**OLA Task Force on Access to Legal Information**

**Meeting 1**

Wednesday, October 31 10-12:00

State Library, B9

1. Introductions

All task force members were present : MaryKay Dahlgreen, Cathryn Bowie, Martha Renick,

Holly Gerber, Diana Hadley, Sara Charlton, LaJean Humphries, Kelly Reynolds, Pam North,

Janet Webster, Mike Eliason

2.  Task Force's charge and context

Janet gave the background and context for the Task Force. OLA is concerned about equitable access to legal information for all Oregonians.  The status quo is not sustainable.  Consequently, OLA has submitted placeholder legislation that proposes a fresh approach to providing legal information resources and services statewide.  Before OLA commits to formal submission of the proposed legislation. The Board needs a more defined concept that addresses stakeholders' issues and OLA's objectives.  Through conversations over time with judges, lawyers, librarians, county officials, legislators and lobbyists, three major issues emerge that we will use to guide our discussions:  1) service structure; 2) prevention of unauthorized practice of law; 3) costs and funding.  We will discuss each by brainstorming options and then identifying pros/cons of each option. In the end, we anticipate having recommendations around each issue that will shape the future.  Are there any other issues that need to be on the table?  Remember that some things we may consider an issue might actually be an option for addressing the issues.  We can park issues that emerge during our discussion and we will visit them at the end.

3.  Issue 1: Service structure

We brainstormed possible approaches to service coming up with 11 options. Some were closely related as we worked through the pros/cons of each. Collaboration is one theme. A combination of approaches is also possible. We discussed the challenge of financing across entities and the tension between local control and efficient use of resources. The variety of needs throughout Oregon is understood but not well documented. The options with the pros and cons are organized on the accompanying spreadsheet.

4.  Issue 2:  Prevention of unauthorized practice of law

The group was surprised that this was an issue to discuss. The chair assured them that it had emerged in discussion with various stakeholders. In our discussion, we realized that it is low hanging fruit as the standards and guidelines exist as do training possibilities. We agreed that the OLA Legal Reference Round Table could take a lead on this issue. Holly will bring some basic cost of training information back to the group. This would be a good project to work with the State Bard as well as local entities on.

5.  Wrap-up for Day One

We agreed to ponder the service structure options more and in particular each pull out themes and possibilities. The next meeting will focus on costs and funding, and will need to circle back to structure.