

## **OREGON ASSOCIATION OF DEFENSE COUNSEL**

### **POLICY ON POLITICAL ACTION AND GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS**

1. OADC membership dues shall not be contributed to any person seeking election to a public office, to any political organization, to any political action committee, or to any group supporting or opposing a referendum, initiative or recall effort.
2. OADC shall not publically endorse any person seeking election to a public office.
3. OADC may take advocacy positions before the Oregon Legislature, focusing on legislation relating to the following:
  - a. Matters that directly affect the interests of defense lawyers.
  - b. Changes in civil practice and the court system.
  - c. The judiciary, judicial salaries, and funding of the courts.
  - d. Tort reform.
  - e. Access to justice.
4. OADC's legislative activities shall be conducted by and through a Government Affairs Committee. The members of the Government Affairs Committee shall be appointed by the President and shall consist of the Executive Committee, and three or more members at large.
5. The Government Affairs Committee shall obtain the approval of a majority of the Board of Directors before taking an advocacy position in support of or opposition to particular legislation whenever advance approval is practical. The Government Affairs Committee shall obtain the approval of at least two-thirds of the Board of Directors before introducing any new legislation.
6. The Government Affairs Committee shall report to the Board of Directors at least once per month and to the members at least once per quarter.
7. OADC may hire a lobbyist to work in coordination with the Government Affairs Committee and the Board of Directors to monitor legislation of interest to OADC, to introduce legislation, to attend public meetings and legislative hearings, to meet with key legislators before and during the session, and to perform other related services.
8. OADC may establish and promote the Oregon Association of Defense Counsel PAC Fund, and solicit voluntary donations to the Oregon Association of Defense Counsel PAC Fund. The funds in the Oregon Association of Defense Counsel PAC Fund shall be managed by the Oregon Association of Defense Counsel State PAC Governing Committee and may be used to make campaign contributions to those seeking election or re-election to public office, without regard to political affiliation, who are believed to be

deserving of such support, and to make campaign contributions in support of or opposition to various acts, bills, and measures which are found to be deserving of such support or opposition. Contributions from the PAC Fund to a candidate for public office shall not constitute public endorsement of that candidate by OADC and may not be claimed by that candidate as an endorsement by OADC.

ADOPTED: June 18, 2008

AMENDED: November 12, 2008