 2011; and

Select topics and identify authors to draft articles on Quality of Life issues for publication in the OSB Bulletin.

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