

OWLS Members Lead Oregon Lawyers for Good Government

By Jennifer Duncan Hackett

On the morning of November 9, as the country woke up to the reality of a Trump presidency, Traci Feit Love started a private Facebook group that began quietly and quickly gathering members. Originally called Lawyers of the Left, and now called Lawyers for Good Government (L4GG), the group grew to over 125,000 attorneys in all 50 states and abroad in a matter of days. Composed of lawyers, law students, professors, and activists, the mission of L4GG is to promote social justice, democracy, and equality in the wake of a presidential administration that does not appear to promote those values.

In November in Oregon, even before there was talk at the national level of official state L4GG chapters, Kristina Holm and Banafsheh Violet Nazari, both OWLS members, began bringing together hundreds of attorneys and law students to talk about forming Oregon Lawyers for Good Government (OL4GG). Recognizing that many attorneys and groups are already doing important work in the areas of, among others, health care, immigration, education, civil rights, criminal justice, environmental issues,

It has been less than five months since the election and less than 100 days since Trump's inauguration, but OL4GG is already making its presence known in important ways. At its first all-hands meeting, OL4GG members created more than 20 "issue groups," each of which is working to partner with organizations in Oregon that are already focused on those issues. One of OL4GG's first actions was to write letters to the Portland's mayor and police chief, in coordination with the ACLU of Oregon and the Portland Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild (NLG),



Kristina Holm

objecting to the tactics used by police at various demonstrations and offering to start a dialogue with the Portland Police Bureau and the mayor's office to resolve differences. Those letters led to in-person meetings, and the discussion is ongoing.

Other activities supported or created by OL4GG members include these:

- Mobilizing attorneys to respond to Trump's executive orders that established a "Muslim ban," and gathering volunteer attorneys and interpreters to meet at the Portland and Seattle airports in order to provide representation to people being detained because of the executive orders.
- Recruiting OL4GG members to become legal observers at protests, either with the ACLU of Oregon or the Portland Chapter of the NLG.



Banafsheh Violet Nazari

- Participating in Refugee Adjustment Day, assisting refugees in completing their paperwork to obtain their green cards.
- OL4GG member Shari Gregory co-hosted a Toothpaste and Toiletries happy hour, which raised money and provided needed supplies for refugees in the Portland area.

OL4GG is just getting started. Its leaders have met with U.S. Representative Earl Blumenauer, are in ongoing discussions with his staff, and are in the process of setting up meetings with other elected officials. In the coming months, OL4GG will be providing feedback on proposed immigration policies, police tactics, and other issues as they arise. The energy, enthusiasm, intelligence, and comradery of the OL4GG members is inspiring and will make it possible for this work to continue and to succeed, even in the face of seemingly relentless obstacles.

Please contact OL4GG co-leaders Kristina Holm (kristina.holm@gmail.com), Banafsheh Violet Nazari (violet@nazarilaw.com), or Jennifer Duncan Hackett (JHackett@zelle.com) if you are interested in getting involved in the group.

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and LGBT rights, the goal of OL4GG is to support the critical work the Oregon legal community is already doing, to give the people doing that work extra support and resources, and to fill in the gaps where needed.