

NEWS

Steve Seguin and Hans Laforest Highlighted in Oregon State Bar Article

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Our COO [Steve Seguin](#), and attorney and Diversity Chair [Hans Laforest](#), contributed to an article in the recent issue of the Oregon State Bar Bulletin. The article covers insight from law firm leaders around the NW on how they handle the business side of running a legal practice. Nice work everyone!



Turning OVER the Reins

Hiring Professional Managers Frees Attorneys to Practice Law

— By Cliff Collins —

Their titles and range of responsibilities vary, but professional managers of law firms fulfill one general purpose: to handle the business side of running a legal practice.

Delegating nonbillable tasks to administrators allows attorneys "to do what they do," says Traci Ray, executive director of Barton Liebman since 2013. "It's a really smart idea to have a strong, intelligent team overseeing the business of the firm so that lawyers can practice law."

For Kathie S. Nelson, director of operations for Parsons Farnell & Goin, the reasoning is as straightforward as this: "Your job is to practice law, but you're also the owner of a business. That takes time and different areas of knowledge not taught in law school."

The trend, previously more common among big East Coast firms, has taken hold in Oregon over the past several years. Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt, one of Oregon's largest law firms, broke with its 125-year tradition in 2017 and created the CEO position, then appointed attorney Graciela Gomez Cowger to that role.



Kathie S. Nelson



Graciela Gomez Cowger



Steve Wang

their work.

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Making Di



Steven T. Seguin

Steven T. Seguin
a past president

Opposite Page
of Barton Liebman

View the article here: [OSB Bulletin September 2021](#)

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