



As we share the second volume of OMLA Connect, this quarter offers an opportunity to reflect on how OMLA’s work — and this publication — continue to grow. For many years, OMLA has been a consistent presence in Oregon’s legal community, creating space for connection, belonging, and mutual support. OMLA Connect is one way we extend that work, both within and beyond the legal profession.

OMLA Connect is intended to be a space where timely and relevant information is shared through a community-centered lens — one that considers law alongside leadership, lived experience, and the communities which the law affects. As this publication develops, we aim to offer context and perspective that complement existing legal publications, while remaining grounded in relationships and attentive to how our collective legal work connects across professional, business, and civic spaces.

In a profession shaped by ongoing change, community remains essential. OMLA continues to be a place where people can show up — through mentorship, participation,

and collaboration with affinity bar partners.

OMLA values continued coordination and support across Oregon’s diverse affinity bars and community partners, supporting attorneys and future professionals from a wide range of underrepresented and marginalized communities. OMLA exists to serve, and that service is shaped collectively.

We invite you to stay engaged, look to OMLA Connect as a growing resource, and contribute in ways that feel meaningful. Together, through partnership and shared effort, we continue building a more connected and inclusive legal ecosystem.

UPCOMING EVENTS



▶ OMLA’s Going Clamming

Saturday, April 18, 2026

While registration for this event is now closed, we’re grateful for the strong interest and look forward to sharing highlights!

▶ Save the Date!

President’s Luncheon

Wednesday, May 27, 2026
Stay tuned for details.

▶ Save the Date!

OMLA Summer Social and Fundraiser

Thursday, August 6, 2026
Stay tuned for details.

[VIEW OMLA CALENDAR](#)

WELCOMING OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Join us in welcoming our new board members — we’re excited for the energy, insight, and leadership they bring to OMLA’s mission and community!



Sun Kim, a first-generation Korean American and 2024 Lewis & Clark Law School graduate, practices construction law and business and commercial litigation.

[Read more >](#)



Anthony Chavez, a Texas State University and University of Oregon School of Law graduate, handles criminal defense, restraining orders, and victim representation.

[Read more >](#)



A RECORD-BREAKING NIGHT OF CONNECTION AT OMLA'S ANNUAL MEETING

OMLA's January Annual Meeting and Member Recognition Reception was our most well-attended annual meeting to date, bringing together more than 60 attorneys and community members for an evening of connection and celebration.

We proudly celebrated the achievements of OMLA members in 2025, honoring the leadership, service, and excellence that continue to shape our community — and reaffirming our commitment to lifting as we climb.

Special thanks to our board member Sujata Patel for her vision and leadership in organizing such a meaningful event, and to Stoel Rives for their generous sponsorship and warm hospitality in making the evening such a success.



[See more event photos on our website!](#)



EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION OF LAWYERS



OMLA board members **Fernanda Douglas**, deputy district attorney at the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office, and **Gilbert Cotto-Lazo**, attorney at Littler Mendelson, participated in a panel discussion on "Navigating the Legal Field as a Minority," hosted by the **University of Oregon** Student Bar Association.



OMLA SHARES DIVERSE LEGAL JOURNEYS

OMLA hosted a spring event at **Willamette University** College of Law to share experiences as diverse attorneys. The panel offered students perspectives on navigating the legal profession and building community. Special thank you to **Daniel Santos**, associate dean emeritus; **Monica Pacheco**, partner at Douglas Conroyd Gibb & Pacheco; and **Fernanda Douglas** for serving as panelists.



HONORING TRANSITIONING BOARD MEMBERS

We want to thank **Iván Resendiz Gutierrez**, partner at Miller Nash LLP; **Justine Bonner**, assistant federal public defender for the District of Oregon; and **Samantha Copeland**, partner at Law Office of Samantha Copeland, for years of dedicated service to OMLA. Through their leadership, our events — including the Auction and many others — have been successful and memorable. They've created spaces for connection, collaboration, and community within the legal profession.

We will greatly miss their leadership and look forward to welcoming them at future events as honored guests. Thank you for your thoughtful contributions and for making an impact.



YOUR OMLA COMMUNITY — NOW ON LINKEDIN

We're excited to launch the Oregon Minority Lawyers Association LinkedIn Community — a space to connect, share opportunities, and support one another in the legal profession. **Join the conversation, post resources, and help us build a stronger community together.**