

2020–21 Annual Report

Having received the final disbursement of Cy Pres funds in early 2020, we focused our efforts this past year laying the foundation for our work that lies ahead. As a community led organization rooted in equity, we started from the original mission and purpose behind OCJ's creation and spent countless hours having conversations with board members, consumers, community organizations, agencies, and legal providers to understand how best to pursue our impact. From these discussions, OCJ's four program areas (see next page) emerged along with the guiding principles that will lead us in our work:

Oregon - Statewide solutioning, social Impact and Innovation

Consumer - Consumer-centered, purpose-driven

Justice - Achieving equity, moving the needle on historic inequity

Collaboration - "Many voices" intersectional inclusion, relational engagement

Compassion - Respect and empathy

Openness to Learning - Having a growth mindset, seeking to know what is missing

In addition to building out our organizational framework, we also funded over \$3 million in grants, campaigns, and other initiatives to benefit consumers and support Oregon's consumer protection landscape. Details of our accomplishments and impact are summarized in the next page.

MEET OUR TEAM



OCJ welcomed 5 new board members and 5 new staff this past year greatly expanding and diversifying the expertise, lived experiences, and representation within our organization. Please visit our website to learn more [about us](#) and [upcoming openings](#).

Pictured from left to right: José Luis Maldonado, Robin Wang, Janet Byrd, Sayer Jones, Se-Ah-Dom Edmo, Emily Reiman, Lester Thompson, Sybil Hebb, Jenny Pool Radway, Justin Baxter, ReJeana Orr, Henry Kantor, Katrina Holland.

LAW

Litigation • Research • Practitioner Pathways

OCJ funded various initiatives to advance consumer law in Oregon including:

- \$600K for consumer law research at the University of Oregon Law School.
- \$300K to the Commons Law Center to launch an innovative tenant law program directed at low to moderate households while also serving as a career pathway for consumer law attorneys.
- Providing access to the National Consumer Law Center's digital law library for Oregon State Bar members.

POLICY

Lobbying • Research • Legislative Pathways

The 2021 Legislative Session was a first for OCJ. In addition to providing testimony in support of several successful consumer protection bills, we spent time observing the legislative session and identifying potential coalition and organizational partners in preparation for a more active role in 2022 and beyond.

PROGRAMS & IMPACT

COMMUNITY

Mobilizing • Research • Advocacy Pathways

OCJ awarded \$1.5 million in our first year of grant making to 26 organizations. Because of the events this past year, we directed our funding to support consumers most impacted by the pandemic and wildfires.

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"We are grateful you have chosen to help us ensure immigrant Latino families are informed and empowered to be in control of their consumer choices and safe from predatory practices."

- Latino Community Association

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We also began to establish long term relationships with many community organizations by hosting listening sessions to surface issues facing consumers.

CONSUMER

Navigation • Consumer Insights

In collaboration with the Oregon Law Foundation, Oregon State Bar, Oregon Judicial Department and Legal Aid Services of Oregon, OCJ funded a design study for a new web portal that will provide Oregonians easy to use access to a broad array of legal information, resources, and services.

Additionally, 1.7 million Oregonians received in 2020 a \$94 settlement check from the Scharfstein v. BP West Coast Products LLC class action lawsuit. Concerned that many thought the check was a scam or a fake, OCJ launched our "this check is real" multi-lingual, multi-media PSA campaign to encourage recipients to claim what was rightfully theirs.

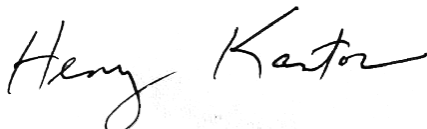
Looking Ahead

This coming year will be an exciting one for OCJ as we transition from foundation laying to building capacity and impact. In doing so, our priorities will include:

- A national search to recruit OCJ's permanent Executive Director followed by the build-out of our leadership team and staff,
- The development of our Strategic Plan to detail the specific programs and impacts that we desire,
- Continued conversations with many consumers – especially those with low incomes and from communities of color – to help us define our programs and prioritize our agenda.
- Awarding \$2.1+ Million in community-driven grants that will be aligned with our 4 program areas,
- A proactive presence in the 2022 Legislative Session to advance pro-consumer legislation, and
- Continued investments within our organization so we can recruit a talented and passionate team and provide them with tools and resources to allow them to impactful and effective in their work.

As we continue to build our capacity, there will be increasing opportunities for fellow Oregonians to engage us in our work. Whether it be a future member of our organization, advisor, or partner, we hope to see you in our journey as we empower and advance the rights of all Oregon consumers.

In Community & Justice,



Henry Kantor,
Board Chair



Robin Wang
Interim Executive Director