

WINTER 2026



omla
CONNECT

CHARTING OUR PATH FORWARD, TOGETHER

[A message from your
OMLA board](#)

Many of us can recall a moment when a mentor stepped in, offering guidance, reassurance, or simply a listening ear at exactly the right time. That spirit of paying it forward is the heartbeat of the Oregon Minority Lawyers Association (OMLA) and the foundation for the exciting chapter ahead. With this first edition of OMLA's newsletter, we are excited to share updates, opportunities, and reflections that keep us connected as a community committed to lifting as we climb.

This past year also marked the launch of new regional gatherings, including a fall event at the University of Oregon — another step toward strengthening community across the state. Looking ahead, we will continue expanding opportunities for mentorship, professional development, and collaboration with affinity bar leaders and partners advancing equity and representation in Oregon's legal profession.

Whether you have been part of OMLA from the beginning or are just joining us, we invite you to help shape this next phase — one centered on supporting one another, expanding opportunity, and ensuring every lawyer in Oregon has a place to belong, grow, and lead — by attending events, supporting mentorship, partnering on programming, or simply showing up to connect.



EVENTS THAT BROUGHT US TOGETHER

OMLA events are more than networking, they're where students gain direct access to mentors, and professionals build meaningful relationships across the legal community. By showing up, members strengthen our shared values of support, opportunity, and belonging, ensuring no one navigates this profession alone.



Annual Meeting and Member Recognition Reception

This year's Annual Meeting and Member Recognition Reception brought together OMLA members from across the state to connect, reflect, and discuss the work ahead. In addition to building community, the meeting offered space to share organizational updates, highlight upcoming initiatives, and invite member participation in shaping OMLA's next chapter. The conversations were thoughtful, energizing, and reflective of our shared commitment to mentorship, equity, and collective progress.



Summer Social and Fundraiser

July's Summer Social and Fundraiser brought together attorneys, judges, law students, and community partners for an evening of connection and celebration. Attendees welcomed new members, reconnected with familiar faces, and reaffirmed OMLA's commitment to mentorship and mutual support. The event raised approximately \$17,451.66 for bar exam grants for diverse Oregon State Bar applicants, funding eight July 2025 grants and future February 2026 grants, highlighting the power of showing up for one another and reinvesting directly in community.



University of Oregon Social

In October, OMLA hosted an intimate gathering at the University of Oregon School of Law, bringing together about 20 students for a conversation with former Oregon Supreme Court Justice Lynn Nakamoto — an inaugural OMLA board member — and members of the OMLA board. Students had the opportunity to ask candid questions, learn more about navigating their future legal careers and build connections with attorneys committed to mentorship and community.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2025 SPONSORS

We extend our sincere thanks to our sponsors, whose generous support makes OMLA's events and programming possible. Your partnership helps us create meaningful spaces for connection, mentorship, and professional growth — ensuring that emerging and practicing lawyers alike have a community that supports their success.



Special Thanks OMLA's 26th Annual Summer Social & Fundraising Auction Sponsors

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If you'd like to join our sponsors in helping to support our mission, please contact Suji Patel at sujatapatel@gmail.com.

SEE WHAT'S NEXT FOR OMLA

Upcoming Events

OMLA Annual Meeting and Member Recognition Reception

January 22, 2026

5 to 7 p.m. at Stoel Rives LLP

760 SW 9th Ave. #3000 Portland, Oregon



[VISIT OUR CALENDAR FOR MORE EVENTS](#)

