



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings OACA members,

It was so wonderful seeing everyone at the Spring Conference. I enjoyed talking to everyone and seeing everyone in-person. I hope you all enjoyed your time and went away feeling excited for future conferences. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped to support OACA. Your Board members truly appreciated all your positive feedback.

A special THANK YOU to all our new members! We had a record turn out for our new member breakfast and it was nice seeing everyone. I hope you enjoyed your experience at the conference and came away with new contacts for you and your courts. Remember, we are here to help and support each other.

I hope everyone had a wonderful time at the Court Connection Banquet. The food was delicious and the comedian was very funny. I heard laughter throughout the evening. It was a wonderful way to get together at the conference and enjoy each other's company.

The Board is currently working on the Fall Conference, which will be held at the Riverhouse in Bend on October 9-11, 2022. Bend is usually beautiful that time of year and I am hoping we have another great turn out. Remember that the Fall Conference is our Board election time, so please consider running for a position on the Board. OACA is a wonderful organization and I feel very privileged to be a part of. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact a Board member.

Have a great summer and I look forward to seeing you all at our fall conference.

With warm regards...

*Debra Arntsen*

President

2022 POST-SPRING

OREGON ASSOCIATION FOR COURT ADMINISTRATION  
**THEE ECHO**

## CONFERENCE UPDATE

It was great to see some familiar faces, and meet and welcome new members at our Spring conference in April at Hallmark! It had been too long since we last had an in-person conference, and it was wonderful to connect, network and see everyone in person. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we get back into the swing of things with our conferences after having been on hold for 2 years.

Later this year, our Fall 2022 conference is being held at The Riverhouse Hotel on the Deschutes River in Bend, Oregon. The address is 3075 N. Business 97, Bend Oregon 97703.

Mark your calendars and make your reservations early! More details about the Fall conference will be in the next Echo newsletter. I hope you all have a wonderful Summer. I look forward to seeing you all at the Fall 2022 conference in Bend!

*Cheri Coble, Conference Vice President*

*Erin Danaher, Director/Conference*

*Eugene Municipal Court*

### ABOUT OACA

Oregon Association for Court Administration is a professional organization committed to excellence. The association was established in 1977 and is Oregon's only organization for court professionals and those interested in the Courts of Oregon. Our membership includes Justice, Municipal, Tribal and State Court Staff, students, vendors, active and retired judges, and others who share an interest in Oregon Courts.

### OACA MISSION

The goal of the OACA Board is to provide beneficial and reasonably priced learning experiences. This is done through conferences held biannually, one in the spring and one in the fall. Each conference provides formal training and allows attendees the opportunity to network with people from similar court environments. The Board works very hard to develop the educational agenda for each conference.

[www.oaca.org](http://www.oaca.org)

# SAVE THE DATE!

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# MEMBERSHIP

What a fun and fantastic conference at Newport Hallmark!!! It was lovely to see everyone's faces and be back together as an in-person group again! And as always, the line-up of fabulous speakers, banquet entertainment, and educational opportunities did not disappoint. It was almost like we never had a two-year break!

OACA needs mentors! Become a mentor and have a hand in shaping someone's future by sharing your knowledge and experience! The program is an opportunity to nurture new talent, develop leadership and communication skills, and build personal and professional growth. It also provides a sense of fulfillment that comes with giving back to your profession and organization. What does being a mentor involve? Mentors accompany mentees to two classes on the first day of the conference to help navigate the schedule of activities. It's painless and easy to start giving your time and building networking relationships. If you're interested, contact me anytime before the fall conference to get started.

Need to complete your membership application? Membership is only valid for one year, and you must apply each year. You can only complete the membership application online. Don't hesitate to contact me, your Membership Vice President, Mary Quinn, if you need assistance.

Don't forget! The 2022 fall conference in Bend will be here before you, or any new members you recruit, know it. OACA always welcomes new members and encourages others to recruit their colleagues and acquaintances. Each active member that refers three new members in a calendar year will earn a free annual membership. Or active members can earn a free conference registration by referring five new members in a calendar year! That's a huge incentive, so be sure the new member provides your name on their application.

If you have any questions regarding your OACA membership or the mentorship program, please get in touch with me at (503) 786-7520 or email me at [quinnm@milwaukieoregon.gov](mailto:quinnm@milwaukieoregon.gov).

*Mary Quinn, Membership VP—Milwaukie Municipal Court*



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- CCI provides credit card processing at no-charge/ no fee to cities and counties, so defendants can make on-line payments for bail or fines.
- The E-ticketing interface with the Oregon State Police has been completed on a statewide basis and CCI is currently working with several entities to create those same interfaces with County Sheriff and City Police Departments.
- We will be introducing a totally new Small Claims Module in 2022 including a sneak peak at the Fall OACA Conference!

MAJIC provides for automatic allocation of assessments according to court-defined schedules and includes toll-free Help Desk services. Court user groups set priorities and share costs for training and upgrades. When new legislation requires software upgrades, CCI is dedicated to providing those upgrades prior to when the new legislation takes effect. The recently enacted Section 6B Amount is a good example of how CCI meets and exceeds customer expectations with software enhancements and support.

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# CONFERENCE SESSION REVIEWS

**Session Title: MADD – Victim Impact Panel Class**

**Presenter: Cate Duke**

This presentation was not for the emotionally faint of heart. Ms. Duke did a wonderful job of presenting both sobering DUII accident and fatality statistics, as well as tear inducing personal stories and videos.

Ms. Duke began the presentation explaining that the intent of the Victim Impact Panel (VIP) itself is not to shame, judge, or lecture the attendee, but rather to touch their hearts. To help these individuals realize how lucky they are that they are not in the shoes of these victims or in the shoes of the offenders in prison. The VIP class also provides opportunities for the victims to share their stories, allowing them the healing hope that they will prevent the suffering of others. That they can reach someone new to prevent even more injuries and the deaths of other people's loved ones. The fees that are paid by defendants to attend these MADD sponsored VIP classes go 100% towards victim services, court monitoring, legislative actions, law enforcement outreach, public service announcements and videos, and prevention programs.

For our presentation, Ms. Duke played three powerful videos, two of which were based on local Oregon events. Two videos were from the perspective of offenders that were incarcerated for driving under the influence and injuring or killing others ("Reflections from Inside" and "One Night of Fun: The Journey by Martin Lockett"). The third video was from the perspective of the grieving parents that had lost two children to a drunk driver, as well as the emotional and mental impact of the accident on the local EMT and police ("The Simonis Family: A Life Sentence"). As Ms. Duke explained, hearing these stories from all the different viewpoints greatly increases the probability of connecting to the VIP attendee on a more personal level, breaking through defensive or indifferent/invincible attitudes.

As mentioned above, this was an emotional presentation, one that I connected to as a mother, wife, and community member. The information was scary, sobering, and enlightening. I would highly recommend that everyone attend a session of their local Victim Impact Panel to raise awareness and further spread the important message contained in these panels to others.

*Reviewed by : Erin Danaher, Eugene Municipal Court / OACA Board Director*



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***Alice Ray-Graham, Chief Marketing Officer***



# CONFERENCE SESSION REVIEWS (continued)

**Session Title: Say Yes To The Stress!**

**Presenter: Sharon Lacey**

On Sunday April 24, I had the honor to introduce Sharon Lacey, the first speaker for the 2022 OACA Spring Conference in Newport, who is a woman who believes life should be an adventure! And she has had such a varied career path that shows just how adventurous she is: A radio deejay, TV news producer, an award-winning teacher who decided at 50 that she need to be a stand-up comedian! She has performed at clubs all over the world and for our nation's troops on many occasions. Sharon 's presentation was full of wit and very engaging. She asked questions to encourage group participation. "What problems does whining and complaining solve?" "How can we turn a negative into a positive?" She discussed how a negative mind finds the faults of situations, but a positive mind finds the positives. She suggested that we start to look at challenges as opportunities. Being afraid of challenges (stress) is perfectly understandable, the strength comes from being scared and still moving forward and facing the situations that are a little intimidating. She quoted Floyd Patterson: "It is not about how many times you fall, its about how many times you get up!" Have the courage to fail, but the strength is in trying and trying


We have challenges/stress every day. We may have encounters with people who seem so angry, in distress, frustrated, often what those people need – what we all need- is to just be listened to. For someone to stop and give them attention and a willing ear. It doesn't solve all the problems but so many stressful situations can be mitigated with just a pause to listen.

We must remember that stress is not always negative. A new position may be stressful, but exactly what you trained for. Life can be an adventure every day with a positive mind set. "We don't stop playing because we grow old, we grow old because we stop playing.

Laughter and play should not be a luxury. Life is an adventure.

I very much enjoyed Sharon's presentation and especially the group team building activities that followed. If you give 70 people a lightbulb what are 70 different descriptions can you get from those people to describe that same lightbulb. It was creativity on the fly! The next activity was to take the exact same food products for 11 different groups and come up with a new food, a poster and a commercial ----- in 30 minutes. And just to add more stress, we were broken up into groups of people we had not previously been near or really spoken to! It was a blast. Creativity abounded and the entries were amazing. Though I do not recall anyone eating the delights! I think we were all prepared to positively Say Yes to the Stress!!

*Reviewed by: Samantha Dragt, Lowell Municipal Court*




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# CONFERENCE SESSION REVIEWS (continued)

## Session Title: Verbal De-Escalation

Presenter: Whitney Struse

Knowing how to recognize your fight, flight or freeze response is just as important as recognizing when someone else's is being triggered. I believe it is important to recognize so you can try to stay ahead of them and the situation, so you can get through in the best way possible for everyone involved. Behavior influences behavior. If you work on staying calm and collected, this will inspire others to do as well, even if they don't realize that. "We cannot control others thoughts and actions; only our own." Silence can also be very helpful when trying to de-escalate another person. It allows them to slow down and process better. Another great quote was "An escalated adult cannot de-escalate an escalated adult." Our frontal brain and emotional brain cannot process everything when escalated. When the 'flight or fight' is activated, this causes over 30 hormones to flood our system.

Whitney also discussed the importance of self-care to help relieve secondary trauma that can occur during these times. You cannot pour from an empty cup.

Reviewed by: Christa Moss, Linn County Justice Court

## Session Title: Improving the Criminal Justice System Experience for Those With Mental Illness

Presenter: Judge Juliet Britton

Judge Juliet Britton was amazing! I loved that she is striving to better the system everywhere and not only her court. I think speaking about mental health is very important, especially since it seems most people shy away from things such as this, that makes them uncomfortable. When you look at an individual as a "whole" and not just their crime, it has benefits everywhere.

Judge Britton has taken the steps to have a clinician in the courtroom to help recognize those who may have underlying mental health illness, which is the true root cause of them continuously committing crimes and going to jail, when this is not helping them get better.

Some goals Judge Britton outlined are:

- Reduce failure to appear
- Reduce length of stay
- Reduce unnecessary criminal justice involvement for those with symptoms
- Maximize opportunities for diverting defendants from criminal justice system to appropriate treatment facilities

Since Judge Britton implemented this into her court, it has helped reduce failure to appear from 56% to 24%. In one year, 215 defendants had contact with a mental health liaison.

Reviewed by: Christa Moss, Linn County Justice Court

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# CONFERENCE SESSION REVIEWS

## **Session Title: Patrol Response to Behavioral Health Issues & Community Policing**

### **Presenter: Sergeant Mastripolito**

One of Sgt. Mastripolito's responsibilities is to oversee the Beaverton Police Department's mountain bike team. He is tasked with contacting individuals experiencing behavioral health issues and also aids in training various courts around the country in evaluating their procedures. This work prevents citizens with mental health issues from being lost in the judicial system due to mental disabilities. Sgt. Mastripolito and his mountain bike team forgo the standard police attire and wear T-shirts to be more approachable on the streets with the homeless community. This perspective enables a less intimidating relationship and facilitates a better connection with individuals needing help.

The mountain bike team encounters substance abusers or individuals with mental illness and understand it's not a one size fits all approach. They utilize their understanding of individual circumstances and the judicial system to help guide people to the best outcome for their personal situation. They collaborate with courts, the city attorney, and treatment facilities to think outside of the box. Sgt. Mastripolito's team sometimes provides Goodwill gift cards for basic necessities to promote good behavior and encourage treatment and/or counseling if needed.

Sgt. Mastripolito's message explained that people can't be pushed someplace else with the expectation that their problems will go away. He described that forced migration to a different place, or "leaf blowing," is a temporary solution. When you blow the leaves away they come back. People in these situations may return to a familiar location because their condition hasn't improved or changed.

The Beaverton Police Department Mountain Bike Team is a huge part of the front end work to provide a more successful conclusion to people in less fortunate situations.

*Reviewed by : Emily Dowell, Canby Municipal Court*

# OACA CERTIFICATION

Are you working on certification through OACA? Not familiar with OACA's certification program? We have information to assist you!

There is a handout on the OACA website under Education, which explains the certification program requirements and how to submit your certification paperwork. The spreadsheet will assist you with tracking classes and training sessions in the appropriate categories, along with date, type of credit (ex: OACA, NACM, etc.), coursework description and the credits earned. The spreadsheet will calculate credit hours for you. It is your responsibility to complete the spreadsheet when submitting your application and paperwork for certification.

For members that have their paperwork ready for any of the 3 levels of OACA certification, please forward to us for review and approval. To assist you, the tracking spreadsheet and application is located on the OACA website. Don't forget to include your certification form from the Spring Conference!

If you have any non-OACA credits, such as computer software training or community college classes that would pertain to one of the categories, fill out the outside training credit request. This information, along with proof of training, will need to be submitted at the time of certification. If you have any questions, feel free to email us.

*Hannah Burke & Zoren Santiago,  
Education VP's—Beaverton Municipal Court*



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## **Are You In The Know?**

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