



From the Director's Desk



We're now mid-way through the Spring semester, and it's been a great one! We've finally settled into our new space, unpacked our boxes, hung up our pictures (thanks to our client, Plywerk!), and are feeling right at home. We had a terrific Open House, with Mayor Sam Adams giving the keynote address, and are busier than ever—helping more clients in both our Intern

Program and our Pro Bono Project than ever before. Some highlights of this newsletter include the arrival of Meghan Williams as our new (volunteer!) Pro Bono Coordinator, several client spotlights, and an update of things to come. Happy reading!

— Maggie Finnerty

Executive Director and Clinical Law Professor

SBLC Open House

The SBLC hosted an open house on February 11, 2010, to celebrate its new and recently renovated office space and another year of service. Portland's Mayor Sam Adams discussed how critical small businesses are for Portland's economic health and thanked the SBLC for its efforts and accomplishments in helping to grow Portland's small businesses. We presented Vanessa Lee, of Tonkon Torp LLP, with a Certificate of Appreciation for her three months of volunteer service. We also presented Mary Hull, of Stoel Rives LLP, with the Outstanding Pro Bono Service Award for 2009-2010. A reception followed the program. At the conclusion of the party, all the beer and wine were gone—we consider that a sign of a successful open house!



Portland Mayor Sam Adams speaks at the SBLC Open House on Feb. 11.

CLIENT SPOTLIGHTS

MindEase Billing, LLC

MindEase Billing, LLC, owned and operated by Marsha Hansen and Lisa Riehl, provides billing & practice management services to private practice mental health professionals. By taking "that whole insurance thing" off the client's plate, the practitioner can focus on providing care for their clients with peace of mind.



Marsha Hansen and Lisa Riehl

MindEase Billing, LLC was a client in our intern program last fall. Working closely with Executive Director and Clinical Law Professor Maggie Finnerty, the SBLC interns assisted MindEase Billing with several key business documents. The interns drafted an operating agreement, a client contract, a service provider agreement, and researched the new "red flags rule." "The SBLC provided us with a process and product that we have been pleased with. Our new client contract was streamlined and to our delight is still user friendly," says Marsha. This opportunity proved to be a great learning experience for our interns and provided valuable information to Marsha and Lisa about the regulations that may affect their business. For more information about the quality billing services Marsha and Lisa provide, please contact them at billing.mindease@gmail.com.

Molly's Adopt A Sailor

Molly's Adopt A Sailor is a broad-based, collaborative and community initiative to support deployed United States Military personnel by way of cards, letters, and care packages filled with love, support, and necessities from home. Molly started the project shortly after her son joined the Navy in March 2008. He told Molly that some sailors never received a single letter during boot camp. This made Molly wonder about all the troops deployed in war zones and around the world that never received anything from home. Deciding to do something about it, Molly asked five Navy moms to help her send letters to deployed troops. Each month Molly's Adopt A Sailor adopts a different group of soldiers—they haven't missed a month since the project started in June 2008!



Soldiers receive mail from Molly's Adopt A Sailor

Two attorneys from Stoel Rives assisted Molly's Adopt A Sailor through the SBLC's Pro Bono Project last summer. "When I met with the attorneys, everyone was so friendly and so helpful. One attorney even asked if I would give her ideas to send her friend stationed away from home." The pro bono attorneys assisted with entity selection and formation, ultimately registering the business as a non-profit. As of January 2010, Molly's Adopt A Sailor is an Oregon non-profit, registered with department of justice charities. In February 2010, Molly's Adopt A Sailor applied for 501(c)(3) status with the IRS and for foreign registration in Florida, Washington, California, Illinois, and Arizona. To learn more about Molly's Adopt A Sailor and what you can do to help, please visit their website: www.mollysadoptasailor.com.

SBLC Welcomes Meghan Williams



We are excited to welcome Meghan Williams as our Pro Bono Coordinator. Meghan joins us from Boston, where she attended Suffolk University Law School. After graduating in 2007, Meghan joined Ropes & Gray LLP's Boston office as a corporate associate. Ropes & Gray recently implemented an alternatives program, which allows qualified associates to work at a non-profit organization for one year. After discussing the program with current participants, Ropes & Gray partners, and her husband, Meghan decided this program was an opportunity not to be missed. During her search for a placement, Meghan came across the SBLC. After reading about the SBLC and speaking with Maggie Finnerty, Meghan decided she would like to spend her year here. Over the next year, Meghan will spend the majority of her time working to expand the SBLC's Pro

Bono Project, so small business owners throughout Oregon can receive much needed assistance. She will also assist in fundraising. Meghan is not only excited about the work she will be doing, she is also excited about exploring Oregon. Meghan has been here for 2 months, and she is already doing a terrific job!

SBLC BY THE NUMBERS

Since opening our doors more than three years ago, we:

- Assisted over 350 small businesses on over 770 separate legal matters
 - Educated 74 legal interns
- Engaged over 175 attorneys in our Pro Bono Project

SBLC CLIENTS: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Recently, the SBLC embarked on a survey of former clients.

With about 60% of former clients reporting, the results are very positive!

- About 83% of businesses are still in operation 1 to 2 years after receiving help from the SBLC.
 - These businesses created or retained over 230 jobs in the Portland-Metro community.

Former Client Recognized by Portland Business Journal

Former SBLC client KJ Lewis, co-founder of [Global Sistergoods](#), an online market for fair trade jewelry, handbags, accessories, and other products made by women in developing countries, was awarded one of the Portland Business Journal's prestigious Forty Under 40 Awards in February 2010. Congratulations, KJ!



ON A PERSONAL NOTE

Maggie

Over the holiday break, Maggie spent a week on the East Coast visiting family and friends. She has spent most of her weekends telemark skiing on Mount Hood, and is currently training for a triathlon in June.

Becka

Becka returned from maternity leave in January, and boy, is it great to have her back! She has been enjoying the beautiful spring weather by playing tennis, planting her garden, and exploring nature with her boys.

Scott

Scott and his family have been spending the last few months getting settled in their new home in Sellwood. He is becoming a true Northwesterner—he recently joined the Mazamas and took his kids skiing for the first time!

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