



APRIL 2020



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As attorneys, we are often the ones to help our clients through very difficult situations and help to guide them through the unfamiliar territory of the legal system. With the current Covid-19 pandemic, we find ourselves in unfamiliar territory.

As I write this, we are still living under Governor Brown's Executive Order 20-12 or the "stay-at-home" order issued on March 23, 2020. As I read the order, it does not appear to apply to law offices except to the extent that the business "...shall facilitate telework and work-at-home by employees, to the maximum extent possible[.]" and must enforce social distancing policies. What does that mean? We will all need to decide for ourselves. In my office, we will have our staff work from home as much as possible. We are limiting in person visits and will conduct all client conferences via phone, email, online, etc. However, we intend to continue working, as for many of our matters, I believe it would be unethical not to do so.

The Washington County Bar Association (WBCA) has canceled all events through April. We are leaving the summer social in June on for now, but that may be cancelled as well. That would be unfortunate as we have invited both the Court of Appeals and the Oregon Supreme Court to join us.

Please like us on [Facebook](#) because we are posting information regarding the court and other news of interest to attorneys in Washington County. If you have something you think would be appropriate to post, please email to admin@wcbabar.org.

The WBCA board will continue to meet and to put out our newsletter. We are also exploring options to do a CLE via an online platform if the crisis lasts through the summer.

Remember, our clients are looking to us to help them in their time of need, and right now, they need us more than ever. Also, please be kind and patient with the court staff. They are doing the best they can. As always, if you have a comment or item for our newsletter, please email to me at matthew@mckeanknapp.com. Stay safe (and distant) out there.

Matthew C. McKean
WCBA president

COMING EVENTS

- Apr 8 - Canceled
- May 13 - CLE: TBA
- Jun 10 - Summer Social

WCBA CONTACTS

President:	Matthew McKean
President-elect:	Ralph Gzik
Secretary:	Jennifer Peckham
Treasurer:	Ben Evans
Directors:	Tyler Beach Gabe Biello Laura Burgee Bryce Kaufman Mindy Stannard Adam Thayne Vacant Vacant
Website:	www.wcbabar.org
Emails:	admin@wcbabar.org newsletter@wcbabar.org



CIRCUIT COURT UPDATE

Please check the [Oregon Courts' website](#) or [Oregon State Bar](#) for most recent information.

On March 27, 2020 Oregon Chief Justice Martha L. Walters amended [Chief Justice Order 20-006](#) limiting court operations and services until further notice. This extended her original March 16 order, consistent with Governor Kate Brown's subsequent [executive order 20-12](#), "Stay Home, Save Lives."

For implementation at the local level, Washington County Presiding Judge Beth Roberts issued Presiding Judge Orders 281, 282, and an new order on March 30. Check the [Washington County Circuit Court site](#) for current information.



BEAVERTON MUNICIPAL COURT UPDATE

Due to the nature of the developing public health emergency, the Beaverton Municipal Court is currently closed to any in-person transactions. **This includes the public windows and open court sessions. At this time, do not come to the Courthouse.**

- Criminal Cases: The court will be **rescheduling all currently scheduled hearings to a future date**. The court will be sending notices to defendants and attorneys as needed.
- Violation Cases: The court has **extended its phone hours and has temporarily changed policies to allow traffic violation cases to be handled via telephone** rather than in-person. This includes signing up for traffic school, entering a plea and making a payment.
- All Court Deadlines have been extended 60 days – You do not need to request a deadline, the court will automatically extend the deadlines. This includes deadlines for payments, traffic school class, community service and other probation requirements.
- **Court payments can be made online at www.BeavertonOregon.gov/Court or via phone.**
- Check the [court's website](#) for updates. Phone and video hearing procedures are being developed and may be available in April.
- Court hours are temporarily being reduced to the following:

Monday – Thursday 8:00 AM – 12:00 Noon (Closed Friday, Saturday, Sunday)

Court Phone: (503) 526-2290

CONCILIATION SERVICES SUSPENDS COUNSELING; OFFERS MEDIATION BY CONFERENCE CALL

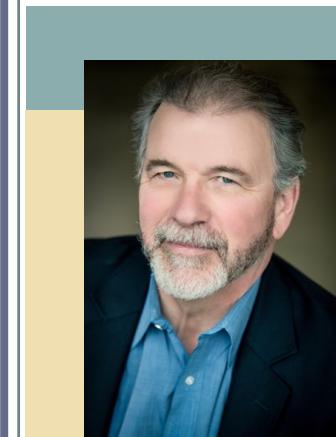
Conciliation Services has discontinued all face-to-face services until further notice. This means that for now counseling and New Ways for Families have been suspended. We are providing all mediation services via conference call to protect confidentiality. Orientation will be conducted via Skype. Clients will have the choice of downloading the Skype app or calling in if that is their preference. A copy of the power point and a link to the judges video will also be provided.

Please understand this is new to us and we are often working out the kinks as we go.



Mediation & Arbitration Services

John S. Knowles



503.430.8197

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State of Oregon

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20 Years AV Preeminent Peer Review Rating

Reasonable Rates

CYBERSECURITY CONCERNS RELATED TO COVID-19

Covid-19 has created a new opening for fraud, phishing, and other malicious schemes. Fortunately there are a number of resources to help avoid or report nefarious activity.

The Oregon Department of Justice has [Security Tips for Telecommuters During the COVID-19 Outbreak](#). Tips include using passwords on all devices and apps and securing your home network.

The U.S. Department of Justice has a [Covid-19 Fraud](#) page where you can report fraud and find legitimate resources for Covid-19.

The Federal Trade Commission has information on [Coronavirus Scams](#), and recommends you hang up on robocalls and make sure you know who you're doing business with. Also don't click on links or open documents from sources you don't know, and even then, verify with contact information you have if anything is unexpected or suspicious.

The Federal Communications Commission offers [COVID-19 Consumer Warnings and Safety Tips](#). The FCC reminds people not to share personal or financial information over the phone, by text, or by email. Also, if the government issues any checks related to Covid-19, they will not call or text you to verify personal information.

WASHINGTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION SEEKS NEW DIRECTORS

Do you want to help improve the local bar? Do you want your voice to be heard? Do you know someone else who should be a leader in the legal community?

The Washington County Bar Association has two openings on its board of directors. These vacancies will be filled by an election at the Summer Social on June 10.

You may nominate yourself, or another. Please send the nominee's name, brief history, and why you/they should be on the board to admin@wcbabar.org. Nominations can also be made on the floor prior to the vote.



LAURA L. SCHANTZ

Offering divorce and family law mediation services to Washington county's family law attorneys.

Laura has 25 years of experience creatively settling family law cases and knows what trial outcomes are likely to be.

Consider hiring Laura Schantz to mediate and help resolve your family law case.

P: (503)466-9626
Email: Laura@schantzfamilylaw.com

LEGAL RESEARCH IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

Washington County Law Library

As we socially distance ourselves and physical spaces are increasingly closed, it is important to revisit online legal research options.

General Legal Resources

[Fastcase](#) is available to all members of the Oregon State Bar. It doesn't have all the bells and whistles of the big databases, but it has statutes and case law, and citation analytics. They have also added secondary sources although you may need to pay separately for full access.

Casetext has announced [free access for attorneys](#) during the Covid-19 outbreak.

The [State of Oregon Law Library](#) currently offers remote service, and online access to [Fastcase](#) for non-OSB members, and to [Nolo self-help legal books](#).

[Google Scholar](#) offers free access to case law and journals.

[HeinOnline](#)'s collection of legal journals, federal legislative material, and other resources, is available to anyone with a WCCLS library card (Washington County residents can sign up for an [online library card](#) if you don't already have one).

[LegalTrac](#) has law journals and newspapers, accessible with a WCCLS or Multnomah public library card.

The [Washington County Law Library](#) is still offering remote service, including document delivery from their print collection or Lexis and Westlaw, and an updated list of [general online resources](#) and [Oregon online resources](#).

[Other county law libraries](#) may also offer remote assistance.

Covid-19 Legal Resources

[Coronavirus Resource Guide](#) - Law Library of Congress.

[Covid-19 Updates page](#) - Oregon Health Authority, with links to executive orders and community resources.

For local orders see your local county or city government websites.

[Covid-19 Legal Response](#) - National Disaster Legal Aid Advocacy Center

[Major Consumer Protections re: Covid-19](#) - National Consumer Law Center; includes free access to [Surviving Debt](#) (2020).

[Pandemic Response](#) - National Center for State Courts

[Covid-19: Local Action Tracker](#) - National League of Cities.

[Legal Publishers Roll Out COVID-19 Resources, Toolkits, Alerts, Advice \(Some Even Free\)](#) - Above the Law; includes Bloomberg Law, Lexis Nexis, PLI, Westlaw, and others.

[Trending CLE: COVID-19 Collections](#) - American Bar Assoc.

Many news publishers, and some scholarly databases, are offering content related to Covid-19 at no charge.



Steven C.
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Washington County Circuit Court
20th District, Position 5

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RETIRING THOUGHTS

Senior Judge Kirsten Thompson

"So, how do you like being retired?" This is my most frequent question when bumping into court staff, attorneys, judges, and friends since my retirement at the end of January 2019. You can only visit with so many people, so here is a more generalized reply.

First, I like it very much. Being retired means that you do have time to do the things that you had to squeeze into the margins in previous years. You can sleep in if you like. Read more. See more movies. Travel. See your family and friends more. All the things you imagine doing more of when you are working, you have more time to do when you are retired. Some of my favorites have been spending more time with grandkids. Cooking more creatively. And, pursuing a dream to travel to Massachusetts to take a weeklong course on teaching yoga to seniors.

Second, though I am retired from my full-time duties as a judge, I am a senior judge which means a minimum of 35 days each year of pro tem service. So far, I have clocked about 50 days of pro tem service in a total of 6 counties. Each day of service is interesting, whether handling a routine docket that feels very familiar, or encountering a case type that is more novel. Despite the Uniform Trial Court Rules, and the ORS which applies to all, each jurisdiction in the state has a slightly different take on the "correct" way to handle the court's business. I have learned a good deal from my visits to courts outside of Washington County. I heartily recommend the practice of judge trades and attorney visits outside your usual court of practice. It challenges you to think differently about how to do things, and it makes you appreciate the good work that your home court has been doing all along.

Third, I've had the opportunity to work as a mediator on a limited number of family law cases. Before I became a judge, I served as a volunteer mediator for Washington County Circuit Court in the area of Small Claims and Landlord Tenant cases. I also had taken training in Family Law Mediation. Since I became a judge right after completing family law mediation training, I didn't have the opportunity to use mediation skills except as required in settlement or pre-trial conferences. Due to our busy docket, these types of case conferences could not be as in depth as a true mediation session. As a senior judge/mediator, I enjoy putting on my mediator hat to assist motivated parties and attorneys to settle their cases.

What else?? I've logged many more miles hiking and walking than in previous years. My husband and I spend lots of time exercising (or being exercised by) our beloved pup. I ride my horse a lot, and I've skied more this year than the total of the last three years. We've sold our house and moved to an apartment, and we're building a retirement/ vacation home in Idaho. It's actually been a pretty busy year.

Finally, I'd like to formally, if a bit belatedly, thank the WCBA for the good work it does for the Washington County legal community. This group provides consistent and steady support for the members of the bar, the court, and the community in Washington County. Thank you for your kindness to me over the years of my more active service, and at the time of my retirement. You are a great group. Keep up the good work!

LOCAL BAR UPDATES

We want to know what you are up to! Send announcements and changes, professional or personal, to newsletter@wcbabar.org.



Photo by unknown; courtesy of Judge Brandon Thompson.

CLASSIFIEDS

YOUR JOB HERE

The WCBA now offers job listings at no charge!

Please send your plain text job information to newsletter@wcbabar.org. Free postings must be 50 words or less and may be edited for length.

Classified Advertising Rates

50 or fewer words	\$20	51-100 words	\$40
101-150 words	\$60	151-200 words	\$80

Over 200 words, a quote will be provided upon request.

Classified ads must be prepaid.

Display Advertising Rates

Business card size (3.5" w x 2" h)	\$30
1/4 page (3.6" w x 4.75" h)	\$60
1/2 page (7.5" w x 4.75" h)	\$90

Purchaser is responsible for providing a properly sized image at the desired resolution.

Please submit your classified text or display ad in JPEG format to: newsletter@wcbabar.org.

Pay for your ad at: mkt.com/wcba

If your clients, their children, or anyone else you know is in recovery, the [Mental Health & Addiction Association of Oregon](#) has made this flyer available.

Another option is 4D Recovery's [Coronavirus page](#).

Washington County contacts for 4D Recovery include:

Tony Vezina
503-734-0474

Jessica Cardinal
971-506-1456

Yuri Sanchez
971-506-1560

Taylor Bertrand
503-781-4653

Alex Morrison
503-781-9057



WE'RE AVAILABLE FOR ANYONE TO CALL FOR PEER SUPPORT, NO MATTER WHAT!
MON-FRI, 9AM-5PM

1. REINA BOWER	971-337-4015
2. SADIE CAMPBELL	971-352-5501
3. JENNY MANZANARES	971-241-1404
4. DAVID BARRETT	971-352-5088
5. MONICA ALEXANDER	971-337-6716
6. BRENDA MITCHELL	971-337-6715
7. KIM KERKSTRA	971-347-4381
8. ROMAN BECERRA	971-930-9017
9. NICHOLE YOUNG	971-352-0582
10. TARA PRINCE	971-413-0264
11. AMBER LAKIN	971-930-9404
12. MOLLY GRIGGS	971-337-5506
13. BRYAN CORLEY	503-318-0842
14. MELINDA HICKS	971-347-4647
15. ADRIENNE BURROWS	971-806-6235
16. ELMER MORRIS	971-337-4336
17. JESSE MAXWELL	971-202-6337
18. MARIANNE O'NEILL-TUTOR	971-337-6624
19. RACHELLE HAZEN	971-352-5852
20. TRACI LUNDY	971-337-4327
21. LARAE MILLER	503-278-6983
22. KRISTINA TEASLEY	971-930-9014
23. RICK GERMAN	971-284-5289



MOVING ON UP JUDGE BRANDON THOMPSON TAKES THE BENCH

Jennifer Peckham

February 13, 2020, Governor Kate Brown appointed long-time Washington County Bar Association (WCBA) member, Brandon Thompson, to the bench. Because of the appointment, Judge Thompson has had to resign his position as a member of the WCBA Board of Directors. Judge Thompson was appointed to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Judge Danielle Hunsaker when she was appointed to take the federal bench.

Judge Thompson started his career in the Multnomah County DA's office, prosecuting misdemeanors as well as working in the Domestic Violence unit where he served as the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) prosecutor. He spent his last two years with the DA's office prosecuting juvenile delinquency and dependency cases. Judge Thompson subsequently worked in private practice as a contract public defender, as well as did retained criminal work, estate planning and some plaintiff's personal injury work. Starting in 2012, Judge Thompson provided insurance defense as in-house counsel for Farmer's Insurance, with the firm currently known as the Law Office of Julie D. Elkins.

Judge Thompson first realized he wanted to be a judge in 2000 when he interned as a certified law student in the U.S. Attorney's office, prosecuting violations and misdemeanors. Judge Thompson realized he belongs in the courtroom and was more interested in helping people by making decisions rather than by being an advocate. On the bench, Judge Thompson believes he can help people by ensuring that their voices are heard. Too often in his years as a litigator, Judge Thompson observed parties getting cut off by judges, for various reasons. When he became a *Pro Tem* judge in Washington County, Judge Thompson realized that when you let people have their say, it is more efficient and effective than arguing with them, or cutting them off, and litigants are often more satisfied with the outcome when they know they have been heard.

Judge Thompson has been assigned to take over the full-time juvenile court docket of Judge Erik Buchér, who has moved to the general trial rotation. In this role, Judge Thompson will hear juvenile delinquency and dependency cases and all of the juvenile appearances except trials for termination of parental rights. He joins Judge Rini and Judge Proctor on the juvenile court team.

Working with the public and trying to achieve the best outcomes for all parties is what Judge Thompson most looks forward to in his new role as a circuit court judge. He anticipates his biggest challenge will be relearning juvenile law, as it has been twelve years since he last practiced in

that area of law. So far, what Judge Thompson has enjoyed the most on the bench is encouraging youth and families who are following their plans and improving themselves to continue on their paths forward. He has already had the opportunity to dismiss both delinquency and dependency cases where the parties have completed their obligations.

Judge Thompson asks the attorneys who will appear in his courtroom to be prepared, do their best to be on time and keep the court apprised of their whereabouts if running late. He notes that juvenile practitioners are accustomed to hopping from one courtroom to another and are already great about following his expectations. Judge Thompson is flexible with parties and is willing to change the order of cases on his docket to accommodate parties' schedules, as needed.

There are many positives about being a judge in Washington County, according to Judge Thompson. The bench is comprised of hard-working judges who are willing to help each other. The bar is still relatively small and has always been collegial, which Judge Thompson appreciates, as well. Judge Thompson also recognizes some challenges faced by the Washington County Courthouse, such as ongoing lack of resources, fewer judges and staff than some counties of comparable or smaller size, and greater caseloads. There is also the need for improvement in the availability of technology in the courtrooms.

While acclimating to the Bench takes up much of Judge Thompson's time at the moment; in his spare time he enjoys going to his daughter's lacrosse and his son's soccer practices and games. He and his wife are working on juggling their busy schedules. Judge Thompson is a federally licensed locomotive engineer, and volunteers for the Oregon Coast Scenic Railroad. In that capacity, he operates steam locomotives built between 1910 and 1925.

Stay tuned for more information about Judge Thompson's investiture, which is temporarily on hold during the COVID-19 outbreak. An announcement of the date and time will be made in a future issue of the WCBA newsletter and by e-mail blast to all WCBA members.

Congratulations and welcome to the bench, Judge Thompson!

Judge Rebecca Guptill swears in
Judge Brandon Thompson

Photo by Richard Moellmer

