



LLCL@Large: Legal News and Notes

How to Find an Attorney in Oregon

Chances are if you are currently facing a legal issue, you have never explored the various issues involved in finding an attorney or hiring and working with one in this state. However, the Oregon State Bar maintains a page on hiring a lawyer on their web page, which can be found here. Included here is information on their Lawyer Referral Service and also on their modest means program (you need to provide them with income information to qualify). Another great source is this guide from the Washington County Law Library, How to find a Lawyer in Oregon—in 6 Easy Steps.

New FMLA Regulations Covering Military Families

The U.S. Department of Labor recently released final regulations implementing the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 ("FMLA"), the law that provides eligible employees who work for covered employers the right to take job-protected, unpaid leave for absences, including births, adoption or foster care, or to care for a son, daughter, spouse, or parent with a serious health condition. The new regulations also address new military family leave entitlements enacted as part of the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2008, which provides additional job-protected leave rights to eligible employees of covered employers who provide care for covered service members with a serious injury or illness .

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"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." —Martin Luther King, Jr. (Letter from Birmingham jail, Apr. 1963)

Check out legal research links at the Oregon Council of County Law Libraries (OCCLL) web page here!

Newsletter Highlights

All the News that's Fit to Blog:

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HUD Releases Rules on Disclosure for Mortgages—Good Faith Estimates



On December 10th, the Lane County Law Library will be presenting a CLE program on Legal Research on the Internet: Blogs, Wikis, etc. Call Linda Falken at 682-4113 for details.

HUD has recently issued new regulations on what are required disclosures for mortgages; these new rules under RESPA (Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act) are aimed at improving disclosure of key loan terms and closing costs that consumers pay when they buy or refinance a home. Starting in 2010, there will be revised copies of the HUD-1 Settlement Statement, as well as a standardized Good Faith Estimate form required for all real estate transactions (click here to go to the HUD press release of 11/12/08).

An example of this GFE (good faith estimate) form can be found on the HUD website, as well as links to other pages providing consumers with more information about foreclosures and buying a home. (Click here for more information on foreclosure relief and new procedures for restructuring particular mortgages.) The text of these new rules were published in the Federal Register on November 17, 2008. (Click here for text.)

To remove your name from our mailing list, please [click here](#).

Questions or comments? E-mail us at LCLAWLIB@co.lane.or.us or call 541-682-4113



The Oregon State Bar Association has just released **2008 updates** to the **Oregon Civil Jury Instructions**. This service is a basic tool for most litigators in Oregon, as it provides standardized language for crafting jury instructions on multiple legal issues, such as landlord tenant, contracts, etc. The Lane County Law Library keeps this material in our reserve collection behind the front desk; it is also available online on BarBooks.

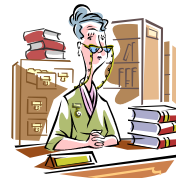
To Pro Se or Not Pro Se?

Blacks Law Dictionary (click here for legal dictionaries online) defines “Pro Se” (also known as “pro per”) as someone who represents himself (or herself) in a court proceeding without an attorney. Increasingly the number of people who decide to represent themselves has been growing (click here for article on this.) In fact, many courts, as well as public advocacy groups and bar associations are currently working to provide more information and resources for self-represented litigants (i.e., pro se). And while there are both pro and con arguments as to whether it is advisable to do your own legal work, it seems to be an unavoidable fact for most judicial systems that more people are choosing this option.

There are a number of web sites which provide materials and information for individuals doing their own legal work (although many who undertake this are often unprepared for the amount of time and effort involved in following court procedures and doing their own legal research). Someone considering handling their own court proceeding may want to look at the Civil Trial Brochure produced by the Oregon Judicial Conference (click here to view). **cont. p. 3**

RESEARCH HINT: Interested in finding publicly available information about a person? One search engine that is recommended is: www.pipl.com—which will search under a person’s first and last name, if you provide a current (or past) location, such as “Eugene, OR”. After checking this one out, I have found that it seems to uncover web-based information public records that other search engines don’t. But common names (i.e., Don Smith) still provide a number of false hits; plus it does not search the “deep web” for property records, tax records, or criminal records that require specific searching engines.

My Corner of the Universe

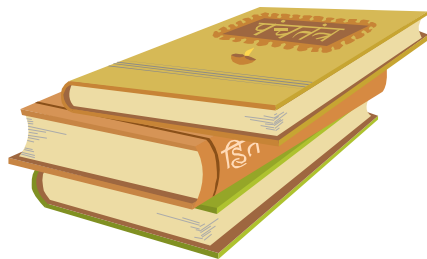


I always sense when a year is drawing to a close with holidays just around the corner. But this feeling about seasonal changes has nothing to do with the chill in the air, morning fogs, nor Volkswagen-sized piles of leaves accumulating in Eugene’s streets awaiting city disposal crews. No, this sense about the seasons is brought about by the first appearance of never-changing TV commercials for Chia Pets and other devices which turn appliances on and off by clapping one’s hands. Anyone who has watched television in December anytime in the last three decades should know what a Chia pet is. It seems that technological devices proliferate everywhere else, but this particular gift idea never seems to die. The only thing which has changed is that you can now buy them year round on the Internet! Happy Holidays! - *Linda Falken*



OSB's E-Resources Page

The Oregon State Bar provides a page of links to online legal resources for attorneys' use. This can be found here: <http://www.osbar.org/resources/eresources.html>. This site includes links to primary source materials in Oregon, as well as links to judicial statistics and law library values (Reference materials). Check it out.



Pro se (continued from p. 2) In addition, the Oregon Judicial Department (OJD) also provides a web page with links to this document and others that offers legal information (NOT legal advice) for individuals who are interested in representing themselves in Oregon courts.

There are also other self-help sites not specific to Oregon. Some of these are at the National Center for State Courts, or an advocacy group called HALT. In addition, the American Judicature Society provides a useful page of links ([click here](#)).

The bottom line is that anyone deciding to pursue an action "pro se" should be prepared to contribute a lot of time and effort; they need to understand court procedures, and take the time to understand legal concepts. Otherwise, they should look for an attorney to help them!

New Acquisitions in the Lane County Law Library as of 11/30/08

Developing Labor Law, 5th ed., 2008 supplement (ABA/BNA Books, c 2006)

Dispute Resolution from the Experts (OSB, September 2008) AT-280

Elder Law 2008: Advancing the Plan (OSB, October 2008) AT-278

Federal Appellate Practice, Ninth Circuit, 2d ed, by Cole. (Thomson-West, c1999, with 2008 supp.)

Juvenile Law Academy [cd-roms with program materials] (OCDLA, 2007) - on order, available 12/15

How Arbitration Works, 6th ed., by Elkouri, 2008 supplement (ABA/BNA Books c 2003)

Veterans law: Representing Former Service Members and their Disability Claims (OSB, March 2006) AT-274

[Click here](#) to check our online catalog for other items.

