

**OREGON STATE BAR**  
**BUSINESS LAW SECTION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

**January 24, 2026**

**TIME AND PLACE**

Upon notice duly given, a meeting of the Executive Committee (the “**Committee**”) of the Business Law Section (the “**Section**”) of the Oregon State Bar (the “**Bar**”) was held at The Celestial Hill Tasting Room, 525 NW 3rd Street, McMinnville, Oregon 97128, on January 24, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. Pacific time.

**PRESENT**

Present were Committee members Krista Evans (*Chair*), Blake Bowman (*Chair Elect*), Joe Cerne (*Past Chair*), Leigh Gill (*Treasurer*), Kimberly Boswell (*Secretary*), Matthew Larson, Jennifer Nicholls, Berit Everhart, Taylor Gersch, Mark Reinhardt, Paul Britton, and Alex Hutchinson. Mike Williams from the Bar was also present. Timothy Crippen was present online.

Justin Monahan and Dylan Lowe were not present at the meeting.

**MEETING**

Ms. Evans called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and welcomed new Committee members Mr. Mark Reinhardt, Mr. Paul Britton, and Ms. Alex Hutchinson.

**1. Approval of Prior Minutes**

The Committee reviewed the minutes of the Committee’s meeting held on November 4, 2025. Mr. Cerne moved to approve the minutes, and Mr. Crippen seconded the motion. The Committee unanimously adopted the following resolution:

**RESOLVED**, that the minutes of the Committee’s November 4, 2025, meeting are approved.

**2. Ratification of increase of Jackie Krantz’s quarterly pay.**

The Committee reviewed Ms. Krantz’s performance. Ms. Everhart moved to approve an increase in pay for Ms. Krantz of \$205.00 per quarter, and Ms. Hutchinson seconded the motion. The Committee unanimously adopted the following resolution:

**RESOLVED**, that quarterly pay of Jackie Krantz be increased from \$2,050 to \$2,255 on a quarterly basis for the year 2026.

**3. Treasurers’ Report**

**November 2025 and December 2025 Year End Financials**

The Statement of Activities – Actual vs Budget for both November and December, 2025 were reviewed.

Mr. Gill indicated the Business Law Section has two sources of revenue: dues and annual event income. Our overall budget has been structured with a deficit in mind to avoid an excess balance. The Bar indicates that if our maximum balance remains below our annual membership dues x 2, they will assess lower fees. For 2025, we had revenue of \$48,545 and expenses of \$53,694. The newsletter is an important expense and the Annual CLE is also important. With 2026, we hope to break even. We plan to run at a deficit and add sponsorship funds for 2026 Annual CLE. Mr. Cerne indicated we may need to raise dues in 2027. Mr. Williams advised he is comfortable with how our budget currently looks. Ms. Everhart commented that we need to be mindful of our spending – she asked questions to ensure we were aware of issues. She encouraged the CLE committee to plan on the basis of not having extra funds to play with when planning CLEs. Mr. Gill closed this discussion by telling the Executive Committee that if you have expenses, send reimbursement requests to him. If there is a larger payment that requires a contract, Mr. Gill asked that you coordinate with him to get the contract approved by the Bar.

### **3. Review of 2025 Subcommittee Activities and Planning for 2026 Subcommittees**

*A. CLE Subcommittee.* 2025 Members: Tim Crippen (Chair), Kimberly Boswell, Blake Bowman, Jennifer Nicholls, Melissa Jaffe

2026 Members: Blake Bowman (Chair); Tim Crippen, Jennifer Nicholls, Kimberly Boswell, Matt Larson

Mr Crippen reported that two years ago, we moved the annual CLE to the Nines. The Oregon State Bar co-sponsored the event, but through their fee structure, captured a large portion of the event’s revenue. In 2025 we sponsored the CLE ourselves. We understand the Bar will not co-sponsor an event unless it is at the Bar Center. We have chosen to stay at the Nines. We will need to inquire of the Nines to see if we can get a “deal” for multi-year commitment. There is a recap of the 2025 Annual CLE in the January Executive Committee materials with more information.

Regarding Quarterly CLEs, these are a big benefit to membership. They are usually well attended. Mr Crippen indicated that we are oriented to doing a rinse-repeat for planning 2026 CLEs. We have been successful, but Mr. Crippen asked for new members to join our subcommittee to support our efforts. Ms. Nicholls asked whether we are we still required to co-sponsor events with the Bar every 3 years. Mr. Williams indicated he would check and advise. Ms. Nicholls asked for our Executive Committee to suggest speakers if they have firm attorneys who have a subject that our membership would want to learn about. Finally, Ms. Everhart asked whether we might explore having the Bar host an event that we would co-sponsor (instead of the other way around). Mr. Williams indicated he would check and advise.

*B. Legislative Subcommittee.* 2025 Members: Leigh Gill (Chair), Blake Bowman, Matt Larson, Michael Walker, Melissa Jaffe

2026 Members: Leigh Gill (Chair), Paul Britton, Blake Bowman, Matt Larson, and Dylan Lowe. This subcommittee will also have non-EC members, including former chair, Michael Walker.

Ms. Evans advised the Board of Governors has a Law Improvement Program, and suggested that if we, as a section, think there are statutes that can be improved or that are ambiguous, we can let the Board of Governors know by submitting a proposal (by April 1, 2026) and they'll look to see if they can incorporate changes, in their next round of suggestions to the Oregon State Legislature.

Reporting on the history of the LLC Act, Mr. Gill advised that the Legislative subcommittee principally focused on the Amendment to the LLC Act. The result is more than just a revised LLC act and was completed over 5 years ago. The Oregon Laws Commission went through the LLC Act line by line to come up with the current document in front of the Legislature. The Act was proposed to the Legislature in 2023 and has not been passed. The Act didn't come up in the 2024 Short Session. In 2025, it wasn't business that made it through Committee. The Act needs to be brought up again. We also proposed the Corporations Act, which hasn't moved forward. For 2026 – short session – we need to look into the LLC Act and find people who would be willing to be part of the Oregon Law Commission. Need wind in sails to get the LLC Act moving. Mr. Williams indicated that we need to find corporate sponsors of LLC Act to get it moving/passed by the Oregon legislature. Ms. Evans the passing of the LLC Act could help to keep clients to remain in the State of Oregon and to bring more business to Oregon.

*C. Outreach Subcommittee.* 2025 Members: Berit Everhart (Co-Chair), Krista Evans (Co-Chair), Joe Cerne, Melanie Choch, Taylor Gersch, Jennifer Nicholls, Ben Pirie.

2026 Members: Berit Everhart (Chair), Jennifer Nicholls, Mark Reinhardt, Alex Hutchinson, Krista Evans, Joe Cerne, Matt Larson.

Ms. Evans reported that one of this Subcommittee's goals is to increase the Section's diversity and geographic reach. She advised we'll need to improve our input into LinkedIn account to increase our communication to our membership. We look to focus on doing one or more events outside of the Portland area. The CPA joint event will be an event for 2026. We will work to include accounting groups, including Financial Executives International. There was discussion of how to increase attendance to events – and where to have events. Outreach will plan the 2027 retreat – options include doing something less expensive, or more local. A possible venue for the 2027 retreat would be the Nines Hotel. Mr. Cerne indicated we might consider doing this outside of Portland to bring in other non-Portland lawyers. Ms. Everhart advised that the Government Camp area might be good. Mr. Reinhardt also suggested the Bend area.

*D. Newsletter and Communications Subcommittee.*

2025 Members: Berit Everhart (Chair), Melanie Choch, Tim Crippen, Taylor Gersch, Melissa Jaffe, Justin Monahan, Michael Walker, who are

Executive Committee members, along with several other non-EC members of the Business Law Section.

2026 Members: Berit Everhart (Chair); Justin Monahan, Mark Reinhardt, Alex Hutchinson, Taylor Gersch, Tim Crippen, who are Executive Committee members, along with several other non-EC members of the Business Law Section.

- Newsletter and website editor, Jackie Krantz, also attends this meeting.

Ms. Evans provided a brief update on communications. She indicated we are still having issues with members not receiving updates from this Section. Turnout from the Business Law section for voting for the 2026 ballot was low; we need to look to improve this aspect. In 2025, the ballot was only sent out one time. Ms. Evans proposed that in 2026, the Section should send the ballot via email three times, and also promote the vote on LinkedIn. We need to think about how to do other things to improve voting participation. Mr. Williams talked about realities of the Bar's current program that allows bar members to opt out of receiving e-mails (possibly contributing to the lack of voting). Ms. Everhart provided the report on the Newsletter subcommittee. For 2026, Ms. Everhart asked for volunteers to write articles, and she indicated that Ms. Krantz is effective in her work with this committee. The Newsletter subcommittee works to review articles – constituting a major part of this subcommittee. If you have ideas or want to help with Q2, let Ms. Everhart know.

*E. New Business Lawyers Subcommittee.*

2025 Members: Berit Everhart (Co-Chair), Krista Evans (Co-Chair), Kimberly Boswell, Joe Cerne, Melanie Choch, Taylor Gersch, Matt Larson, who are Executive Committee members, along with several other non-EC members of the Business Law Section.

2026 Members: Taylor Gersch (Chair), Paul Britton, Krista Evans, Joe Cerne, Alex Hutchinson, Dylan Lowe, who are Executive Committee members, along with several other non-EC members of the Business Law Section, including Cody Gregg and Lillian Klein.

Ms. Evans advised that in addition to doing Law School panels, we have tried to award scholarships. Our annual stipend award/scholarship pays for a law student's salary at a law firm. No scholarship was awarded in 2025. Overall, the program has not worked out well. We struggle, as the Business Law section cannot pick award winners - the Law Schools do this. Mr. Cerne indicated a new idea could be explored this coming year. Instead of a work stipend, awarding a scholarship of \$1,000 for a student at each Oregon law school might be better. He advised we now have confirmation that this does not need to be tied to employment at a law firm. If this concept is adopted, we will need to have one committee member take care of each law school and proceed on the basis of a "scholarship" instead of work-related scholarship. Mr. Cerne said we can't interview the students, but we can

set expectations of who would be selected. There is also a conduit for people to donate directly to allow for these scholarships. Aside from the scholarship issue, Ms. Evans indicated that we will continue to have quarterly socials – we only had one last year, so we’ll need to increase our efforts to that end. The socials are a fun way to get out and meet people.

*F. Nominating and Member Recruitment Subcommittee.*

2025 Members: Joe Cerne (Chair), Michael Walker, and former chair Anne Arathoon (third member, who must be a non-EC member, selected before the subcommittee begins its work in considering nominations for future EC members).

2026 Members: Krista Evans (Chair), Joe Cerne, and one non EC member to be determined.

Ms. Evans asked that if other EC members want to be involved in subcommittees, let Ms. Evans or Mr. Cerne know of your interest. If we publicize volunteer opportunities on the subcommittees, we might be able to interest Business Law members to join the Executive Committee. Mr. Williams indicated there is a strong possibility that rules may be changing in 2026.

*G. Castles Leadership Award Subcommittee.*

2025 Members: Michael Walker (Chair), eight past Chairs of the BLS.

2026 Members: Joe Cerne (Chair). Group of past Chairs will be assembled to form committee.

Mr. Cerne advised that the 2025 Castles Leadership Award was given to Ambyr O’Donnell. He indicated that communication regarding this award will be sent sooner than later this year. Stressing the importance of this award, Mr. Cerne asked all EC members to consider if there is anyone in your network who might be qualified due to their contributions to the business law arena in Oregon. This should be an intentional award - if we don’t get a qualified candidate, we don’t give an award. Mr. Cerne advised that a subcommittee (made up of all former chairs) will review candidates and then select a possible recipient to be presented to the Executive Committee for their decision. Communication will be made to all prior chairs to get their input. Ms. Everhart said we solicited nominations through the newsletter in the past, and we’ll do so again. She also indicated we could solicit nominations from tangentially similar Bar groups such as Corporate Counsel.

**4. 2026 EC Meeting Schedule**

The Committee discussed meeting dates and decided to have 2026 Committee meetings as follows (subject to adjustment as necessary):

Thursday, February 5, 2026 @ 12:00 hosted by Black Helterline (Mr. Crippen)

805 SW Broadway, Suite 2600, Portland, OR 97205

Thursday, March 5, 2026 @ 12:00, hosted by Hathaway Larson (Mr. Larson)  
1125 NW Couch Street, Suite 550, Portland, OR 97209

Thursday, April 2, 2026 @ 12:00, hosted by Schwabe Williamson & Wyatt (Mr. Bowman)  
1211 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 1800, Portland, OR 97204

Thursday, May 7, 2026 @ 12:00, hosted by Immix Law (Mr. Gill)  
600 NW Naito Parkway, Suite G, Portland, OR 97209

Thursday, June 4, 2026 @ 4:00, hosted by Farleigh Wada Witt (Ms. Evans)  
121 SW Morrison Street, Suite 600, Portland, OR 97204

Thursday, July 16, 2026 @ 12:00, hosted by Best, Best & Krieger (Mr. Reinhardt)  
360 SW Bond Street, Suite 400, Bend, OR 97702

Thursday, September 3, 2026 @ 12:00, hosted by Miller Nash (Ms. Hutchinson)  
1140 SW Washington Street, Suite 700, Portland, OR 97205

Thursday, October 1, 2026 @ 12:00, hosted by Ballard Spahr (Mr. Cerne)  
601 SW 2nd Avenue, Suite 2100, Portland, OR 97204

Thursday, November 5, 2025 @ 12:00 hosted by the Oregon State Bar Center (Mr. Williams)  
16037 SW Upper Boones Ferry Road, Tigard, OR 97224

The Committee encouraged all Subcommittee chairs to have their first meeting in late January or early February if possible so that they would have meaningful reports to provide the Committee at the February 5 meeting.

**5. Other Business None**

**6. Adjournment 11:33**

There being no further business of the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:33 a.m. Pacific time.