



# The View from Here

by Cate Wollam

Well, the time has come, the Walrus said...and this is my last "View From Here." It has been an honor to serve as your President this past year, and the experience has enriched me. I hope I have given back to the OCDLA a small piece of what it has given me this past nearly 30 years.

Business-wise (it's all about the money), your Board of Directors was compelled to raise dues (a little), effective July 2010. Our costs have gone up, just as everyone's have, and we are increasing the presence of our legislative program in Salem. So, you will see a \$40 bump, but you also will receive more value for your membership dollars. Effective immediately, membership includes the *Legislative Analysis* PDF, a \$55 value. Many of us purchase this invaluable publication each legislative year. I know I refer to mine often, especially in the months between its arrival and the first of the year when so many of the new laws take effect. Our *Legislative Analysis* is released four or five months prior to the Criminal Code, so without my copy of the *Analysis* I could not properly advise my clients of the possible consequences they face. As time passes the *Legislative Analysis* becomes a great reference tool and a valuable source of legislative history. And by the time you read this, you will be able to access this benefit online at [ocdla.org](http://ocdla.org) as a free member download. Click on "Members Only," then "Legal Document Library," and look for the *Legislative Analysis* subject heading. Here you will find the 2009 edition and you will find that it is bookmarked and partially searchable. Soon, back editions will appear and future editions will be fully searchable. A wonderful new service for our members!

More money issues: The Board is dedicated to owning a "home" of our own. For the past 30 years we have been paying rent. Had we bought an office 30 years ago, it would be paid for by now and we could have applied that rent money to CLE enhancement, scholarship programs, new publications, to... well, you get it. So, here we are 30 years later and finally starting the process. John and staff have been scouring the area for something that would be suitable. We have a first donation

of \$10,000 from Chris and Suzanna Hansen and a firm commitment from Board members to donate. We will be fund-raising in the next few months to try to get the down payment and move-in costs paid up front. Chris Hansen is chair of the committee to raise the money. The amount we raise will tell us how much we can afford to spend on a building. You will hear more about that soon.

We have hired a new lobbyist, Jennifer Williamson, whom you will read more about in these pages. She replaces Mark Nelson, who gave us 27 years of hard work in Ways and Means—promoting and protecting our budget and helping educate us on the realities of the legislature. Nevertheless, the Board felt it was time for a change, so we said a sincere thanks and goodbye to Mark and hired Jennifer to help Gail Meyer with both the fiscal end and the substantive end. Last year, Gail had little time to do any real lobbying because she had to be in so many places at the same time. Next session, we have some serious issues of our own we wish to move—unanimous juries in felony cases, for one. Last year, we were able to secure mandatory taping of custodial interrogations. We hope to add to our successes by using Jennifer as a second substantive lobbyist and by building coalitions with folks who are our natural partners on our issues. Both Gail and Jennifer will work under direction of our Legislative Committee, and will advise the committee as to what we can realistically achieve in the session. I for one am so tired of 10-2 verdicts that if we get unanimous verdicts as the law of the land, I will be dancing in the streets!

And that is all the news that is fit to print. I hope to see you all at the Annual Conference in Bend. ♦

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