

OREGON

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON

In re: JOINT BENCH/BAR COMMISSION ON PROFESSIONALISM
No. 94-049 ORDER

This matter coming before the Court on application of the Oregon State Bar, and the Court finding that a comprehensive plan for fostering professionalism among lawyers is in the best interest of the bar, the judiciary, and the citizens of Oregon, and further finding that:

1. Education is the key to preserving and encouraging professional conduct;
2. Non-discrimination is an aspect of professionalism that warrants special emphasis;
3. The support and active involvement of the judiciary is essential to the promotion of professionalism and non-discrimination; and
4. To have any significant impact, the educational effort must be thorough, coordinated and ongoing.

Based on those findings, IT HEREBY IS ORDERED that a Joint Bench/Bar Commission on Professionalism shall be established as follows:

I. PURPOSE

To promote among lawyers and judges principles of professionalism, including civility and commitment to the elimination of discrimination within the judicial system to ensure that it equitably, effectively, and efficiently serves the people of Oregon.

II. MEMBERSHIP

A. Standing Members

The Commission shall include the following standing members:

1. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court or an Associate Justice designated by the Chief Justice;
2. The Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals or an Associate Judge designated by the Chief Judge;
3. The Chief Judge of the U. S. District Court for Oregon or a District Judge or Federal Magistrate designated by the Chief Judge; and

4. The President of the Oregon State Bar or a member of the Board of Governors designated by the President.

B. Appointed Members

1. The appointed members of the Commission shall be selected with regard to their reputations for professionalism; their past contributions to their communities, the bar, and the state; and to racial, ethnic, gender and geographic diversity.

2. The appointed members shall serve staggered three year terms.

3. The appointed members shall include the following:

a. A faculty member from one of the three Oregon law schools; and

b. Ten members, not less than one member from each region of the Oregon State Bar, distributed as follows:

(1) Four state or federal court judges;

(2) Four lawyers selected with regard to inclusion of representatives from the public sector, federal and state courts, and criminal and civil practitioners; and

(3) Two non-lawyers who have demonstrated an interest in the goals of the Commission.

4. The appointed judicial members and one lay member of the Commission shall be selected by the Chief Justice of the Oregon Supreme Court. The appointed lawyer and law school members and one lay member of the Commission shall be appointed by the President of the Oregon State Bar.

III. CHARGE OF THE COMMISSION

The Commission shall:

A. Periodically review and revise the Statement of Professionalism approved by the Supreme Court on January 23, 1991;

B. Promote educational opportunities for lawyers, judges, and the public;

C. Promote professional and non-discriminatory conduct among members of the bar through encouragement and training; and

D. Design and develop creative approaches to promotion of professionalism and equality, including possible implementation of programs to:

1. Prepare advisory opinions concerning professionalism issues;

2. Develop local bar groups to foster discussion of professionalism and equality;
3. Provide through its members a resource for lawyers, judges, and members of the public on professionalism issues.

IV. MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSION

A. The Commission shall meet four times per year to conduct its business in conjunction with public and bar educational activities. The Commission may choose to reduce the number of annual meetings held for educational purposes based on evaluation of needs and resources.

B. The Commission shall meet once annually in Oregon State Bar Region 1, once annually in Oregon State Bar Region 3, once annually in Oregon State Bar Regions 2, 4 or 6, and once annually in Oregon State Bar Region 5.

C. Commission members located in the Regions in which a meeting is held will be responsible for promoting the educational and informational portions of the meeting to members of the public, of the bar, and of the judiciary in the local area.

D. The Commission may choose to operate in local areas through non-member task forces appointed by the Commission to participate in Commission meetings in the local areas.

V. ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCING

A. The Commission shall have funds available to pay a portion of members' travel expenses and for secretarial and administrative assistance.

B. Expenses of the Commission will be paid by one or more of the following means:

1. Private donations;
2. Private or public endowment;
3. Project or special assistance grants;
4. In-kind contributions and assistance;
5. Fees and tuition charges for Professional CLE programs provided and sponsored by the Commission;
6. Special assessment on Ethics or other MCLE programs approved by the Bar; and
7. Other sources.

DATED this 15th day of September 1994.

Wallace P. Carson, Jr.
Chief Justice