

## The ULP Welcomes our NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Marc Lampson

**Fall 2006**

**STAFF**

*Marc Lampson*  
Executive Director

*John Tirpak*  
Staff Attorney

*Hong Tran*  
Volunteer Coordinator  
& Staff Attorney

*Laurie Powers*  
Managing Attorney,  
Spokane

*Kevin Bender*  
Paralegal

In September, the Unemployment Law Project Board voted to hire Marc Lampson as the Project's new director. Marc began work at ULP in 2004 when he was hired to handle the Project's appeals to the judicial system. The Project had previously contracted out these appeals to other attorneys. In an effort to keep more continuity of client representation and to help the financial picture for the Project, the Board decided in 2004 to hire an attorney to specifically work on judicial review. The Project hired Marc to initiate and carry out this work. Since that time, Marc has argued many unemployment cases



before judges of the King, Pierce, Snohomish, Thurston, and Yakima Superior Courts and before Divisions I and II of the Washington State Court of Appeals. The Project's appellate success rate has been approximately sixty percent, which has surpassed ULP's expectations.

Prior to coming to ULP, Marc had practiced law with the Washington Appellate Defender Association, Evergreen Legal Service's Institutional Legal Services Project, and a private civil litigation firm. Marc taught legal research and writing, as well as other subjects, at Seattle University School of Law for 11 years. He has also taught at the University of Washington's School of Law, UW's Paralegal Program, and UW's Information School. Marc was also an instructor in the paralegal programs at Edmonds Community College and Highline Community College and he taught legal research to inmates at the Washington Correction's Center for Women for over ten years.

Marc's interests in providing legal services to people in poverty go back to his days at law school. He attended Antioch School of Law in Washington, D.C., a law school which from the first year engaged students in representing poor people in the legal system through legal services clinics. He worked in the landlord-tenant, developmental disabilities, misdemeanors, and labor clinics. Also while at law school, he worked for the American Bar Association's Commission on the Legal Problems of the Elderly and its Commission on the Disabled, which publishes the *Mental and Physical Disability Law Reporter*. While at law school he also worked for the National Lawyers Guild's National Labor Law Center and as a law clerk for the Communications Workers of America, Local 2 in Washington, D.C.

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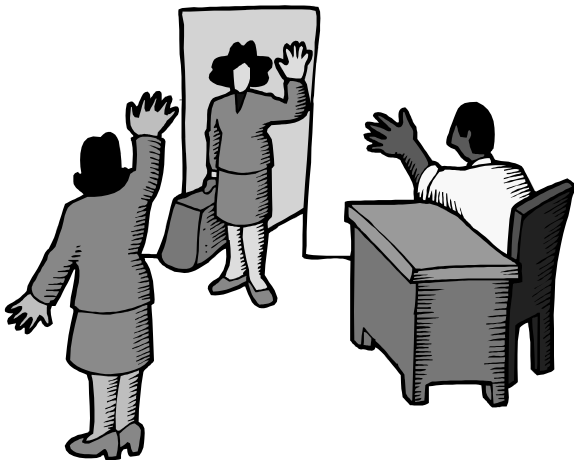
# Leaving a Legacy: Lynn Greiner Says Farewell to ULP

After four years as director of the Unemployment Law Project, I decided that it was time to turn the organization over to new leadership. I have taken on a new position working with the Washington State Bar Association on regional planning as set out in the recently adopted State Plan. In this capacity, I will be working with legal aid providers across the state, many of whom I got to know while directing the ULP.

I have so enjoyed my tenure with the ULP, and especially the work with terrific staff and board members. As a team, we accomplished so much in the past four years: we grew the staff from a one-attorney office to a four-attorney office, we moved the Seattle offices from the tiny and cramped space in the Labor Temple to the open and inviting suite in the historic Securities Building, we added an appellate component to our work which has allowed us to work with clients in a new capacity while we shape the law and bring in attorneys fees, we have more than doubled our funding with a diversified income stream, we increased the number of clients that we help five-fold, we instituted a telephone based Helpline which advised claimants who are navigating the system on their own, we expanded our use of law students and volunteer attorneys, and we opened the Spokane office under the management of attorney Laurie Powers and a cadre of law students and volunteer attorneys.

The Unemployment Law Project does a tremendous job of serving people who have been denied unemployment benefits. Despite adverse changes in the law, and a waxing and waning economy, we have continued to win 70% of our cases. Our work truly benefits those we assist: unemployment compensation helps folks keep a roof over their head and food on the table during difficult times.

I will miss working with the board, staff, law students and volunteer attorneys of the Unemployment Law Project. It has been personally rewarding in so many ways. I know the organization is now at a stable and highly-functional place and will continue to provide a high level of services to clients. I wish you all the best.



## **UPDATE: ON FORMER ULP VISTA ATTORNEY**

Meghann McCann completed her year of service with ULP through the Americorps VISTA program at the end of August. She spent the month of September traveling throughout the East Coast and through parts of Europe. As of October 1st, Meghann has opened a private practice and is now working on issues affecting children in dependency and family law cases. She uses the advocacy skills and experience she acquired while working with the temporarily unemployed at ULP to serve another under-represented and at-risk population, women and children.

# ULP WELCOMES HONG TRAN



Hong Tran, our newest staff member, joined the Seattle ULP office on October 30, 2006, to serve in a newly created position: Volunteer Coordinator and Staff Attorney. In this role she will focus primarily on recruiting, training, mentoring, supervising, and thanking our volunteer attorneys, paralegals, and law students. She will also carry a case load of administrative hearings and judicial appeals.

Hong went to law school at the University of Utah's S.J. Quinney College of Law. This is when she began her work with Utah Legal Services (ULS), a nonprofit agency for low-income families, and Bennion Community Services Center on the U of U campus. At ULS, Hong worked in a number of areas of the law including unemployment compensation.

At the Bennion Center she co-directed a project to help local businesses become more ethical employers, on issues such as a living wage and health care. During her years in law school, Hong volunteered on projects that led to the creation of the first battered women's shelter in Salt Lake City, participated in trail restoration projects and in mentoring programs for minority students of U of Utah.

After law school, Hong accepted a fellowship position with Legal Services of North Carolina. While in this area she began volunteering to help establish a nonprofit environmental advocacy organization. When her year of fellowship was up she moved to Spokane, Washington to begin her job with Spokane Legal Services where she worked with child custody cases. While in Spokane she also began volunteering with Catholic Community Refugee Resettlement Program as an English tutor for a newly immigrated Vietnamese family.

Seattle's Northwest Justice Project was Hong's next career move. The two months between jobs she traveled to Texas to work with an organization, ProBar, that represents individuals applying for asylum in the U.S. Hong was with the NJP for ten years. cont'd p.6

## TAKING IT TO COURT

By Marc Lampson

Ms. Booker worked for over five years for a well-known charity that operates retail stores which sell second-hand clothes and other goods. The charity had a rule in its stores that employees could not set aside merchandise, something it terms "stashing," for later purchase.

In December 2004, Ms. Booker spotted some pants she thought her son would like for Christmas so she put the pants beside the cash register and purchased them later that day when she got off work. Three months later, the store was conducting an investigation of stock shrinkage and stashing and one of the investigators asked Ms. Booker, who was a supervisor, to tell him anything she might know about people shoplifting and stashing. She volunteered that she had set aside the pants for her son during the Christmas season. A few weeks later, the employer fired Ms. Booker for violating its policy against "stashing."

When she applied for unemployment benefits, the ESD initially denied benefits based on "misconduct," and Ms. Booker represented herself at a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge. The ALJ affirmed the denial and ULP wrote a petition for review to the Commissioner, but the Commissioner affirmed the denial of benefits.

On behalf of Ms. Booker, ULP appealed the Commissioner's decision to the Pierce County Superior Court. A judge of that court reversed all three prior decision-makers and agreed with Ms. Booker's position that this single, isolated incident of setting aside merchandise that she later purchased was not "misconduct" under the statute. Ms. Booker was subsequently awarded the unemployment benefits to which she was entitled.

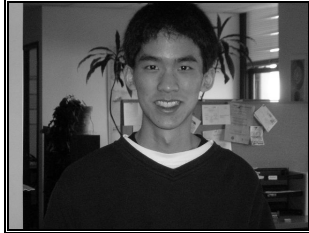
# Faces of ULP's Summer/Fall Interns and Volunteers

It is the ULP's pleasure to introduce our outstanding interns and volunteers. Without their help, we would not be able to serve as many claimants throughout the State. We thank these talented and highly motivated individuals!

## SEATTLE:



Aisha Kakr, UW



Kenneth Li, UW



Meghann McCann, Esq



Rachael Brown, SU



Matt Rudow, UW 2L



Elizabeth Bedford, SU 3L



Vicky Daniels, SU 2L



Mary Henderson, Esq

**Not Pictured:** Kelly Beissel; Chrystina Bowlin; Mike Brown; David Fentin; Carrie Gargas; Joan Kalthorn; Nathan Meinzer; Terese Norton

## SPOKANE:



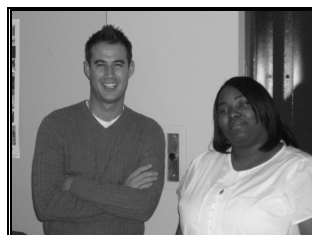
Bennett Taylor, GU 2L



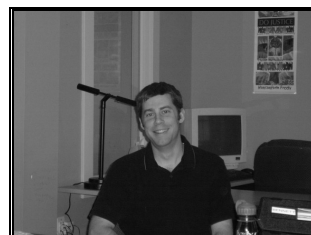
Bethany Allen, GU 2L



David Jolley, GU 2L



Matt Hironaka, GU 3L  
Barbara Russel, GU 2L



Steve Meredith, GU 3L

**Not Pictured:** Maureen Kyin



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*Donations: April 2006 through September 2006*

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### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - cont'd

Marc has been active in bar activities with the Washington State Bar Association, the National Lawyers Guild, and the King County Bar Association (KCBA). In 1993, KCBA published a book that Marc wrote about the legal history of King County and specifically about the history of the King County Bar Association.

Marc says that he is very excited to be selected to head the Unemployment Law Project. He hopes to honor the Project's founders, past directors, staff, volunteers, donors, and supporters by increasing the number of clients the Project represents, focusing on staff and volunteer training and satisfaction, and ensuring the financial health of the Project.

### *Your donations at work:*

"I felt as if someone finally heard me and understood my situation. It is helpful to have someone who knows the legal system. I'm a layman and legal issues are confusing and intimidating!" W.O.~ Wenatchee, WA



**Above:** Laurie Powers, Spokane

**To the left:** (from left to right) Kevin Bender, Marc Lampson, John Tirpak, and Hong Tran

**HONG TRAN, Continued**

Hong's first position there was focusing on housing advocacy; through this work she became recognized as a state and nation wide expert on affordable housing issues. Hong has co-authored briefs to the U.S. Supreme Court, and advised other legal services and attorneys on issues of affordable housing. She has also provided trainings to judges and other legal practitioners on issues of rights of persons with mental disabilities, housing, and immigrants' access to the legal system. She also headed efforts to educate the community and legal world about issues barring reintegration of those released from jail/prison. During her last two years with NJP, she was promoted to advocacy coordinator.

In 2006, she ran for U.S. Senate opposing Maria Cantwell largely based on Cantwell's failure to oppose the War on Iraq and global trade policies that failed to protect workers' rights. She joins us straight from her campaign for US senator. The ULP is privileged to now have her join our team in advocating for the rights of the temporarily unemployed.

# Give your neighbor a helping hand: Donate to ULP!

All of us, our families, our neighbors, our friends, are at-risk of finding ourselves unemployed. As you know, we do not charge a fee for our services. Our work is funded by grants and donations, as well as contributions from people **just like you** make up one-fourth of our budget. With your help, we can make a difference!

*"I had an exceptional experience with your organization. I was treated respectfully and able to maintain my dignity during a time when I felt that there was not much dignity left in my life. Thank you for being a great organization to support those of us who feel challenged by the enormity of the unemployment appeals process."* T.U.~ Puyallup

Your support will directly help people like "T.U." who have lost their jobs, been denied unemployment benefits, and face severe financial hardship. Help us provide services to increasing numbers of workers, your friends, family, neighbors, across the State, who are wrongfully denied their unemployment benefits.

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## UNEMPLOYMENT LAW PROJECT

1904 Third Ave., Ste 604  
Seattle, WA 98101

**The ULP relies on contributions to support our work!!! Please send us a donation in the enclosed envelope. We'll put your money to good use! ... Thanks!**

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