

Bar Bulletin

NOVEMBER 1980

Pulsifer Assumes Top Bar Spot

With almost two years experience as Assistant Executive Director behind her, Helen K. Pulsifer was named Executive Director of the Seattle-King County Bar Association following the retirement of Helen M. Geisness on October 1. Pulsifer --known as "Mrs. P." to much of her staff -- says she is "very happy to be here."

As Executive Director, Pulsifer is primarily responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Bar Association and the supervision of the nine full-time and six part-time employees.

Pulsifer brings much experience to the job. In addition to her stint as Assistant Executive Director of the Bar Association, she has served as Assistant Director of the Municipal League, as interim executive director of the Seattle YWCA, and as an interviewer and supervisor for the National Opinion Research Center of the University of Chicago. Her tenure in these types of jobs has provided her with the background necessary to guide the Bar Association, but it has also made her aware of the peculiarities inherent in any association. "Association management is a field which I think is a fascinating profession in itself and I feel that I bring to the Bar Association some knowledge and experience in managing an association as such. But the peculiarities of an association are often not obvious even to the people who work for the association."

Among the characteristics which may be peculiar to associations, Pulsifer cites the facts that no product is produced, nor does any profit result, thus making it difficult to judge the effectiveness of the

Association. Also, with the Bar Association, as with other associations, a large portion of the work is accomplished by volunteers. Pulsifer finds this aspect of the Bar Association satisfying because of the commitment which she sees in the volunteers, but she explains that it can be frustrating as well "because the volunteers aren't always able to come through with all the projects they would like."

Pulsifer views the Seattle-King County Bar Association as more inventive in its activities than many other bar associations. "Historically, the Seattle Bar has been an initiator of programs. We just haven't followed the other bar associations.

(continued on page 7)



Helen K. Pulsifer

SKCBA Receives \$10,000 Grant to Assist in McNeil Effort

The Right Reverend Robert H. Cochrane, Bishop of Olympia (The Episcopal Church in Western Washington), on behalf of the Presiding Bishop's Fund For World Relief, presented a \$10,000 grant to Paul C. Gibbs, President of the Seattle-King County Bar Association on October 22, 1980. The grant acknowledged the church's support of the Bar's efforts to provide legal representation to the Cuban Refugees being held at McNeil Island Penitentiary.

Bishop Cochrane stated "The project is consistent with the calling of the Church to strive for the certainty of justice for all persons." The Diocese has long been concerned with the welfare of refugees and during the last three years has

assisted with the resettlement of 1,000 Indo-Chinese refugees in Western Washington.

In accepting the grant Gibbs said, "These Cubans are poor, unpopular and do not understand either English or any of their rights under our immigration laws. They desperately need representation."

Over 100 attorneys and translators have volunteered to assist the Cuban refugees at their exclusion hearings. This volunteer effort helped to insure that the hearings were conducted in a fair and equitable manner. "This project is the only one of its kind in the United States and the Bar applauds Bishop Cochrane and the Church for their commitment," said Gibbs. ☛

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Pulsifer

(continued from page 1)

Our current efforts in providing defense for the Cubans at McNeil Island is an example of our willingness to tackle a problem when we see it." The new Executive Director hopes to see a continuation of many of the programs which were established prior to assuming office, including the various pro bono efforts of the Association, the Tel-Law program, and the Young Lawyers Practice Manual. She also wants to improve the records keeping activities of the Association and perhaps replace the antiquated addressing equipment currently in use by the Association. New equipment would free up staff time which could better be used in other activities, says Pulsifer.

The moral and working conditions of the Bar Association staff are of great importance to Pulsifer. She thinks it important that the staff feel a challenge and feel sufficiently rewarded for the work they do. She also feels fortunate to have a "very strong staff" working with her.

Pulsifer is a native Seattlite and she graduated from Roosevelt High School and the University of Washington. In college, she was a Russian major, which she looks back on as "very interesting, but very impractical." She currently resides in Seattle with her husband and two of her four children. ¶

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Kraft

(continued from page 5)

"The people deserve to know more about their judges and the decisions they render but I have not seen any poll that can accurately measure the qualifications of a judge," says Kraft.

Kraft is an active athlete who enjoys snow skiing and hiking with her children, playing racquetball, and attending an aerobics class each noon.

"I am really enjoying my life, not only being challenged by the job but also having time for other things I feel are important and which I thoroughly enjoy. I used to feel compelled to devote my entire life to work but I have learned to control the work instead of allowing it to control me." ¶