

OAAP Safe Space Group

The OAAP will hold its first safe space group meeting for people of color and religious minorities on Tuesday, January 24, 2017 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. A safe space meeting is a place where people can gather for support and to process their experiences in a safe environment and to pool their collective wisdom. This ongoing monthly supportive gathering will be co-facilitated by Shari R. Gregory, LCSW, JD, and Judge Darleen Ortega, JD. Snacks will be provided. The first meeting will be held at the OAAP at 520 SW Yamhill, Suite 1050. Please contact Shari R. Gregory in advance at 503-226-1057, ext. 14, or sharig@oaap.org to participate.

Facilitator's Biographies

Darleen Ortega, JD has served as a judge on the Oregon Court of Appeals since 2003, and is the first woman of color and the only Latina to serve as an appellate judge in Oregon. Judge Ortega is a frequent speaker on topics related to equity, diversity and inclusion, privilege, and equipping women and people of color to succeed in the law. She spends hours each week with law students and new lawyers, especially those from marginalized communities, helping them to make sense of the legal world. She also is an avid movie and theater critic; her reviews appear regularly in the Portland Observer and on her blog (www.opinionatedjudge.blogspot.com). Her continuing engagement with issues affecting marginalized communities includes involvement with middle school and high school students in Portland; service on the board of Oregon Shakespeare Festival, where she chairs the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee; co-founding OneGeorgeFox, an alumni organization that advocates for LGBTQ students at George Fox University; and past service on the board of Northwest Health Foundation, where she chaired the Equity Committee. Judge Ortega also serves as a resource to Lewis & Clark and University of Oregon Law Schools on issues of equity, diversity, and inclusion. She also serves on the board of the Meyer Memorial Trust and is a co-chair of OWLS-IN (Oregon Women Lawyers Intersectionality Network).

Shari R. Gregory, LCSW, JD is the Assistant Director and Attorney Counselor of the Oregon Attorney Assistance Program. She is a graduate of Wurzweiler School of Social Work (MSW 1987) and Rutgers School of Law (JD, 1992) and received her Certificate of Business Management from Portland State University (2003) and her license in clinical social work (LCSW, 2010). She is experienced in group facilitation, career and life transition counseling, relationship counseling mental health counseling, crisis intervention, stress management, organizational challenges and alcohol/ drug and addiction counseling. She was in private practice specializing in criminal defense law for four years before joining the OAAP staff in 1999. She has served on the board of the Oregon Women Lawyers, served on the OSB Diversity Section Executive Board and is currently Liaison to the OSB Advisory Committee on Diversity and Inclusion.