



Oregon State Bar

Programs and Services to Expand Legal Access

House and Senate Judiciary Committees
December 11, 2024



Growing the Legal Profession

SPPE

- Supervised Practice Portfolio Examination
- Law School Graduate commits to a period of supervised, entry-level practice, culminating in a portfolio examination.
- Program is already in use for 2024 law school graduates.

Licensed Paralegals

- In early 2024 the bar licensed its first paralegals to offer limited scope legal services in Oregon.
- LPs may be licensed to offer legal services in family law and/or landlord tenant law.



Growing the Legal Profession

New Comity Rule

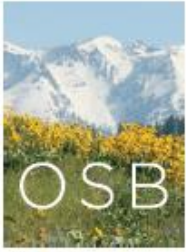
- Most states have a “Reciprocity Rule”, that allows lawyers from another state to apply for admission without retaking the bar exam.
- The OSB has recently switched to a Comity Rule, that allows lawyers from other states to join the bar, even if their state does not offer reciprocal admission to Oregon licensees.

Streamlined Reinstatement

- The bar has taken steps to streamline the reinstatement process for lawyers who have left the practice and wish to resume their legal career.

OEPE

- Oregon Experiential Practice Examination
- The OEPE will be another new licensure pathway that will be available to new Oregon law school graduates.
- The OSB is working with law schools on developing curriculum and requirements for this new program.



New Online Legal Services

Free Legal Answers

Oregon.freelegalanswers.org

- Focused on discrete legal questions.
- Qualifying users post civil legal questions, to be answered by licensed Oregon attorneys at no cost.
- Available to Oregonians up to 250% of the federal poverty guidelines.

Oregon Law Help

Oregonlawhelp.org

- Interactive web portal (Portal Project).
- Joint project of OSB, OJD, and legal aid providers.
- Users answer online questions, and the portal guides them to personalized information and referrals related to their legal questions or problems.



Protecting Legal Consumers

Professional Liability Fund

The PLF offers legal malpractice coverage for all Oregon attorneys. Oregon requires PLF coverage unless the attorney is exempt. Licensed Paralegals are also covered by the PLF. To date there have been no claims filed against LPs in Oregon.

Client Security Fund

The OSB Client Security Fund was created by the bar in 1967. The purpose of the fund is to reimburse clients who lose money or property as a result of dishonest conduct by their lawyer. OSB licensees pay an assessment each year to the fund each year.

Lawyer Referral Service

The OSB Lawyer Referral Service assists Oregonians who need help finding an attorney. In 2023, the LRS fielded 125,000 calls from Oregonians and helped 59,272 receive legal assistance.



Questions?

If you or your constituents have questions about the services the Oregon State Bar provides, please contact Dominique Rossi at drossi@osbar.org.

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