

CASCADE UPDATE

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WINTER 1998

Winners Announced!

Proposals detail ways to improve local government services

Four winners and two runners-up have been selected for the 1998 Oregon *Better Government Competition*. The *Competition* sought ideas for improving local government services or reducing their cost. On October 12 Cascade hosted an Awards Luncheon in Portland to honor the winners; see related article below.

The honored proposals explore ways to conserve water and reduce delivery costs; improve and expand education options through tuition tax credits; reduce student transportation costs; streamline the building permit process; create a more responsive county surveyor system; and, review alternative funding sources for local park and recreation districts.

The six winners and runners-up were chosen, from among nearly 200 ideas submitted, by an independent panel of

judges. The list of *Competition* judges is provided on the back page. Executive summaries and the full reports are available from Cascade.

"Local government has moved to the center of attention the last few years because of voter-passed ballot measures and the shifting down of federal government responsibilities," points out Cascade program director Kurt T. Weber.

"I am pleased to extend my support to the 1998 Oregon Better Government Competition."

— Governor John A. Kitzhaber, M.D.

"The winning proposals dovetail with current trends. They embrace ideas that can be implemented close to home and highlight principles that can be adopted by all levels of government." Weber asserts, "Cascade will actively promote the authors and their winning proposals, which will be sent to Oregon public of-



Jersey City Mayor Bret Schundler with the 1998 *Better Government Competition* winners and runners-up.

ficials, media and community leaders, and think tanks across the country."

Competition winner **John Bradley**, president of the R & H Construction Company, advocates the creation of an "express lane" to help reduce the backlog of building permit applications. The proposed reform would enable public employees to concentrate on complex building projects, and ultimately save money for consumers and homeowners by reducing construction time frames.

Turn to BGC, page 8

Public services improved through competition

Jersey City mayor tells how competition has reduced costs and improved public service

Jersey City Mayor Bret Schundler addressed "Individual Empowerment and Responsive Government" before a full house at the October 12 *Better Government Competition Awards Luncheon*. Schundler informed the 200 in attendance how competition-based policies helped revitalize the once nearly-bankrupt Jersey City.

Schundler's introduction of market principles has enabled him to expand public



Mayor Schundler with *Oregonian* publisher Fred Stickel.

services, improve service quality, reduce property tax levies, and reduce the city's budget. Since winning a 1992 special election, Schundler has been re-elected twice by overwhelming margins.

His accomplishments include contracting out Jersey City's water services, which

has provided a net benefit to the city of almost \$20 million since 1996. Recently, Jersey City followed in the footsteps of Riverside County, California, and hired a private company to manage its library system.

Schundler is using competition to improve education. He has implemented charter schools to compliment the public school system, and helped start a private scholarship program for low-income students, enabling them to attend the school of their choice. Cascade is facilitating a similar Portland-area program, which is highlighted on page three.

Mayor Schundler's luncheon address is on page six. More information about Jersey City successes are available at www.bretschundler.com.

The future and its enemies

Virginia Postrel's new book, *The Future and its Enemies*, is worth celebrating. She makes a compelling case about how and why unplanned, open-ended trial and error — not conformity to one central vision — is the key to human betterment.

Postrel writes, "How we feel about the evolving future tells us who we are as individuals and as a civilization: Do we search for *stasis* — a regulated, engineered world? Or do we embrace *dynamism* — a world of constant creation, discovery, and competition? Do we value stability and control, or evolution and learning?"

"Enemies of the future" insist on proscribing outcomes in advance, cir-

cumventing the process of competition and experiment in favor of their own preconceptions and prejudices.

Many are trying to proscribe Oregon's future. Whether it's economic development, land use, or transit, government planners seek to impose their vision for the region's future while brushing aside property rights, consumer choice, and competition.

For example, Portland-area voters recently rejected the South-North light rail bond measure (Oregon and Vancouver, Washington voters previously said no to this project). Disappointed planners, who spent four years and 13 million of your tax dollars on their \$1.6 billion vision, challenged rail critics: "Come on. Bring your magic markers. Show us the routes.

Show us the money."

Planners are missing the point: Stop trying to force us into fixed-rail straight jackets. Just legalize competition and we'll chose our own options; competitive transit producers will continuously adjust to our needs. And, give us our money back so we can each pay for the transit solutions we prefer.

Cascade's public policy alternatives embrace *dynamism*. To be friends of the future, Oregonians must allow the process of discovery and creativity that arises from consumer choice and competition. Read Virginia Postrel's book for a clear vision of this bright future.

Steve Buckstein
— Steve Buckstein, *president*

Cascade Policy Institute

Steve Buckstein, *President*

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Two staff members added

Cascade grows to meet demand

"We've experienced significant growth in programs, speaking opportunities, and demand for Cascade's ideas in the past year," says president Steve Buckstein. "To better fulfill our mission the Institute has added two talented staff members."

Education director Julie Riggs joined Cascade in September. She will coordinate the Children Scholarship Fund — Portland program for low-income students.

Julie recently moved to Portland after 11 years in Washington D.C.. She has spent her career in the non-profit sector working for a number of free-market and educational organizations including the Closeup Foundation, the Cato Institute and most recently, The Becket Fund for Religious Liberty. Julie has extensive experience in events programming, program administration and fundraising.

Julie received a B.A. in political science and her teaching credentials from Lewis & Clark College in Portland. Julie is married and has one child.

Hallie I. Shapiro joined the Institute staff in June as executive assistant. Hallie is redesigning Cascade's web site, and is involved with publication design and program coordination, in addition to numerous other responsibilities.

A preschool teacher for the last four years, she recently entered University of Oregon's Electronic Publishing Program,

where she is studying publishing and graphic design. Hallie moved from Massachusetts to Portland a year after receiving her B.A. in English at Brandeis University. She lives with her husband in Northwest Portland.



Julie Riggs



Hallie I. Shapiro

Low-income students get school choice!

Cascade facilitates private scholarships in Portland-metro area

Cascade was selected in September to facilitate the Children's Scholarship Fund — Portland, which will help 400 to 500 low-income children attend the private and parochial schools of their choice. Students who are in kindergarten through eighth grade during the 1999 school year are eligible for the four-year scholarships.

"Christmas will come in April for 400 local low-income families."

— Willamette Week, Sept. 30

The *Oregonian* endorsed the Children's Scholarship Fund — Portland (CSF-P) in an editorial. *Brainstorm* magazine highlighted the program too, and the September 30 *Willamette Week* named CSF-P a "winner."

CSF-P is part of a private, national \$200 million program established by venture capitalist Theodore J. Forstmann and John T. Walton, son of Wal-Mart founder Sam Walton. Portland is one of 36 partner cities nationwide; Cascade's goal is to operate a \$2 million program in Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties.



Children's Scholarship Fund founder Theodore J. Forstmann and Cascade's Julie Riggs.

"...competition that doesn't siphon tax dollars from the public school system helps improve all education choices, and that's something we strongly favor."

— *The Oregonian*, October 1

Forstmann and Walton will match all contributions on a dollar-for-dollar basis. All contributions are tax-deductible and, most importantly, 100 percent of the funds raised will be used for the tuition scholarships.

The CSF-P provides an unprecedented opportunity for Portland-area low-income families. The need-based scholarships will cover up to \$1,700 in tuition costs. The average tuition at an area private school is \$2,500. Generally, families that qualify for

the federal free or reduced-cost lunch program are eligible to apply.

The CSF-P program will help hundreds of low-income children attend the elementary and secondary schools of their choice; a choice that families of financial means already have. Through the introduction of more choice and competition, this program will foster improvement at all public, private and parochial schools, to the benefit of parents and students.

Applications for the Children Scholarship Fund — Portland will be accepted until March 31, 1999. If applications exceed available scholarships, recipients will be chosen by a lottery on April 17, 1999.

"...here's your opportunity to join national business leaders in funding private scholarships for low-income K-8 students."

— *Brainstorm Magazine*, Sept.

To support the Children's Scholarship Fund — Portland, please contact CSF-P executive director, Julie Riggs, at (503) 242-0900 or Julie@CascadePolicy.org.

More information is available at www.ScholarshipFund.org and www.CascadePolicy.org.

To apply for the scholarships, call 1-800-805-KIDS (5437).

\$5,000 for Oregon high school students

Encouraging students to think about the morality of law

The fifth annual Independence Essay Competition has kicked off! Awards totaling \$5,000 are available to Oregon high school-age students for the best essays that explore the morality, and advocate the repeal, of a law, ordinance or regulation.

For guidelines, call the Competition Hotline (503) 224-1737 or refer to www.CascadePolicy.org. Entry deadline is March 16, 1999. Public, private, and home-schooled students are all encouraged to enter.

Laws are not moral, good, or just, simply because they have been passed by a majority. Slavery provides a perfect example; though once permitted by law, it was, and is, immoral. Students are asked to

identify a *current* law, ordinance, or regulation they consider to be bad, immoral, or unjust and make the case for its repeal.

"It has long been a generally accepted maxim that the world is governed too much..."

— Theodore Thurston Geer
Oregon Governor, 1899-1903

An independent Essay Review Committee will select up to five winners, who will receive up to \$1,000 each. Committee members are: Robert J. Caldwell, editorial page editor, *The Oregonian*; Bernie Foster, publisher, *The Skanner*; James L. Huffman, dean, Northwestern School of Law at Lewis & Clark College; Judge Diarmuid O'Scannlain, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit; and Leslie Spencer, former associate editor, *Forbes* magazine.



New Essay Competition judge Bernie Foster, publisher of *The Skanner*.

The first 100 entrants will receive Frederic Bastiat's seminal essay, *The Law*. The 1999 Independence Essay Competition is sponsored in part by the James M. Bonavia Family Charitable Trust (Bend) and Friesen Lumber Company (St. Helens).

Liberty Link Institute for Humane Studies

College students and professors interested in liberty, property rights, free markets and free trade should familiarize themselves with the Institute for Humane Studies (IHS). Located in Fairfax, Virginia, IHS is affiliated with George Mason University.

The mission of IHS is "to support the achievement of a freer society by discovering and facilitating the development of talented, productive students, scholars and other intellectuals who share an interest in liberty..."

In 1997, IHS awarded over \$450,000 in scholarships to students from universities around the world. IHS also sponsored the attendance of over 350 students from 19 countries at its free summer seminar series. Among its programs are the Felix Morley Journalism Competition, Film and Fiction Scholarships, and the Charles G. Koch Summer Fellow Program, which offers a fully funded internship at a top Washington, DC public policy organization.

For more information contact IHS at (703) 934-6920, or refer to www.TheIHS.org. Alternatively, write them at 4084 University Dr., Suite. 101, Fairfax, VA 22030-6812.

Polystyrene foam: not guilty!

*Study concludes ban
harms the environment,
raises costs needlessly*

A new Cascade study analyzes the Portland ban on the use of polystyrene foam for to-go food and beverage containers. "Paper Waste: Why Portland's Ban on Polystyrene Foam Products Has Been a Costly Failure" finds the prohibition based more on myth and emotion than scientific fact; thus, the ban does little to accomplish touted environmental goals — and may be making things worse. The ban also drives up costs for consumers. Cascade program assistant Angela Eckhardt, author of the study, advocates that the ordinance be repealed.

"The annual cost of compliance with the ordinance is estimated to be between \$3.3 and \$3.9 million, for no environmental gain."

Contrary to popular belief, polystyrene foam (PSF), commonly known by the trade name Styrofoam, does not harm the atmosphere. Chloroflorocarbons (CFCs), thought to contribute to stratospheric ozone depletion and once used in some foam production, haven't been associated with PSF since 1990.

Landfills are not filling up at inordinate rates because of PSF. All fast food packaging, whether paper, foam, or plastic,



**Angela Eckhardt, author
of Paper Waste**

amounts to no more than 1/3 of 1%, by volume, of an average landfill. Some proponents argued it was frequently littered and so should be banned, but littering is a cultural problem that cannot be addressed by material bans; the inconsiderate will simply litter different things.

Material bans nearly always have unintended consequences. In this case, it's likely Portlanders are doing the environment more harm by using paper rather than foam cups. Studies show paper production results in significantly more air and water pollution, and industrial waste than PSF.

Further, because foam requires less raw material and energy to produce, it is considerably less expensive than the paper or plastic alternatives. Therefore, Portland's PSF prohibition forces consumers to spend money needlessly.

Call (503) 242-0900 for the report "Paper Waste," or refer to www.CascadePolicy.org.

Oregon airports: privately owned, operated and self-financed

Mention the word "airport" and most people think "government-run." In Oregon we should think "privately owned." Within our state borders are 300 non-commercial and 60 commercial private airports.

Twin Oaks Airpark in Hillsboro is one of Oregon's largest private airports. It is a 100 percent privately owned, operated, and financed business. Twin Oaks was founded in 1971 by Robert C. Stark and his father, after their first airport near Summer Lake was closed by the county due to urban growth.

Interested in visiting one of Oregon's largest private airports? Consider going on the first Saturday of each month when the Experimental Aircraft Association holds a breakfast from 7:30 am to 11:00 am for 150 to 200 people. For more information, contact Twin Oaks Airpark at (503) 628-2817.

Twin Oaks is home to 85 single-engine aircrafts and a 2,400-foot runway. The airport employs 12-15 people and serves over 400 customers monthly for general aviation, business, and flight training purposes. Stark says, "Because it is privately owned and we live here, a lot of people come to Twin Oaks because of the service."

In addition to personal customer attention, airport users benefit from very competitive prices for hangar and aircraft rentals, and maintenance. Twin Oaks has been so successful Stark is seeking county approval to construct more hangars.

Twin Oaks receives several student groups a year for field trips. Given his passion for aviation, Stark would like more children to visit the airport so he can introduce them to aviation. Regular airport users often bring their families out for a "picnic and just to watch the airplanes for the afternoon."

Cascade in the news, on the air — everywhere!

Below is a partial listing of recent interviews, publications, and speaking engagements by Cascade staff, academic advisors, and board members.

Television Appearances

Steve Buckstein was interviewed on KOIN about light rail, Sept. 4.

John A. Charles was interviewed about light rail on KATU, Sept. 4; KOIN, Sept. 25; and KATU's *Town Hall*, Oct. 25.

Charles was seen nationwide on C-SPAN, Oct. 29. He was a panelist at the Washington, D.C. symposium organized by the Heritage Foundation, "The New Urbanism and Sprawl: How Much Should Government Regulate Land Use?" Included on the panel was Alan Ehrenhalt, executive editor, *Governing Magazine*.

Speaking Engagements

William B. Conerly, PhD, CPI board chairman, attended the Sept. 18 and 19 State Policy Network Conference in Atlanta, and spoke at the Oct. 8 Fifth Annual Real Estate Symposium, on "The Economic Outlook, 1999."

Julie Riggs served as a moderator at the Oct. 25 Great Oregon Debate organized by the Lake Oswego Republican Women's Club.

Steve Buckstein and **Riggs** spoke Sept. 24 before nearly 100 members of the Oregon Federation of Independent Schools about the Children Scholarship Fund — Portland.

John A. Charles spoke at the Sept. 11 Association of Oregon Recyclers Conference in Seaside, and at an Oct. 13 public debate on light rail, sponsored by the Portland League of Women Voters.

Charles spoke about land use laws and growth management before the Edison Electric Institute, Sept. 28 in Portland; the Manufactured Housing Communities of Oregon, Oct. 19 in Salem; and the board of the Oregon Building Industry Association, Oct. 23 in Tillamook.

Charles was interviewed Sept. 14 by the *Atlanta Constitution* on growth controls. on Sept. 19 he joined Adrian Moore of the Privatization Center for a press briefing on urban transit with the *Oregonian's* Gordon Oliver.

Charles testified Oct. 22 before the ODOT Efficiency Committee in Salem, encouraging the privatization of ODOT functions and congestion pricing to help reduce traffic woes.

Charles was a panelist at the Associated Oregon Industries' Nov. 17 and 18 Northwest Environmental Conference. He addressed, "Incentives vs. Command and Control: What Works, What Doesn't, and What We Should Be Doing Differently."



John A. Charles on C-SPAN

"Thank you so much for bringing your knowledge and point-of-view...to our Ballot Measure Forum...and sharing a factual presentation with us...We need a clear explanation of each side and you gave us that."

— Bev Wilson, program chair, Portland League of Women Voters

Charles sat on the panel "The Problems with Late Twentieth-Century Cities," at the Dec. 1 Washington, D.C. Livable Cities Conference organized by the Heritage Foundation, Manhattan Institute for Policy Research and State Policy Network.

Patrick Stephens spoke at the Sept. 21 National Public Policy Educational Conference on "The Government Reform Perspective on Welfare Devolution."

Kurt T. Weber and **Angela Eckhardt** represented Cascade at the Nov. 6 and 7 League of Oregon Cities Conference in Jantzen Beach, and the Nov. 17-19 Association of Oregon Counties Conference in Eugene.

James L. Huffman, JD, dean of Northwestern School of Law at Lewis & Clark

College, and Cascade Academic Advisor, presented his paper, "Land Ownership and Environmental Regulation," at a University of California, Berkeley conference. The paper will soon be published in *The Ecology Law Quarterly*.

Gerard C. S. Mildner, PhD, PSU Urban Studies and Planning professor and CPI academic advisor, discussed the Portland International Airport light rail project, at the Portland Development Commission, Sept. 16; the Tri-Met board, Sept. 23; and the Portland City Council, Oct. 7.

Radio Interviews

John A. Charles spoke on KNEWS, Nov. 13, KPDK, Sept. 14 and Oct. 22, and KUIK, Sept. 18, 27, 29, and Oct. 23, about the regional highway system, light rail, and busways. On Oct. 8 he did two radio interviews in Ventura County, CA, spoke at a luncheon, and appeared before the editorial board of the *LA Times* (Ventura County edition) regarding Portland's growth controls.

Patrick Stephens was interviewed by KINK, Oct. 6, about Portland Mayor Vera Katz's proposal to build over the Portland I-405 freeway

Paul R. Farago, Chairman, Oregon Business Advisory Council, was interviewed on national PBS' *All Things Considered*, Oct. 26, regarding issue advocacy.

Publications

Steve Buckstein

"The government store: Our state-run education emporiums aren't serving needs of students today," *Oregonian*, Aug. 6. Reprinted in *Times-Herald* (Burns), Sept. 16, and *Teachers for Excellence in Education Report* (Kelowna, B.C.), Oct.

"Conservatives should oppose the drug war," *Brainstorm Magazine*, Oct.

John A. Charles

"Top ten light rail myths: What we've learned from 12 years of MAX in Portland," *Clackamas Spectator*, Sept.

"Pave eastside MAX line, run buses on it," *Oregonian*, Sept. 17.

"Property rights should be defended in Oregon," *Capitol Press*, Oct. 9.

Turn to In the news, page 7

Individual Empowerment and Responsive Government

by Mayor Bret Schundler

The following is adapted from Jersey City Mayor Bret Schundler's October 12 keynote address at the 1998 Oregon Better Government Competition Awards Luncheon honoring the winners and runners-up.

One of the most direct ways government can be responsive is to give people help when they ask for it. Not to give them things per se, but to give them what they need to take care of their own families. To give them, if you will, the essentials of opportunity.

Jersey City is a tough center city that had gone through some very difficult times. Spending had gone up. Taxes had gone up. People couldn't pay; they defaulted. We lost more jobs than any other city in the state. We were basically a community that had a working class and the poor.

Less than half of our children were finishing high school, and only half of those children were passing the basic skills test necessary to get a diploma. As I walked through the streets of Jersey City people would call out from all over, "Mayor, I need a job." I'd bring them into the office and try to help them find work, but they couldn't get work because they couldn't read and they couldn't do basic math.

We decided we had to change education so people would have the ability to walk on their own two feet and get a job and take care of their families. We began to work on the public schools, moving away from the one-size-fits-all approach and turning to programs that were tailor-made to diverse needs.

We passed charter school legislation. About a quarter of the charter schools in the state are in Jersey City, and it's making a difference. I founded the Golden Door Charter School. It has 500 children, 90 percent of whom are low-income, African-American children. We have a longer school day and a longer school year. We talk about honesty and perseverance and that if you work hard in this country you can succeed. We give children extra work and discipline, and challenge them so they develop their skills.

Finally, we want to ensure that our parents ultimately can make choices for their children. I have personally helped establish the Jersey City Scholarship Fund, a privately-funded program that provides many low-income students with scholarships to



"We privatized the management of our water utility...In three years we have saved Jersey City taxpayers and ratepayers \$20 million..."

— Mayor Bret Schundler

attend the school of their choice. I'm very glad Cascade has taken the initiative to facilitate a similar program in Portland.

For all the city is doing to improve schools, if we don't have a program that is perfectly suitable, parents should have the right to take money in the form of a tax credit, or a rebate of sales taxes for those who don't pay income taxes, and turn to our privately-managed schools. That is responsive government: putting the people you say you want to help in charge so they can get the essential services they need, for themselves and their family.

We are improving the delivery of other community services as well. We privatized the management of our water utility, and leased our employees to the winning of seven bidders. We cover all the capital costs so they have no incentive to underinvest in the plant to optimize operating profits. It's a five-year contract; if they don't manage the utility well, their contract is not renewed. In three years we have saved Jersey City taxpayers and ratepayers \$20 million through the productivity improvements of this management.

We just became the first municipal government in the United States to privatize the management of our library. It's still a city library, still free, still 100 percent taxpayer-supported, but privately managed.

Our library system is not computerized, and one of the things we wanted to do was actually enter the twenty-first century. We hired an entire team of people to manage our city employees, a team that is not protected by civil service laws, and if they don't produce, we can replace them. Here the focus is not saving money as it was with the water utility, but improving library services. Saving money on the one hand and improving services without spending more leaves us with more money to do new things, like rebuild parks or increase the number of streets that get paved per year.

I think what is American is the moral obligation to provide the public with the best services possible while taking as little of their money as necessary. This is doable. It works when you look at ways to improve productivity through allowing competition in the provision of a service. It doesn't always mean privatizing everything; it sometimes means partnerships, where you take your public assets and allow competition for their management. But under any circumstance, it is a moral obligation to put power in people's hands when it comes to the essentials of individual opportunity, and to keep power at local levels of control for community services so we have the flexibility to make judicious decisions about how best to provide each service.

Jersey City is now growing. We're up 24 percent in job growth. We're growing three times as fast as the state of New Jersey. We've always had a great location right on the outskirts of New York, but we were driving people away with crime, soaring taxes, and poor services. Now, property values are rising because we have dramatically reduced crime and significantly improved services and educational opportunities — without increasing property taxes. We're now allowing our geography to truly be an asset. People are coming back because we have improved those services that are essential for life and we've done it at the lowest possible costs.

Cascade Policy Institute wants to communicate ideas not just to Portland but to the world as to what works and as to what might work. I want to commend Cascade for being involved in what I think is a good fight. You know that they are involved in the scholarship effort. Many parents in this city are trying to make sure that their children get an education they can feel good about. I think we should help them make that possible and support them in their work. God bless you.

Video tapes of Mayor Schundler's presentation are available from Cascade (503) 242-0900.

In the news

continued from page 5

Paul R. Farago

"Redesign power structure to benefit city residents," *Oregonian*, Sept. 1.

Gerard C. S. Mildner

"Rethinking the airport MAX," *Oregonian*, Oct. 5.

"Light rail never was the right answer," *Oregonian*, Nov. 12.

Mentions

John A. Charles was highlighted in the Aug. 5 *Spotlight* (Scappoose) article, "Land use planning at 25: Addressing the mid-life crisis;" the Aug. 21 *Capital Press* (Salem) editorial, "Collective effort can stem loss of Oregon farm land;" and the Sept. 29 *Goldwater Institute* (Phoenix) report, "You say you want a rail-volution." On Oct. 22 he was quoted in the Hillsboro High School student paper regarding light rail.

Julie Riggs was quoted in the Sept. 29

Oregonian article, "Fund offers 500 scholarships to low-income students here."

Forthcoming

William Mitchell, PhD, academic advisor "Political Science and Public Choice: 1950-70," in *Public Choice*, forthcoming, 1998.

Mitchell has written chapters in three upcoming books: "Constitutional Limited Government vs. Popular Democracy," "The Old and New Public Choice: Chicago vs. Virginia," and "Public Choice Theory."

Thanks! I've seen very few free-market think tanks with your consistent devotion, originality, tact, and practicality. I'll keep referring people to your institute.

— E. G. Ross, publisher,
The Positive Economist Bulletin
and *The Objective American*

Professor joins Cascade

New academic advisor

Cascade is pleased to announce Dr. Zenon X. Zygmunt has become a member of its panel of academic advisors. Dr. Zygmunt will add specific depth to the advisory panel with his knowledge of privatization.

In September, Dr. Zygmunt began teaching economics at Western Oregon University. Prior to that he was a visiting assistant economics professor at Reed College, a position held since 1993. Dr. Zygmunt has also taught at George Mason University, located in Fairfax, Virginia, and served as a research assistant at the Center for the Study of Market Processes and the International Institute, both affiliated with GMU.

Dr. Zygmunt has written and lectured extensively on privatization and the transition to market economies in post-Communist countries. He was invited to speak at four Western Economic Association Annual Conferences; among his topics were "Comparative Policy Transitions," "Balanced and Unbalanced Growth," and "Privatization in Eastern Europe."

In 1994 Dr. Zygmunt earned his doctorate in economics from George Mason University. He also received his masters degree in economics from GMU, and his bachelor's degree in economics and geography from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Dr. Zygmunt first worked with Cascade in 1995 when he served as a judge for the Independence Essay Competition, a position he filled again in 1996. Since being affiliated with Cascade he has referred several Reed College students to the Institute who have served as interns.



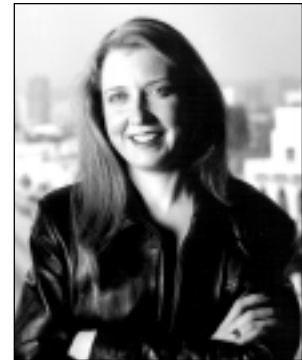
Dr. Zenon X. Zygmunt

Upcoming

For additional information about upcoming speakers, contact Cascade at (503) 242-0900, or refer to www.CascadePolicy.org. Event details will be mailed to Cascade supporters and the media.

December

Virginia Postrel, editor of *Reason Magazine* (Los Angeles), and author of *The Future and Its Enemies*. Refer to: www.Reason.org.



Virginia Postrel

February

Clint Bolick, litigation director for the Institute for Justice (Washington, D.C.), and author of *Transformation: The Promise and Politics of Empowerment* and *Grassroots Tyranny: The Limits of Federalism*. Bolick has pioneered cutting-edge litigation in support of school vouchers and economic liberty, and spearheaded opposition to racial preferences. Refer to: www.IJ.org.

March

The Honorable Maurice McTigue, Q.S.O., distinguished visiting scholar, James Buchanan Center at George Mason University (Fairfax, Virginia); former New Zealand Cabinet Minister, Member of Parliament, and Ambassador to Canada. McTigue played an instrumental role in New Zealand's remarkable economic and political reforms of the last decade. McTigue privatized billions of dollars worth of government assets, and implemented property rights-based solutions to problems ranging from fishery depletion to public land management. Refer to: www.gmu.edu/jbc.

Winners **Martin L. Buchanan**, a Lake Oswego software programmer, and **Lowell A. Smith, Ph.D.**, a public school psychologist in Salem, discuss giving parents more control over their children's education through the implementation of tuition tax credits. Their proposal would provide children from low-income families the maximum credit from the start. "Increased school choice will encourage public schools to improve," they state.

Education consultant and *Competition* winner **Clement H. Lausberg** of Portland explores the potential benefits of competitive contracting in the public schools, most notably in the area of transportation. Lausberg found public bus drivers' compensation is typically 30 percent higher than in competitively bid private operations. His report high-



Sam Brooks, Competition judge, speaks with Leslie Spencer, former associate editor of *Forbes* magazine.

lights how "the current state transportation formula could encourage overspending" by school districts.

Jerry Yudelson, a registered environmental engineer in Portland, suggests in his winning report that "water users and ratepayers would be better served if the municipal monopolies now providing the water supply in the Portland area were required to submit to managed competition...This alternative includes competition in regional water supply, distribution, billing, treatment and maintenance, and water conservation programs."

Richard P. Burke, president of RPB Information Services, a Portland computer consulting business, was named a runner-up for "More Ways to Play: A Review of Funding Alternatives for Local Park and Recreation Districts." One ex-

ample Burke offered is New York's Bryant Park, which is maintained by a private corporation that gets its funding from food concessions and park sponsored events.



Portland Mayor Vera Katz with Cascade Chairman Bill Conerly at the *Competition* luncheon.

David Oringdulph and **Ernie Platt** of Matrix Development Corporation in Tigard were named runners-up for their proposal to create a deputy surveyor system. The authors maintain this alternative could lessen the County Surveyor's office workload, improve surveyor monument maintenance, and reduce development delays, which ultimately drive up costs for homeowners and consumers.

The *Competition* has been a successful on-going project for the Institute. Thirteen of the past 20 *Competition* winners have had their proposals introduced as legislation, five of which have passed into law. Another winning proposal helped open Portland's taxi market to more competition. Weber notes, "Interest in the winning reports extends beyond Oregon's borders. Requests for them span from Texas to Massachusetts, Canada to New Zealand to Japan."

Winning proposals from all three *Competitions* will be actively promoted through 1999. The campaign has already begun. In early November, executive summaries of the 1998 winners were sent to more than 7,000 public officials, journalists, and business and community leaders throughout the state. Also, Cascade staff members touted the proposals at the League of Oregon Cities and Association of Oregon Counties annual conferences in Portland and Eugene respectively. Cascade plans to organize public forums in other Oregon cities during 1999 as well.

Thank you!

The Cascade staff expresses its gratitude to the Oregonians who volunteered their time to serve as judges for the 1998 Oregon *Better Government Competition*. They are: Ted Abram, *Executive Director, American Institute for Full Employment*; Lindsay Berryman, *President, Berrywoman Enterprises, Inc.*; Samuel Brooks, *CEO, S. Brooks and Associate*; Carolyn S. Chambers, *Chairwoman, Chambers Communications*; The Honorable Mark O. Hatfield; Carl J. Hosticka, *Associate Vice President, Statewide Education Services University of Oregon*; Elizabeth C. McCool, *Chairwoman, Western Communications*; Randall Pozdena, *Managing Director, ECONorthwest*; and, Richard C. Townsend, *Executive Director, League of Oregon Cities*.

Broad community support is essential to undertake state-wide projects. Organizations that helped make the 1998 Oregon *Better Government Competition* successful include: M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust, The Swigert Foundation, A-dec, AMR Northwest, Atlas Economic Research Foundation, Bank of America, *The Business Journal*, Coffey & Assoc. Video, Columbia Forest Products, Dain Rauscher Foundation, Fred Meyer Inc., Goldsmith-Greenfield Foundation, Halton Tractor Company, The Jackson Foundation, James M. Bonavia Family Charitable Trust, Jeld-Wen Foundation, KBNP Business Radio, Key Bank Foundation, KPMG Peat Marwick, KPTV-12, KXL Newsradio 750, NIKE, Oregon Community Foundation, Philip Morris, Portland General Electric, Rose E. Tucker Charitable Trust, Samuel S. Johnson Foundation, U.S. West Foundation, W.G. Moe and Sons, Inc., and the Woodard Family Foundation.

For executive summaries of the winning proposals, please call Cascade at (503) 242-0900, or refer to www.CascadePolicy.org.

I am pleased to endorse this Competition and have been impressed over the last two years by the caliber of work and interesting ideas that have been generated.

— Dan Saltzman, Portland City Councilman elect