

Member Spotlight

In each issue of this publication, we introduce two members of our chapter and give them the “spotlight.”

Take a moment to get acquainted with other ALA - Oregon Chapter members—learning how they joined the ranks of law firm administration, what their passion is, and where they see themselves in the future.

If you would like to nominate a chapter member to be included in an upcoming Member Spotlight, contact Ashley Whittaker at communications@oregonala.org for more information.



Traci Ray, Esq.
Executive Director
Barran Liebman LLP
Portland, Oregon

My position entails: At Barran Liebman I enjoy working on our firm’s marketing, management, and administration. I oversee the firm’s speaking engagements and coordinate all the firm events and seminars, including Portland’s largest Award-Winning Annual Employment, Labor & Benefits Law Seminar. Additionally, I manage the firm’s community involvement, public relations, charitable giving, brand awareness, and advertising.

My business philosophy: It’s all about relationships – with your team and your clients. The more you put into investing in your people, your firm, and yourself, the more you will grow, influence solutions, and find success.

My professional goal(s): Have fun and stay challenged.

Like best about the job: My mentor, Barran Liebman’s managing partner, Ed Harnden, gives me the opportunity to learn on a daily basis—from management skills to business acumen to daily

operations. Having a seat at the table, and a respectful work environment, has enhanced my career greatly. It’s amazing when someone you admire believes in you—your potential is limitless. Working with Ed is seriously rewarding.

Like least about the job: There’s never enough time to get everything done I want to accomplish... but my dad always told me I can sleep when I’m dead, so I just try to continue and find more time.

The best professional advice I have received is: Nothing worth doing is ever easy.

The most interesting job I have had (other than my current one) was: When I was a Pi Phi at Arizona State, my sorority sisters and I would nanny for many baseball teams throughout Spring Training. I was able to spend time with some really amazing families, and had a ton of fun. The families really made us a part of their lives for a few months each year, and definitely inspired me to be both a career woman and mother.

If I weren’t doing this, I would love to: Plan weddings! I am a sucker for large events and helping people enjoy one of the most amazing days of their lives. I have planned three weddings at this point (and my own in Maui) and am also ordained. Who doesn’t like dresses, flowers, champagne, and huge smiles

In my spare time: My most favorite pastime is hanging out with my husband, Sean, and our children—Ensley (almost 3) and Rock (just

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turned 1). From sports to OMSI to playing in the pool, we are always on the go and would have it no other way.

Activities (other than work) that I'm involved with: I am the current Multnomah Bar Association's Young Lawyers Section Board President, a Board Member with both ROI Portland and the Oregon Law Foundation, serve as the Auction Co-Chair for the Oregon Women Lawyers Foundation Board, moonlight as an instructor at Portland Community College, and am active with my Pi Beta Phi Alumni Club.

My plans for the next 10 years: Include raising happy, responsible, and kind children and enjoy life—both personally and professionally. And if I have time, learn how to cook **LVN**



Holly Simpson
Financial Administrator
Saalfeld Griggs
Salem, Oregon

My position entails: Oversight of all accounting department functions. This includes Accounts Payable and Receivable, monthly billing, payroll, monthly and annual financials for partners, working with our CPA and attorney budgets. I also take care of ProLaw software upgrades and training.

My business philosophy: I believe you should work hard—being a numbers person, try to have balance. This includes everything to do with numbers but your personal life also. I also try to treat everyone with respect and kindness but be truthful.

My professional goal(s): To continue to grow in my position and make a positive difference. This includes improving processes and the environment in the company I work for as well as in other people's lives.

Like best about the job: I enjoy accounting because it's black and white. When you balance, you know you have the right answer, or you don't.

Like least about the job: If you don't balance, it can drive you crazy trying to figure out why.

The best professional advice I have received is: To keep perspective and realize that no matter what the crisis is at work, the sun will still rise and set as it should.

The most interesting job I have had (other than my current one) was: Working for a soil remediation company. I took care of their accounting needs and learned a lot about how dirt can become dirty and what it takes to make the dirt clean. They developed a lot of their own technology and worked towards getting it patented. The entire process was really interesting.

If I weren't doing this, I would love to: Go to culinary school in Europe with an emphasis on baking and see where that took me.

In my spare time: I enjoy reading, walking, and getting together with friends.

Activities (other than work) that I'm involved with: I love being involved at church. My husband and I lead a weekly Bible study and sing in the choir.

My plans for the next 10 years: Professionally, I'd like to sharpen and expand my skills and add value wherever I work. Personally, becoming an empty nester (and maybe even a grandma) and working towards retirement! **LVN**

