

# ADVOCATE

Abridged

Lewis & Clark Law School

## The Living History of Women in the Law

*The following remarks were drawn from a speech given at the U.S. District Court of Oregon Historical Society's Annual Dinner in Portland on October 30 by Betty Roberts '66, winner of the 2006 Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award. Roberts served as Oregon's first female appellate judge.*

When I graduated from law school in 1966, there were two women in my class of about 45. Women constituted 4 percent of law school students. By the time I was appointed to the Oregon Court of Appeals in 1977, that percentage had jumped to an amazing 15 percent. Still, there were only five women trial judges in Oregon.

In 1977 there was no woman on the U.S. Supreme Court, and there never had been. Only 9 of the 525 active judges in the federal court system were women. Only 10 of the 341 state supreme court justices were women. Fewer than 5 percent of all intermediate court of appeals judges were women.

When I first went on the Oregon Court of Appeals there were few women clerks, but each year more and more women applied and were hired. I realized that the



Betty Roberts '66

numbers of women in law school were increasing rapidly. Yet, as I worked with these young women, I wondered how long it would take for them to become judges. The outlook was not good. I read from a 1978 publication of the National Center for State Courts that said, "The token role of women in the courts stems directly from the restricted access of women to law

school and to positions that prepare lawyers politically and professionally for the bench." In other words, the number of women judges was dependent on the pool of women lawyers to draw from. With the time it takes to progress from graduation to becoming a candidate for judge—something like 20 years, according to the report—I concluded I would not likely see many women judges in my lifetime.

I held onto hope, however. The percentage of women law students grew to 20 percent . . . 30 percent . . . and kept increasing while I moved from the Court of Appeals to the Oregon Supreme Court. I concluded there were two reasons why so many women were choosing the legal profession. One: Women were not being encouraged to take math and science courses—in fact, they were overtly discouraged. This closed off certain fields, but not law. Two: The women's movement in the 1970s that saw the great public discussions on decriminalizing abortion, the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment, and the proliferation of laws that prohibited discrimination on a gender basis told women that the legal profession was where they could make a difference. Many of these women were active in the women's

movement, and they were affected by the social turmoil of the peace movement and the civil rights movement. They, and many of the young men who came out of the law schools in that period, were idealistic about the kind of law they wanted to practice.

Unfortunately, the men got the jobs in the law firms and most women did not. The best example that can be given is the experience of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, who graduated third in her class at Stanford Law School in two years instead of the normal three. When she applied for a job with a California law firm, she was told there was no job for a woman attorney as the firm's clients didn't want to work with a woman lawyer. Perhaps, she was told, she could be a legal secretary.

As you may know, she started her own law practice instead. She also had two children, served in the Arizona state senate, and was encouraged to run for governor. Instead, she accepted an appointment to the Arizona Court of Appeals, where President Reagan found her.

Many, many women of Sandra Day O'Connor's era—and many since—have

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## Mentoring: The Best of Both Worlds

by Jim Enright

It's 10 a.m. and law students are gathering outside the Office of Career Services, primed with questions: How do I balance family, studies, and my job? Which specialty is right for me? What's involved in a lawyer's day-to-day work? What public service opportunities are available? Finals—will I survive them?

The questions hint at the range of services the office provides. But today is Wednesday, so what students really want to know is this: cupcakes, cookies, or brownies?

That's because every Wednesday is Treat Day, spiced with baked goods compliments of the office staff. "It started simply as a way to get students' attention and now it has taken on a life of its own," laughs Libby Davis '93, assistant dean for career services and alumni relations. "We're all just frustrated bakers at heart."

Students may come for the cupcakes but they come back for the career guidance and counseling. They value and thrive on the person-to-person expertise, support, and encouragement Davis and her colleagues provide.

Those qualities are particular hallmarks of the mentor program, which pairs

students with experienced attorneys and jurists who are Law School alumni and friends. Mentors provide first-year students with practical advice and survival skills for navigating the demands of law school and developing into ethical, responsible attorneys. Upper-division students deepen their understanding of the dynamics of the law and the legal community, and start making the transition from law school to career.

In 2006-07 the Office of Career Services shepherded 200 pairs of students and mentors. Participation is voluntary, but Davis tells students, "It can be one of the best things you do at law school." The following stories illustrate her point.



Elizabeth A. Davis '93  
Assistant Dean  
for Career Services  
and Alumni Relations

Talking about the mentoring program, Law School students

and alumni invariably and inevitably say the same thing: Libby makes it work. That's program director Elizabeth "Libby" Davis.

Davis appreciates the compliments but is quick to turn them around. "Students and mentors alike have incredible demands on their time," she notes. "They get out of the program what they put in. Most of them give much more than time—they share a lot of who they are and what matters to them. They make the program successful and enrich the entire legal community."

That success begins with the matching process. Early in the fall semester, Davis carefully assesses what students say they are looking for before pairing them with a practicing attorney or judge.

The pairings illustrate the range of opportunities available to graduates and the impact the Law School has on Portland and the region. Young alumni welcome the opportunity to stay connected and to invest part of their time, energy, and hard-won knowledge in the upcoming generation of attorneys. More seasoned lawyers and jurists often find the experience keeps them energized in their work, while the enthusiasm and dedication of students remind them why they went to law school in the first place.

"The mentoring program fits very well with who we are as a school," says Davis. "The culture here values relationships and seeks to be mutually supportive. It's incredibly powerful and reassuring for a

law student to be mentored by a successful attorney and learn that the mentor also experienced doubt, anxiety, and apprehension in law school. Relationships broaden perspectives for all participants."



Adina Flynn '96  
Alumni Board  
of Directors and  
Scholarship Com-  
mittee, 2006-07

Adina Flynn has a deep-rooted appreciation for the power of extended connections. The great-granddaughter of one of the state's first wheat farmers, she inherited a strong sense of place and ethic of service. So being a mentor has never really been optional for her. It comes with the territory.

And besides, Libby asked. "You can't say no to Libby," Flynn says. "She helps you understand—gently—that, as an alum, being a mentor is part of your give-back."

Flynn was eager to give back. She benefited greatly from the mentoring she received as a law student, and from the encouragement of friends and colleagues as she was establishing her financial planning practice.

"You can't achieve success and happiness on your own. Law school students

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# Letter From the Dean



Dear Alumni, Colleagues, and Friends:

There is a buzz around the Law School that is real and palpable. In part, it reflects a series of important honors bestowed upon the school, its faculty, and students. In part, it reflects a steady stream of programs, conferences, symposia, and other gatherings of top scholars, public officials, jurists, and lawyers to discuss cutting-edge issues. In this small space, I can do no more than touch upon some of the highlights. But even these few examples will make clear that this is a uniquely exciting time for the Law School.

## Honors and Achievements

Three of our professors—Bill Funk, Jennifer Johnson, and Craig Johnston—have been elected to membership in the American Law Institute, the nation's most prestigious legal organization.

Lydia Loren has been named DePaul University Law School's 2008 Distinguished Intellectual Property Scholar. She will visit in February.

Lisa LeSage received an Oregon State Bar President's Public Services Award this year. She was recognized for her hard work and dedication as chair of the Oregon Law Foundation Board.

*Sierra*, the magazine of the Sierra Club, recently identified the 10 "coolest schools," based on what colleges and students are doing to address climate change. Lewis & Clark Law School topped the list of law schools to attend to become an environmental attorney.

Lewis & Clark Law School's team won the ABA Regional Negotiation Competition and is heading to Los Angeles in February to participate in the national competition.

Lewis & Clark Law Podcasts rank the top all-time "most popular Blawgcast" (legal podcast), as determined by Justia's Blawgs.fm. (Blawgs.fm is the leading legal podcast and videocast search engine and directory.)

In January 2007, the *National Jurist* magazine profiled the Law School's Pacific Environmental Advocacy Center, identifying it as one of the three most winning law clinics in the country. The article highlighted many of PEAC's recent legal victories.

## Programs

The Student Animal Defense Fund and the National Center for Animal Law hosted the 15th annual Animal Law Conference, Building Bridges: Strengthening the Animal Advocacy Movement, in September. This year's conference focused

on the impact of global warming, securing damages for the abuse or loss of pets, dog fighting, and factory farms.

In cooperation with the Federal Judicial Center, the Law School hosted 50 federal judges September 19 to 21 for a seminar on key federal environmental and natural resources laws. Professors Craig Johnston, Bill Funk, Mike Blumm, Janet Neuman, Dan Rohlff, and Susan Mandiberg, and Associate Dean Janice Weis each taught segments of the seminar, which covered an array of environmental law topics.

In October, we cosponsored an exciting symposium focusing on the legal and policy aspects of wave energy. FERC Commissioner Phil Moeller provided the keynote address. Thomas Jensen '83 of Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal and Jack Sterne '94 of Rising Tide Strategies joined U.S. representatives Earl Blumenauer B.A. '70, J.D. '76, Darlene Hooley, and Greg Walden, as well as Governor Kulonogski's deputy chief of staff Allen Alley, in speaking before a packed house of energy lawyers from all over the country, government officials, environmental group leaders, and law students.

Also in October, the Business Law Program held its 13th annual Fall Business Law Forum, Nonobviousness, the Shape of Things to Come. Organized by professors Joe Miller and Geoff Manne and sponsored by Microsoft, the conference featured two days of an unprecedented interdisciplinary look at patent law's nonobviousness doctrine, a timely topic in light of the Supreme Court's recent

decision in *KSR v. Teleflex*, the most significant nonobviousness decision since 1966. Nationally prominent academics in the fields of patent law, psychology, and economics, as well as research and development managers, participated in the program.

On October 5 and 6, the Law School hosted the third annual Family Business Institute with Holland & Knight. The two-day conference on business succession issues was attended by over 20 members of family businesses from throughout the Northwest.

On October 8, our 2007 Distinguished Environmental Law Visitor, Professor Lisa Heinzerling of Georgetown Law School, gave an instructive lecture to another packed house concerning her experiences as petitioner's attorney in the 2007 Supreme Court case of *Massachusetts v. EPA*.

On October 19, the third annual Directors Institute, sponsored by the Law School, Portland State School of Business Administration, and Perkins Coie, drew 70 corporate leaders from around the Pacific Northwest.

In sum, the Law School is a very vibrant place. I hope you will join us for the many events planned for the future. Check our website often for updates on upcoming programs.

Sincerely,

Bob Klonoff  
Dean and Professor of Law

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## Correction

In the fall 2007 issue of the *Advocate*, we misidentified the dates of the gifts listed in the Lewis & Clark Law School Honor Roll of Donors 2006-07. The date range on page 3 of the Honor Roll should have been June 1, 2006, to May 31, 2007. We regret the error.

## Mentoring

*Continued from page 1.*

struggle with having to make many adjustments. Some swim upstream, some swim with the current. The mentor shows them where the current is."

Flynn's colleagues and associates who graduated from other law schools generally describe their mentor programs as loosely organized. In contrast, she says, "Libby invests a lot of time and thought in structuring opportunities for mentors and mentees to come together. She constantly checks with and coaches participants on both sides. And she's always eager to hear suggestions on how to improve things."

Those actions express the program's core principles, says Flynn. "When your behavior and actions are in accordance with your values, everything falls into place. The real impact of the mentor program is long-term. It establishes connections and builds relationships."



Jessie Gnananathan '02

She's in a desk chair but Jessie Gnananathan isn't really sitting down as she talks. She's leaning forward, perched on the edge of her seat, fully engaged. This must be standard, you think. It's hard to imagine she does anything halfway.

Gnananathan graduated from Willamette University in three years with majors in both mathematics and political science, and then worked as an actuary for a year before entering the Law School.

After receiving her J.D. from Lewis & Clark, she earned a certificate in international law from Oxford University. Calling the program "intense," she smiles at the memory.

She smiles even more when she starts talking about the Law School's mentoring program. Her student experience with Adina Flynn as her mentor was so gratifying that she eagerly takes that role now.

"As a student, I was amazed at the wealth of information, knowledge, and contacts Adina made available. I was comfortable asking silly questions, because I knew she would give me the real scoop. She was a human connection to the law.

"As a mentor, I'm a resource. I've found greater joy in sharing knowledge than in acquiring it. Mentoring teaches you how much you've learned and revives the passion you experienced as a student. It also gives you the opportunity to step back and reflect on your profession. As an attorney your day is driven by trying to answer how, what, when, and where. Being a mentor makes you stop and think about the whys—it lets you be a student again, and that makes you a better practitioner."



Matt Kress '08

"I came to law school so I would have more time to spend with my family."

That's not something you hear very often, but then not too many students begin their studies after life as a corporate road warrior, traveling from Portland to Detroit and Miami five or six days a week. That's what Matt Kress did, and while law school is hardly a day at the beach, he enjoys the shorter commute.

Kress arrived at Lewis & Clark with some 15 years of professional experience with Ford Motor Company and Consolidated Freightways, and—most importantly—accompanied by his wife and their young daughter, who is now "4 going on 14." All that perspective helped focus his decision to pursue business law.

The mentoring program sharpened his focus even more. He was mentored by both Jessie Gnananathan '02 and John O'Neill '01 of the O'Neill Law Firm, which specializes in estate planning, probates, and small business transactions.

"John and Jessie really engaged and involved me in the issues they face and how they function," says Kress. "I got an insider's view of the way they think and work, which is exactly what I wanted. I was also able to draw on and apply much of what I learned as a first-year student. It makes a difference when you see theories and information you were taught actually being put into practice."

Observing and experiencing the scope of their practice also reinforced his decision to focus on the business transaction side of law rather than the litigation side. The opportunity to gain that kind of critical insight before graduating is one of the reasons Kress encourages other students to take an active role in the mentoring program. ■

## Mentor Reception



### Mentor Lunch

In November, mentors and students socialized during an informal lunch in the Law School student lounge.

*Clockwise from top left: David Martin '10, Dan Eller '04, Jackson Howa '10, Trung Tu '00, Bonita Tovey '10, Allison Brennan '98, Corina Turner '10.*

In September, mentors and students met for the first time during the mentor program's annual kick-off reception, held at the Law School.

*Top: Mary Sell '10, Amanda Villa '06, Erin Kollar '06, and Emily Elison '10.*

*Middle left: Jackson Howa '10, Bonita Tovey '10, and Monica Colvig '05.*

*Middle right: Ken Mitchell-Phillips '06, Andrew Wiener '10, Layne McWilliams '06, and Alvin Morgan '10.*

*Bottom right: Christina Schuck '10, Christine Berger '04, and Karen Moore '03.*

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