

Thanks To Those Who Made It Happen

By Michael Wise & Tom Powers

We've just wrapped one of the most successful legislative sessions for injured Oregon consumers and would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people that made it happen.

First, we'd like to thank our lobbying team at C & E Systems. Kristen Leonard did an amazing job of leading us through the political minefield that is Salem and had great support from Chris Parta and Elizabeth Cushwa. We couldn't have done it without their guidance and insight. No wonder Kristen was named by the Mercury newspaper as the "Best Progressive Lobbyist" in Salem.

Secondly, a special thank you to two OTLA members who put in countless hours and miles to attend daily and weekly meetings, testify at hearings, communicate with the membership, find victims, strategize on the latest inside the building politics... Richard Lane and Neil Jackson. They were both pivotal in accomplishing all we did this session.

As former co-chair of the legislative committee, Richard is an invaluable resource on the ins and outs of the political game in Salem. He kept OTLA ahead of the game by reviewing bills and alerting us to potential pit falls. He kept a watchful eye on all tort reform efforts. Richard spent a good part of 2008 on the Governor's Oregon Tort Claims Act Task Force, which resulted in the passage of legislation increasing the OTCA cap. He had his hand in fighting for the good and defeating the bad and ugly in the legislative session.

Neil Jackson might as well have opened an office in Salem, given the

amount of time he spent in our state's capitol. Neil almost logged more hours in meetings with legislators and in legislative hearings than our lobbyists themselves. Neil's determination and negotiating skills are the main reason OTLA's Motor Vehicle section will see 4 new important bills to help your clients signed in to law this year.

So the next time you see Richard Lane or Neil Jackson, please thank them as if your practice depended on it – because it probably does.

Special thanks to the below mentioned people for their hard work and commitment to passing important consumer protection legislation.

Business Litigation / Consumer Rights Legislation

HB 2585: Consumer Class Actions
Attorneys: Yoona Park, Scott Shorr, David Sugerman, Robert Stoll

HB 3111: Repeal of Reciprocal Attorneys' Fees in certain actions.

Representative Nick Kahl and Dennis Richardson

Employment Legislation

HB 3162: Whistleblower Protections

Attorneys: Beth Creighton, Liz McKanna, Charese Rohny, Dana Sullivan

Witnesses: Paul LeBaron, Jan Lorenzen, Loreli Wright

Motor Vehicles/Personal Injury Legislation

HB 2325: PIP Make Whole
Attorneys: Tom D'Amore, Rob Dolton, Neil Jackson

Client/Witness: Shannon Olmstead

HB 2326: PIP Wage Reimbursement and Property Damage
Attorneys: Rob Dolton, Neil Jackson

Client/Witness: Mark Nichols
SB 306: Increase 20.080 Limit
Attorneys: Erica Glaser, Neil Jackson, Jim Nelson, Thane Tienson

HB 2769: Minor Settlements Fix
Attorneys: Brooks Cooper, Neil Jackson

Products Liability Legislation

SB 307: Extend the Statute of Ultimate Repose in products liability cases

Attorneys: Linda Eyerman, Bill Gaylord, Tom Powers

Witnesses: Lake Oswego Teachers; Mary Borg, Denise Fletter, Joel and Kellie La Follette, Sheryl Rhoades, Amber Newcomb, Jason Reynolds, Stephen Sharp

Workers' Compensation Legislation

HB 3345: Attorney's fees
Attorneys: Martin Alvey, Randy Elmer, Chris Moore



Neil Jackson listens intently during a strategy discussion.



Michael Wise and Tom Powers review OTLA priority bills.



Richard Lane at Legislative Committee meeting.