

**Oregon State Bar  
Sustainable Future Section**

Photo: J. Michael Mattingly

# The Long View

## Sustainable Future Section Annual Meeting Report

*By Michelle Slater*

The Section's 2012 Annual Business Meeting was held on November 6, 2012. At the meeting, Section Chair Michelle Slater summarized the Section's activities and accomplishments over the past year. In 2011, the Section successfully increased its visibility in the Bar, presenting six programs. The programs included a presentation by Professor Andreas Schmittner of OSU discussing a recent National Science Foundation study indicating that climate change will be less severe than predicted by the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Also, focusing on the Pacific Northwest, noted economists Ed Whitelaw and Bryce Ward from ECONorthwest discussed the importance of economic growth, how natural capital contributes to economic growth, and what it means for an economy to grow sustainably. The Section also presented a debate about the proper scope of environmental review for five coal export terminals in Oregon.



The Section also increased its visibility on a national level. In January 2012, the Section participated in a program titled "Green With Envy? Your Bar Should Be" presented at the National Association of Bar Executives' mid-year meeting. The program was moderated by Rod Wegner, the Bar's Chief Financial Officer, and featured a panel that included Michelle Slater, Section Chair, Sylvia Stevens, Oregon State Bar Executive Director, and Jennifer Berg, a California attorney and project manager. The panel afforded the Section an opportunity to discuss before a national audience (i) the process utilized in Oregon to advance an interest in sustainability among lawyers and (ii) the respective activities of the Bar and the Section relating to sustainability. Also, in April 2012, the Section participated in a national webinar organized by the Law Firm Sustainability Network, which featured state bar sustainability efforts and programs in California, Massachusetts, Oregon, and Pennsylvania. This afforded the Section another opportunity to highlight this one-of-a-kind Section together with the advances being made in and around the Oregon State Bar.

In addition to its programs, the Section released four issues of *The Long View*, including this current issue, welcomed more than 20 law offices as Partners in the newly launched Oregon State Bar Partners in Sustainability Program, and awarded Stoel Rives with the Section's third annual Sustainable Law Office Leadership Award.

The Section is completing the year with a positive cash balance. The largest expenditures were for the OSB services assessment, gifts and awards and special projects. The special project for the Section this year was the launch of the Partners in Sustainability Program. The new program together with the announcements related to the Sustainable Law Office Leadership Award accounted for larger proportions of the expenses this year due primarily to the increasing costs of publishing advertisements in *The Bulletin* and the *Multnomah Lawyer*.

At the recommendation of the nominating committee, the Section elected the following slate of officers and executive committee members: Treasurer, Robin Seifried; Secretary, Jennifer Gates; members-at-large (two-year terms), Jim Kennedy and Dick Roy; and members-at-large (one-year terms), Janna Aginsky, Dallas DeLuca, Robert Mauger and Micah Steinhilb. Diane Henkels will continue on as a member-at-large with a term ending in December 2013, and Ann McQuesten was elected to fill a vacated member-at-large position that ends in December 2013. The office of Chair (Michelle Slater) was filled automatically. ■

Visit [www.osbsustainablefuture.org](http://www.osbsustainablefuture.org) for more Section information.

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