



February 2002  
Vol. XII, Issue 1



Washington  
license hike  
hearing March 4  
in Olympia

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# The Oregon Investigator

A journal of the Oregon Association of Licensed Investigators

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

## Seminar: Marketing for insurance work

Marketing investigative services to insurance companies is a major topic on tap for the OALI Spring Conference, but that's not all.

The Conference takes place Friday, March 15, at the Monarch Hotel, just off I-205, on SE 93<sup>rd</sup>, in Clackamas.

Registration, coffee and winter catch-up is from 8:30 a.m. to 9 a.m.

Criminal investigator Dave Freeman will lead the first session from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on "The Psychology and Law of Domestic Violence." This will be worth 2 CE credits

Popular speaker and veteran BME investigator Dave La Duca will unveil the mysteries of "How to Access the Oregon Board of Medical Examiners," from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. for a healthy single credit of CE.

Claims investigator Brad Bacom will start the first session on marketing your services to insurance companies at 1:30 p.m. A second session will build on that from 2:45 p.m. to 3:45 p.m., for a total of 2 CE credits.

Jay Blienkowski, a supervisor in the FBI White Collar Crime Unit, will speak on "Identity Theft" from 4 to 5 p.m. For more information, see seminars at [www.oali.org](http://www.oali.org).

## State board gets new faces, rules, web registry

The state's online registry of Oregon licensed investigators debuted in late January as a farewell effort of the former OBI executive director, Michael Jacobs, after four years of administrative startup.

Investigators' legal names, business addresses, license numbers and status, are now available for the public to verify on the Internet through the new state licensing portal at [www.oregon.gov](http://www.oregon.gov), as well as [www.obl.state.or.us](http://www.obl.state.or.us).

Hiring a new executive director quickly became a priority of the new seven-member Oregon Board of Investigators this year. Five new members were appointed to take seats in January. One was reappointed and a seventh had yet to be appointed by late February. Legislation that OALI pushed in the spring of 2001 took effect last October. It beefed up the board from five to seven members, by adding two attorneys. The board met for the first time in early

February. Minutes of past board meetings are posted at the OBI web site along with an explanation of the most critical changes in the law that were negotiated through hard lobbying and 11th-hour compromises.

The OBI mailed a December newsletter explaining that many rules for continuing education requirements were being repealed until new ones could be adopted later this year. Committees are under construction. -- tb



## John Buehler – Attorney OBI member to 2006

Appointed by the Governor to serve on the Oregon Board of Investigators from 2002 through 2005, John W. Buehler of Lake Oswego has been a partner in Buehler & Buehler legal firm since 1995.

He previously worked for Bullivant, Houser, Bailey, Pendergrass & Hoffman from 1979 to 1995.

From 1977-1979, he served as a law clerk for U.S. District Judge Otto R. Skopil.

Buehler obtained a B.A. from the University of California at Santa Cruz and graduated magna cum laude from Willamette University Law School in 1977.

He was admitted to the Oregon bar in 1977 and has been a member of

many professional organizations.

His practice emphasizes insurance coverage, in both property and liability coverage, and liability defense work, which includes property damage and bodily injury defense.

No letter of interest was provided in a public record response from the Governor's Office of Executive Appointments. #

*He has contributed articles on ethics, professionalism, tobacco litigation construction safety and investigating schools.*

## Tom Baird - Investigative OBI member to 2006

Tom Baird of Portland has been president of Safety Systems of America since 1994. The firm conducts personal injury, wrongful death and product liability investigations as well as liability consultation.

Baird obtained a B.A. in sociology from California State University-Fullerton after taking courses in police science at Santa Ana College. He owned Baird Construction from

1981 to 1992 while building custom homes in Hawaii and Nevada. He has a total of 22 years in the construction industry.

He has served as executive director of OALI, as editor of The Oregon Investigator former glossy journal, and as regional director of the National Association of Legal Investigators. He is the founder and executive director of the American

Society of Professional Investigators and moderator of its electronic newsgroup. He is a member of many other professional organizations

He has contributed articles on ethics, professionalism, tobacco litigation, construction safety, and investigating school systems, among other topics. His resume for the job was dated August 21, 2001 #



## Public hearing: WA rates soar to cover costs

A public hearing will be held at 10 a.m. March 4 at 210 11<sup>th</sup> Ave. SW, Olympia, on a proposal to increase two-year fees in Washington from \$75 to \$150 for unarmed PI's and from \$50 to \$100 for armed licenses. Agency

fees are to climb from \$275 to \$450 for renewals and rise from \$350 to \$550 for applications. The increase is needed to comply with 2001 legislation requiring agencies to recover the costs of administering

their programs. They must be self-supporting. Written comment was accepted until Feb. 22, which was also the deadline to ask assistance for persons with disabilities via Mary Haglund in the Dept. of Licensing, 360-664-6624.

## Jim Hennings – Attorney OBI member to 2006

James D. Hennings of Portland founded the Metropolitan Public Defender Services, Inc., in 1971 and has continued as the director. In 30 years the office grew from 2 to 6 attorneys, with a staff of more than 150 and offices in two counties.

He obtained a B.A. in government from Lake Forest College, Illinois, before graduating from Willamette University Law School in 1968, when he was admitted to the Oregon State Bar. He remains active in the House of Delegates.

Before starting MPD, he worked three years as an attorney for the Multnomah County DA's office. His current activities include serving on the Multnomah County Presiding Judge's Advisory Committee; the county's public safety committee, bond technology supervising team, drug court policy committee, community court committee, and the INS study team.

His prior activities include serving on the Oregon Law Enforcement Council, Oregon Criminal Justice

Council, Sentencing Guidelines Committee, Oregon Jail Overcrowding Project, Oregon Community Corrections Council, Multnomah County Criminal Justice Council, Multnomah County Court Child Care Study Group, Oregon Bar Ethics Committee, Oregon Bar/Press Committee, and the Oregon Bar Defense of Indigent Accused committee, among other affiliations. He has been an instructor at Portland Community College, among other teaching and consulting. #



### *“ . . . a strong, professional approach.”*

Jim Hennings submitted his letter of interest in the OBI seat Oct. 30, 2001. It states in full:

“For the past 30 years I have served as the Executive Director of the Metropolitan Public Defender office in Portland, Oregon. One of the first things I discovered concerning Indigent Defense when I started the office in 1971 was the non-existence of adequate investigation. In order to appropriately investigate cases assigned to the Public

Defender's Office, it became necessary to first hire then train and develop investigators from scratch. I have continued to follow this process in order to insure adequate and appropriate investigation for criminal defense cases.

“Along the way this office developed the core of court-related investigators in the State of Oregon. The current President of the Oregon Legal Investigators' Association and the Chief Investigator for the Oregon Federal

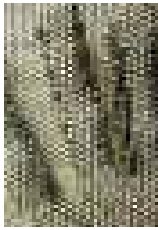
Defender both were originally trained and developed in this office.

“As an advocate for thorough professional work in the provision of criminal defense services, I am experienced with the requirements for investigators and the need for a strong, professional approach.

“I have watched the development of the Oregon Board of Investigators and have expressed concerns that it  
(See Page 4)

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*“I have watched the development of the (OBI) and have expressed concern that it sees itself primarily as a policing agency.”*




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*"...my position . . . will allow me to operate as a bridge between investigators and the Oregon State Bar."*

### *'a strong, professional approach' (cont.)*

sees itself primarily as a policing agency.

"The Board does need to guarantee the highest quality in the investigators which it licenses, but it must also be concerned with the professional development of investigators and the relationship of

investigators to the general society, especially the court system.

"I believe that my concern, history and knowledge will enable me to participate in the development of the investigation profession.

"Further, my position as the Executive Director of the largest criminal

defense firm in the State of Oregon will allow me to operate as a bridge between investigators and the Oregon State Bar."

--Jim Hennings, in his letter of interest for the OBI appointment. #

## Chuck Bennett – Public OBI member to 2006



Charles "Chuck" Bennett of Salem served in the Oregon House of Representatives for a term in the mid-80s after working as a Salem-area journalist for more than a decade.

He was editor of the Stayton Mail from 1979 to 1983. Prior to that he was a reporter for the Capitol Journal for five years. He was elected to the house in

1983. He graduated from Willamette University with a B.A. in English.

After leaving the House in 1985, he worked as a self-employed lobbyist until 2000. He became director of government relations for the Confederation of Oregon School Administrators, a position he continued at his

appointment. His volunteer activities have included serving on the Oregon Council for the Humanities, the Board of Pentacle Theatre, the Friends of Opal Creek, the Federal Advisory Committee on Opal Creek and the City of Salem Budget Committee and Revenue Committee. #

### *Former legislator, journalist writes why OBI*

Chuck Bennett dated his letter of interest for the OBI appointment on December 20, 2001. It states in full:

"I have followed proposals to create a board regulating private investigators since I served on the House Business and Consumer Affairs Committee in 1983.

"This profession can have a significant impact on a whole range of personal and legal activities in an individual Oregonian's life and its regulation to guarantee the highest legal and ethical standards is important to the public, other investigators and the legal profession that employs them.

"I am very interested in serving on this board and believe I can be of assistance as it works with policy makers in the Legislature." #

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*"This profession can have a significant impact on a whole range of personal and legal activities in an individual Oregonian's life."*



## Cynthia Hamilton – Investigative OBI member

Cynthia S. Hamilton of Clackamas was a felony investigator and trainer for the Metropolitan Public Defender's Office from 1976 to 1988 when she became the chief investigator of Hamilton Investigations, and later, Hamilton & Associates, Inc., where she continues today.

She graduated from high school in San Jose, Calif., and majored in English at Mt. Hood Community College, and in public health and education at Portland State University. Her letter of interest in serving on the OBI was

submitted October 15, 2001. It states in full:

"My interest in serving on the Oregon Board of Investigators comes from my commitment to my profession. My active involvement in upgrading the standards and practices of private investigators began in 1988, when I left the Public Defender's Office. I have trained hundreds of investigators – most recently, last month – for the City of Vancouver and Clark County Human Resources staff. The foundation of my training is ethics.

"I have been actively involved with the Oregon Association of Licensed Investigators. I am the immediate past president, having served on the Board for several years. I have always promoted licensing. OALI was instrumental in sponsoring the original licensing legislation.

"I was dismayed at the direction the OBI took, at its inception. The Board has not fulfilled the original intent of the legislature and, as President of OALI,

(See below)



*Hamilton says her years of board experience prepare her to serve to 2006*

... I worked closely with our members and lobbyist to re-organize the OBI. I testified in Salem, based on several membership polls, which supported SB 722B, to overhaul the OBI.

"SB 722B's passage is a second opportunity for investigators to have a role in upgrading our standards and practices. Having vigorously campaigned for SB 722B, I cannot sit back uninvolved.

"I know this field. I know what it takes to make a good investigator. I know ethics. I also know

business. I am a consultant for the Oregon Business Network, having mentored dozens of women and minority small business owners.

"I have had years of board experience, not only on the OALI board, but the very successful Columbia River Girl Scout Board. I just came off that Board as Vice President, leaving 16,500 girl members, 4,500 adult volunteers and a full time paid staff of 34. In addition, we managed a seven million-dollar endowment.

"I practice diplomacy. I

was the first OALI board member to pass out "Robert's Rules of Order" books to all board members! I have the dedication, desire and time to serve the public and investigators of Oregon.

"The most important qualities I can bring to the OBI is my varied investigation background, my commitment to serve the public well and the assurance I will demand sound business and investigative standards and practices from all licensed investigators." based on SB 722B." #

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*"I know this field. I know what it takes to make a good investigator."*

**The Oregon  
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Licensed  
Investigators**

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## Leroy Chastain – Investigative OBI member

Leroy E. Chastain of Bend has worked as a private investigator on civil and criminal cases since 1986 after serving 25 years as a deputy in the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. The last two years he worked as a watch commander, supervising sergeant, liaison officer and media spokesman. From 1975 to 1979 he was supervisor

in the Headquarter Detective Unit, Homicide Division. At other times, he worked in the training academy, in undercover investigations, patrol and traffic accident investigations.

He received an administration of justice associate's degree from Whittier College after obtaining a California teaching credential as a

certified instructor in administration of justice in 1967. While working as a deputy, he provided security administration and training for Safeway Stores corporation. His affiliations have included work with the Boy Scouts of America.

He was first appointed to serve on the OBI in 2000 and was reappointed to serve four more years through 2005. #

Leroy Chastain wrote:

"My thirty-eight year career in law enforcement and investigations has provided me with a broad base of experience. As a supervisor for the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and currently a business owner, I have obtained valuable skills in

managing not only people, but the multitude of operational and public relations demands of a major law enforcement agency.

"As a result, I have become qualified in the following areas:  
Leadership, Public Relations, Public

Speaking, Hiring and Training, Teaching, Internal and External Information Management, Personal and Internal Investigations, Criminal Investigations, Traffic Accident Investigations, Case Preparation and Presentation." #

### *Other spring seminars in Oregon:*

FARO: Death and Injury Investigations, Roth's Hospitality, West Salem, March 29.

ALI/Investigative Counsel: Spirit Mountain, Grand Ronde, March 30.

OCDLA: "Inside the Laboratory," Agate Beach Inn, Newport, April 26-27.

*Best wishes in D.C. to Tom Mann, outgoing OALI lobbyist, editor/publisher!*

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