

# THE LEGAL BRIEF

A Publication of the Thurston County Bar Association

Volume 30, Issue 2  
March, 2012

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## TCBA Board of Directors 2011-2012

### Officers:

<b>Toni Hood</b> President	<b>John Skinder</b> President Elect
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<b>Leslie Owen</b> Treasurer	<b>Larry Jefferson</b> Secretary
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## President's Message By: Toni Hood

On January 26<sup>th</sup>, Jennifer Meyer and Leslie Owen received the Local Hero Awards at the WSBA Board of Governors Lunch at Indian Summer Country Club. Both received the award for going "above and beyond" in their work in the community. Because many of you were unable to attend the lunch I have decided to include a portion of their nominations below.

While Leslie's work through the Northwest Justice Project is important, it's also Leslie's service outside of her job for which she is being recognized. Leslie has served the local legal community as a board member and officer of both the Thurston County Volunteer Legal Services and the Thurston County Bar Association. Leslie has served in various leadership roles on the TCVLS board, including two years as board president, and she has continued to be a leader on that board, even after her term as president has ended. Since she is on the Northwest Justice Project staff, Leslie brings a vast knowledge of the legal services system in this state and how TCVLS fits into that system. That knowledge is vital to the TCVLS's board's work. Said past TCVLS board president Jennifer Meyer: "Leslie's familiarity with all aspects of the legal services community has made her a huge asset to the TCVLS board leadership. She is always available to talk through an issue or figure out the best way to approach a challenge."

Leslie is currently the Treasurer of TCBA, a position she has held since 2008. According to TCBA board President Toni Hood, "Leslie has been very dedicated to TCBA. She holds the most time consuming position on the board and she does so with a great attitude. She does an excellent job keeping our finances in order!" And Leslie's service on both the TCBA and TCVLS boards has been an asset for both organizations, as Leslie is able to serve as an informal liaison between the organizations.

Jennifer has been an active member of our community for over ten years. She served on the Thurston County Volunteer Legal Service for many years before serving as the president of the board in 2011. As TCVLS president, she lead the organization through a period of transition which included the hiring of a new director. With great energy and enthusiasm she has worked to increase the number of direct representation cases through TCVLS. In addition to being president, she also volunteers at the clinic and has taken on her own challenging direct representation cases.

Jennifer has also served as the president of the Washington Women Lawyer State Board, a position which not only requires numerous volunteer hours but also numerous trips to Seattle for meetings and events. In addition to her volunteering in the legal community, Jennifer is a very active volunteer at Pioneer Elementary School and is the current co-chair of the PTA Hospitality Committee. Jennifer also volunteers extensively with the Seattle Children's Hospital Mitochondrial Research Guide to raise funds for much needed research. Jennifer is an extremely positive and energetic person who continually goes above and beyond for our community!

*BIGELOW AWARD  
NOMINATION FORM ENCLOSED*

## **OFFICE UPDATE FROM THE THURSTON COUNTY CLERK**

It has been a while since I have provided an article, so I would like to take this opportunity to provide this as a reminder of our services and resources that are available through the Clerk's Office.

### **WEBSITE, WEBSITE, WEBSITE**

[www.co.thurston.wa.us/clerk](http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/clerk)

Our website is continually changing and being updated. There is a wealth of information and resources available there. You are likely to find the answer to any question you may have with just a click of a button. With reduced staff, sometimes telephone wait times can be extensive, especially on Fridays. So, if you have a "quick" question, the answer can most likely be found on our website.

You can register for e-filing, purchase copies of documents, look up case numbers, and review our fee schedule. You can also access our Road Map to the Clerk's Office, which has abundant information on court processes, preferences, and frequently asked questions. Among the information available, you can find out how to get money out of the Clerk's Office, locate specific Clerk's Office and Superior Court staff telephone numbers, and information on how to file an appeal.

We continue to maintain the "Dismissal Eligibility List" on our website which identifies cases that qualify for upcoming dismissal. There is a link from our home page that allows you to see if you are the attorney of record in any case that is approaching preparation for dismissal. By viewing the list and properly completing any pending cases, you can avoid the \$30.00 dismissal fee.

You can also avoid those pesky faulty document charges by being informed about the errors which could end up generating a faulty document invoice. The entire faulty document policy is available for viewing from the website as well.

Some other helpful links allow you to check to see if a matter was confirmed for hearing, download updated forms (such as Notices of Issue), and instantly access local court rules.

If you are unable to locate the answer to your question, you can also simply send an email with your question. We are diligent in providing timely responses. So, if your question is not time sensitive, this may be an option for you instead of potentially experiencing extended hold times when calling the office.

E-filing continues to grow with great success. We have received encouraging responses surrounding the option to electronically file documents and we continue to add new users every day. We continue to work on moving toward a paperless office and would encourage your early initiation into e-filing. You can begin the process of getting set up to e-file from our website by clicking on the "e-Filing Documents" tab on our home page.

### **SERVICES & RESOURCES**

Our self-help center received updating not too long ago. Utilizing a touch screen and answering a series of questions guides users to the type of packet they will need. Then, customers need only grab the laminated card identified and take it to the front counter for purchase. We have found that the new kiosk has greatly served the needs of the public and has eliminated the need for extensive assistance surrounding individuals' confusion on which packets they might need.

There has recently been discussion about the benefits of directing individuals considering dissolution to the orientation prior to them filing a case. It has been stated by parties attending the orientation, that they wished they would have had the opportunity to view the orientation prior to filing for divorce. Feel free to refer individuals who are considering divorce to the orientation program. The orientation is mandatory for parties with children who have already filed, however, it is also open to people who have not reached that point yet. Special provisions are available when an attorney is involved in the dissolution.

*(article continued on next page)*

## Family & Juvenile Court Changes:

-The following calendar changes will go into effect March 5, 2012:

Friday 1:30pm Probate and Guardianship Calendar  
(Previously heard Monday at 1:30pm)

-The following calendar change will go into effect April 9, 2012:

Monday 9:00am & 1:30pm Dependency Calendar  
(Previously heard on Wednesday)



## ANNUAL PARALEGAL AWARDS

The Washington State Paralegal Association will be accepting nominations for its annual paralegal awards from **March 1 through April 13, 2012**. The annual awards program recognizes paralegals that have made significant contributions to the legal profession and the community. Nominations will be accepted in the following categories:

- Lifetime Achievement
- Paralegal of the Year
- Pro Bono Service
- Community Service
- Student Scholarship



If you work with, or know a paralegal that is deserving of one of these awards, PLEASE take the time to nominate them.

Awards will be presented at our Spring CLE and Annual Awards Luncheon April 27 at the Red Lion Hotel in downtown Seattle. More information about each of the awards and nomination forms can be obtained at [www.wsponline.org](http://www.wsponline.org).

### Benefits to Establishing a Link from the TCBA Website to your own Website:

- ◆ The TCBA website is accessible through the major search engines, so potential clients looking for an attorney in Thurston County can easily find you.
- ◆ You can provide potential clients with information about you and your practice in an inexpensive, efficient and professional manner.
- ◆ The website is linked from the WSBA website so attorneys from outside of Thurston County can easily find attorneys here for various cases.

#### Cost:

\$25/year per link/person—Pays for the link from the TCBA website directly to your own website.

(continued from page 2)

Our facilitator program continues to be a driving force in assisting pro se individuals navigating the court system without an attorney. The fee for an appointment is \$20.00. We feel that the services available through the facilitators are invaluable to parties needing guidance and do not have funds for attorney fees. In many cases, our facilitators encourage parties to see an attorney when complicated issues are not resolved. We still have information for parties on attorneys who offer unbundled services. If you are interested, and have not yet sent in your business card and information, we encourage you to do so.

Have an idea for information you would like to see on our website? Send us an email and let us know your thoughts. We are always looking at how to improve services and getting input back from the people we serve is important.

As always, I welcome suggestions for topics that you would like me to address in an upcoming issue.

*Betty J. Gould*  
THURSTON COUNTY CLERK

## Honoring Judge Pomeroy

By Larry Jefferson



On February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012, in a moving and gleeful atmosphere, Judge Pomeroy leaped from The Superior Court Bench and into retirement. The ceremony had everything. Moving tributes, singing, dancing and mystery! Judge Pomeroy, who ardently watches the television show “Glee”, was treated to a number of musical numbers and a moving tribute from the Morgan Hill Law firm.

Judge Pomeroy was honored for her 33 years of public service and for her many contributions to the Thurston County community. Judge Pomeroy will best be remembered for her warmth and caring demeanor. I believe she found that it was important to always say something good about a person that stood before her in court. Judge Pomeroy will also be remembered for many “Pomeroyisms”: Such as, “You made your bed now eat it” or “I didn’t just fall out of the pumpkin patch this morning!”

By the end of the ceremony many participants had to wipe a tear or two away from their eyes as Christine pounded the gavel one last time and then hugged her family in a warm embrace. At least that’s how I remember it.

## NEW LEGAL FIRM TO REPRESENT OLYMPIC REGION CLEAN AIR AGENCY

Clean air has a new champion.

The Board of Directors of Olympic Region Clean Air Agency (ORCAA) named **Law, Lyman, Daniel, Kamerrer & Bogdanovich, P.S.** as the agency’s new legal representation.

Two members of the firm will address ORCAA’s legal needs. **Jeffrey S. Myers** brings a strong background in state and local government representation and in public records issues. He previously served in the Ecology Department of the Washington State Attorney General’s Office. Much of his current work focuses on land use and environmental property issues. He also conducts public agency trainings on the state Public Records and Open Meetings Acts. **Julie Kamerrer** offers experience as a prosecuting attorney, having worked in that capacity for the City of Shelton as well as for Thurston County. She also brings private practice experience in labor and employment issues.

“We are excited to be working with Jeffrey and Julie,” said Fran McNair, executive director of ORCAA. “We are fortunate to be working with such an exceptional firm with solid experience in environmental and administrative law. They will be a great resource for our agency.”

In seeking a new law firm, ORCAA worked with both the Thurston County Bar Association and the Washington State Bar Association. “We had a great list of strong candidates,” McNair said. “In the end, we felt Law, Lyman, Daniel, Kamerrer & Bogdanovich provided the best match to our agency needs.”

Myers and Kamerrer said they were looking forward to the challenges presented by ORCAA. “We are excited to assist ORCAA in its mission to protect air quality and build a sustainable environment in our community,” Mr. Myers said.

For additional information about ORCAA and its clean air policies, contact the agency at [1-800-422-5623](tel:1-800-422-5623) or visit [www.orcaa.org](http://www.orcaa.org) <<http://www.orcaa.org>> . Information about the law firm can be found at [www.lldkb.com](http://www.lldkb.com) <<http://www.lldkb.com>> .

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- 3) Public Records Act Violations, and
- 4) Workers' Compensation

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## COMPARATIVE CULTURE, LAW, AND POLITICS:

### New Hampshire vs. Washington

By Brent Normoyle

Editor's note: This is the follow-up article to one which appeared in the January Legal Brief.

A newspaper story recently mentioned that a lawyer had filed a "Notice of Errata". I'd never heard that phrase, but liked it and here's my (plural) **Notice of Erratum**: In the last article, besides wrongly adding or omitting a few commas, I made two historical errors. First, thanks to that know-it-all Alex Trebeck from Jeopardy, I just learned that Dartmouth was not the third oldest college in America, as I had reported. The order is Harvard, William and Mary, and Yale. Dartmouth is the seventh. More importantly, I botched the names of the three oldest European settlements in America. I wrote that they are Plymouth, Portsmouth, and Maytown. MAYTOWN! The correct answer, of course, is Jamestown (1607), which is the oldest, then Plymouth and Portsmouth. In my haste to meet deadline I simply contracted MAYflower with JamesTOWN. No doubt a common error.



Maytown, home of the Maytown Tavern & Truckstop shown here, is not the 3rd oldest town in America. Ben Franklin did not frequent this tavern in his white stretchy pants

Now to continue my observations from a year-long unpaid sabbatical in New Hampshire. To me, one of the fun and instructive things about traveling to distant places is experiencing the differences in culture, law, and government. Here are some comparisons between N.H., one of the original 13 states (of that I am sure), and Washington:

Taxes. We have sales, property, and excise taxes. N.H. has property taxes. Period. Somehow it survives on the pocketbooks of homeowners. To get, and stay, elected most politicians there sign "The Pledge" (no new taxes). This is said to result in "The New Hampshire Advantage". I continue to follow N.H. news with a subscription to America's oldest newspaper, The New Hampshire Gazette, founded in 1776. (You can get it mailed to you fortnightly for \$25 a year. [www.nhgazette.com](http://www.nhgazette.com). Leftists love it. Rightists nationwide seem to like it too, as they freely rant in the "Letters" section). From reading it, I sense that The Pledge is losing luster, what with N.H.'s aging infra-structure and school issues.

Gambling. Whereas we now have rampant gambling, N.H. has only a lottery. I discovered this when I went to Hampton Beach (N.H.'s, not N.Y.'s) to do some gaming at The Hampton Casino, a grand two story 1899 wooden structure just south of Portsmouth. The bottom part is a combination of arcade, t-shirt shops, curios, etc. The top floor is a terrific ballroom. But, "Where is the casino?" I asked a building guard, who replied, pointing at the sign above my head, "You're standing in front of it". "But where is the gambling area?" I asked. "There is none," he answered. Perplexed, I asked when it had closed. "It was never open," he said. I remained baffled until I later checked the dictionary. "Casino" originally meant a "gathering place".

So I did no gambling, but did later gather there with others in the ballroom to enjoy the music of old rockers Deep Purple, Pat Benatar, and Stevie Winwood.

Criminal Law. I was confused when reading in the newspaper that people were being released on "personal recognizance bail". What was that? I thought it was either one or the other, not both. It turns out that it means that you get out of jail without paying bail but, if you violate the conditions of release and are arrested, the bail has been pre-set.

I was disturbed by the Gestapo-like random traffic blockades I observed twice. State Troopers in full helmeted regalia aggressively direct random drivers to pull over, supposedly for D.U.I. inspections. What about due process? N.H. allows this so long as there is advance notice. In Portsmouth, that meant a small article in "Foster's Daily Democrat" in a small town well outside Portsmouth. Think "advance notice" in the Centralia paper for an Olympia police roadblock the next day.

Government. The "Live Free or Die" state motto is sometimes taken to extremes. Motorcycle helmets? Seatbelt use mandatory? We don't need no stinkin' helmets or seatbelts. Guns allowed within public buildings including the State Capitol? As Sarah Palin would say, "You betcha!" This guns anywhere at any time law is the product of a Republican revolution in N.H. after I left. They now dominate the House and Senate. The Democratic Governor's veto pen is somewhat ineffective, although there was enough cross-over to sustain a veto of so-called "Right to Work" legislation last year.

(continued on page 11)

**CALLING ALL  
ATTORNEYS AND JUDGES FOR  
THE YMCA MOCK TRIAL EVENT!**

The YMCA Mock Trial event for high school students is coming to Thurston County Superior Court March 23 – 25, 2012. Attorney volunteers are needed for round 2 (Saturday, March 24 @ 8:30-11:00 am) and round 4 (Saturday, March 24 @ 4:00-6:30 pm). No trial experience is necessary. The event is also in need of judges to preside over trials during all of the rounds.

**Young lawyers:** After helping out on Saturday, attend a private tour of the Temple of Justice with Justice Debra Stephens with a social event to follow at Swing wine bar!

*Let's make this a strong TCBA event!!!*

For more information or to volunteer, please email [MeganC@buddbaylaw.com](mailto:MeganC@buddbaylaw.com).

**Law Day 2012**

The TCBA and West Olympia Rotary's annual Law Day is fast approaching. If you know any high school student interested in participating for a chance to win money for college please see our website for more details.

**[www.thurstoncountybar.com](http://www.thurstoncountybar.com)**

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[bethrogersma@earthlink.net](mailto:bethrogersma@earthlink.net)



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## What is Public Finance?

By Victoria S. Byerly, esq.

I am often asked, “What is public finance” or, “What kind of work do you do?” So, I thought I would write about it. Public finance is a subfield of economics that is concerned with the income and expenditure of government. Philosopher and theorist, Adam Smith wrote about public finance and economics, generally, in *The Wealth of Nations*. The fifth book, specifically discusses public finance.

*The Wealth of Nations* is actually short for “An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations.” This work was published (first) in 1776 and is considered fundamental in the study of economics as well as other disciplines. Public finance involves the following: 1) income; 2) expenditures; 3) debt; and 4) budgets. As a result, public finance involves the relationship of the aforementioned four items. In Washington State, sources of revenue include taxes and fees. Washington does not have an income tax. Instead, Washington has the business and occupation tax and sales tax. Washington also has a property tax.

Expenditures include salaries, employee benefits and supplies (and much more). This makes sense because governments run like businesses.

Debt includes both short term and long term debt. Article VIII of the Washington State Constitution authorizes the State to contract for debt and provides a formula for debt capacity. It is worthwhile to note that debt for purposes of Article VIII, is defined as borrowed money represented by bonds, notes or other evidences of indebtedness that are secured by the full faith and credit of the state. Authorization like this is powerful because it provides a tool for government to finance infrastructure and so much more.

A budget is a summary of revenue and expenditures. It is useful because it provides insight into the past and future. It can reveal past behavior and provide information relative to specific future events.

Public finance involves not just government, but special purpose districts, non-profit entities and schools. Public finance lawyers draft legislation, draft official statements, and assist with audits. Roles include bond counsel, underwriter’s counsel and trustee’s counsel. Since bonds are securities and there are tax implications, we traverse through layers of regulation.

So, in short, public finance lawyers help public entities like government fulfill their role. In Washington, all one has to do is look to the 520 bridge or see the Chehalis Centralia Airport to see what kind of projects we can work on.

---

Adam Smith, *An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations* (W. Strahan and T. Caddell, London (1776)

Id.

RCW 82.04 and RCW 82.08.

WA Const. art VII and RCW 84.

WA Const. art. VIII, §1(d).

## Upcoming Local CLE Opportunities

(some topics are still tentative)

1. Friday, March 16, 2012—Ramblin Jacks Lunchtime Education, 1 Ethics credit is approved by the WSBA
2. Tuesday, March 27, 2012-Family & Juvenile Court building, “Attachment Disorder” 1 CLE credit is pending
3. Friday, April 20, 2012-Ramblin Jacks Lunchtime Ed., Allen T. Miller to present, 1 credit pending
4. Tuesday, April 24, 2012– Family & Juvenile Court building, “Adverse Childhood Experiences” 1 credit pending
5. Friday, April 27, 2012– St. Martin’s 3 hour seminar on using technology, speakers will include John Sinclair, John Tunheim and Betty Gould. More information will be provided soon. There is 1 ethics and 2 general credits pending with the WSBA.
6. Thursday, May 17, 2012– Govt Lawyers Bar Association will have a 1/2 day seminar. Details to come.
7. Tuesday, May 22, 2012– Family & Juvenile Court building “D.V. vs PTSD and Brain Trauma”
8. Friday, June 15, 2012-GLBA presents a CLE on Treatment Courts
9. Friday, June 22, 2012—St. Martin’s 3 hour, 2 track seminar with lunch speaker. Track 1: Real Estate and Track 2: Personal Injury



## **TCBA Updates**

### **Monthly Luncheon at Ramblin Jacks**

Friday, March 16, 2012 “Ethical & Moral Considerations of a Criminal Defense Attorney” presented by Jim Dixon. Please reserve your seat by contacting Angela Skinder at [tcba.info@gmail.com](mailto:tcba.info@gmail.com)

### **May Issue of the Legal Brief**

There will be a deadline of Wednesday, May 2, 2012 for submission of articles and advertisements to Angela Skinder at [tcba.info@gmail.com](mailto:tcba.info@gmail.com).

### **TCBA Annual Dinner event**

This year the Annual Dinner will be held at Indian Summer Golf & Country Club.

Please save the date of **Friday, May 18, 2012**. More details and an invitation will be sent out in April. Also note that the Bigelow Award will be presented at this event, so make sure to use the nomination form that is included in this newsletter to nominate a deserving TCBA member. Please have the nomination form returned no later than April 10 to be considered.

### **2012 TCBA Membership Renewal**

Please remember to renew your membership with the TCBA by April 1, 2012 to avoid being removed from email/ mailing lists and our website. You may obtain a membership form on our website at [www.thurstoncountybar.com](http://www.thurstoncountybar.com) or contact Angela Skinder at [tcba.info@gmail.com](mailto:tcba.info@gmail.com).

Please refer to the “Calendar” section of our website for a full list of upcoming events:  
**[www.thurstoncountybar.com](http://www.thurstoncountybar.com)**

## **Section/Committee Announcements...**

### **CLE Committee**

The TCBA CLE Committee brings lower cost, local CLE opportunities to our bar. We always welcome ideas and suggestions for additional CLE's from our membership and welcome new members to the committee.

Please contact Brent Normoyle at 705-0202 or Terry Church at 867-9233 with your ideas or if you are interested in joining the committee.

### **Young Lawyer Section**

The Young Lawyer Section holds regular Monthly Meetings the second Wednesday of every month, noon at I.talia.

Please contact Jason Zittel at (360) 352-1970 –or– [yld.tcba@gmail.com](mailto:yld.tcba@gmail.com)

### **Family Law Section**

The Family Law Section meets at 12:10 on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Family and Juvenile Justice Center.

If you did not receive an agenda and would like to be added to the mailing list, please call William B. Pope & Associates at (360) 866-4000

### **Land Use Section**

Stay tuned for more CLE events from the Land Use Committee, co-chaired by Carmen Rowe Hoogkamer and Jessica Jensen.

# THURSTON COUNTY VOLUNTEER LEGAL SERVICES

## WHAT'S HAPPENING...

By REA HAGAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

*Maya Angelou*

Thurston County Volunteer Legal Services (TCVLS) provides free legal advice, information, and direct representation to low-income people in Thurston and Mason Counties in civil matters only. Clients for the clinics are screened for financial eligibility and type of legal issue.

Volunteers who helped low-income clients resolve and/or deal with civil legal issues in clinics from January 3 through February 28 were:

### **Family Support Center—2nd and 4th Tuesdays 6-9 p.m.**

#### **Attorneys:**

Aaron Millstein  
Anessa Novasio  
Karl Smith  
Emily Culkin  
Drew Stillman  
Jean Wilkinson  
Eric Miller  
Stephen Manning  
Lynn Urstadt  
Liz Smith  
William McGinty  
Angela Carlson Whitley  
Judy Luther

Daniel Stallings  
Michael Young  
Alicia O. Young  
Victoria Byerly  
Meghan Kelly  
Jennifer Smith (MENTOR)  
Gina Bissell (MENTOR)  
Callie Castillo (MENTOR)  
Laurel Smith (MENTOR)  
Jessica Jensen (MENTOR)

#### **Administrators:**

Leah Kellogg  
Ashiyah Cays  
Nancy Hull  
Jerei Bargabus  
Mary Street

### **Safeplace—1st Thursday and 3rd Thursdays, 6-9 p.m.**

#### **Attorneys:**

Callie Castillo  
Ayunni Haueta-Wimpee  
Phyllis Barney  
Melissa Rourke  
Ethan Satterberg  
Charity Atchison  
Erin Patterson  
Veronica Warnock  
Cynthia Sanderson  
Julie Kamerrer  
Denise Livingston  
Lisa Kay Mikkelson  
Clayton King  
Larry Hoffman (MENTOR)  
Ann Redford-Hall (MENTOR)

#### **Administrators:**

Leslie Christensen  
Apryl Parker  
Barbara Tomford  
Tiffany Horton

### **Shelton/Mason County—First Monday Monthly 6-9 p.m.**

#### **Attorneys:**

Judy Luther  
Marilyn Sayan  
Angela Carlson Whitley  
Mitch Sachs  
Mike Clift  
Mike Rothman  
Daniel Stallings  
Meghan Kelly  
Patricia White (MENTOR)  
Dan Goodell (MENTOR)

#### **Administrator:**

Mary Valley

### **Housing Justice Project— Every Friday 8:30-11:30 a.m.**

#### **Attorneys:**

John Vanek  
Anessa Novasio  
Mike Throgmorton  
Bruce Conklin  
Laura Watson  
Genevieve Pisarski  
Eveyn Lopez  
Ralph Thomas (MENTOR)

#### **Administrators:**

Kristi Brumfield  
Ashiyah Cays  
Misty Brown  
Killian Dunkeson

### **READY TO HELP?**

We would love to have you as a volunteer. If you are interested in volunteering your skills please contact Christine Lund, Program Coordinator at (360) 705-8194 –or– Christine@tcvls.comcast.biz.net

Mark your calendars for...

## **7TH ANNUAL VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION & FUNDRAISING BREAKFAST**

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Buffet breakfast at 7 am

Program: 7:30 am– 8:30am

**Featured Speaker: JUSTICE GERRY ALEXANDER**  
**Former Chief Justice Washington State Supreme Court**

Indian Summer Golf & Country Club  
5900 Troon Lane SE  
Olympia WA 98501

Please RSVP by April 7, 2012 to (360) 705-8194 or email to Christine@tcvls.comcastbiz.net

(continued from page 6)

Perhaps the quality of legislation there is related to not only the numbers—400 Representatives and 24 Senators—but the annual pay: \$100. Say what you will about our Legislature, at least we have a manageable number, 98 Representatives and 49 Senators, and a reasonable pay. They receive a minimum of \$42,000 per year. Two other significant differences between our states are that governors there have two-year terms, and must work with an elected five-member “Executive Council”, who approve budgetary matters. This can be a big problem when the governor and the majority of the Executive Council are in different parties.



I will say this about N.H.’s mega-sized House: It’s fun to be in the gallery and watch 400 members try to sit still during floor debate, let alone agree on anything.

The Real First Primary. Iowa claims to have the first presidential primary but that’s only true if a small caucus vote qualifies. N.H., for decades, has had the first real primary, where all can go to the polls and delegates are actually at stake. Why is N.H. first? Because they say so. State law requires that their primary be held before any similar one (i.e., Iowa’s isn’t similar and therefore doesn’t count). As other states try to move their primaries earlier, N.H. refuses to yield. This election, some states were threatening December voting, but N.H. repelled the attacks. If this continues, they’ll hold one primary before the one which precedes it.

It was fun, though, to live through the campaign four years ago, so much so that I flirted with the idea of running for president myself. In N.H. it’s surprising easy. All that’s needed are a filing fee of \$1,000 and the signatures of, as I remember, 100 citizens to get a place on the ballot. Although I only knew about 10 people there, I figured each one could get 10 of their friends to sign me up. The \$1,000 fee, I told my Doubting Theresa wife, I could get by asking 90 friends and relatives back home to donate \$10. I would contribute the other \$100.

Before I “threw my hat in the ring” I called the Secretary of State’s office and asked where the “ring” was. In classic droll N.H. style I was informed, “I believe, sir, that is simply a figure of speech”.

Next, I called the Federal Elections Commission to check on reporting requirements for my potential campaign contributions. I was told I’d fall well below the threshold. I then moved on to the next task, asset marshaling. As non-residents, my wife and I couldn’t vote. I did an exploratory survey of the 10 people I knew there and found only a firm commitment of 1.5 votes (one husband was all in; his wife was 50/50). To make matters worse, I had no “campaign war chest” nor “coffer”, no political experience, no platform, no endorsements (not even my wife), and no catchy nickname like Bill Clinton’s “The Comeback Kid” or Edmund Muskie’s “Don’t Cry for Me Argentina” or George Bush’s “Mr. Strategy”.

Thus daunted, and decidedly uncertain as to my chances, I quit the race before it started and pledged my 1.5 votes to Hillary Clinton.

I am pleased to report, though, that other brave souls continue the Everyman long shot struggle. This year’s dozen or so Democratic primary candidates included Bob Greene, whose 1,000 year energy platform centered on “liquid thorium fluoride reactors”; Craig “Tax Freeze” Fries; and my favorite, perennial (but party-flopping) candidate Vermin Supreme, who campaigns with a boot on his head.

The N.H. primary does offer Portsmouth ample opportunity to judge the real candidates in person. Envision former New Mexico Governor and U.S. Ambassador Bill Richardson appearing at Orca Books, Mike Huckabee at a local Holy Roller church, John Edwards at Garfield grade school, Hillary Clinton at Tumwater High, John McCain at Sylvester Park, some guy I can’t remember at The Spar, and a junior Illinois Senator at The Olympian newspaper, which brings me near the end.

The Portsmouth Daily Herald asked for people to apply for a handful of coveted spots at a round table discussion with Barack Obama. I was selected, no doubt because I had earlier been a potential opponent. Another hundred not chosen for the round table were invited to sit in the stands, so to speak. I wanted my then-eighth grade daughter to have an opportunity to engage with a would-be president and asked the newspaper if she could sit with me at the special table. The answer was: no children. My answer back was: then count me out. I didn’t much care about Obama at that point anyway. Although we hadn’t ever had a mixed race president we also had never had a better chance of electing a woman who, on paper, was more qualified than a guy with but two years as a U.S. Senator.

As Rick Perry would say, “Oops”. I should have gone to the round table. Then I’d have an only one degree of separation tale for my grandkids.

Baseball Parks, etc. I’ll finish with this: Before I took, four years ago, that year off from practicing law, I’d never had a vacation (in nearly 30 years) which was longer than three weeks, other than two months of unpaid paternity leave. It was not easy to phase out and then phase back in a solo practice, but it was worth it. My wife, daughter, and I made life-long friends in New Hampshire. I visited Boston numerous times, went to two games at venerable Fenway Park, one at the old Yankee Stadium, and one (on our train trip home) at Wrigley Field. Fenway ranks a close first over Wrigley but all are national treasures.

But in the end there’s no place like home.

<sup>1</sup> This year, the Republican primary became so annoying that one Portsmouth shopkeeper put up a large sign: No Presidential Candidates.

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