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Senior Advocates
for Generational Equity

SAGE Board of Directors with Biographical Information

John Daggett, Board Member, Executive Committee

Dr. John Daggett served Oregon's public schools for over thirty years, including twelve of those years as superintendent of the Ashland School District. As a retiree, he remains active in education and has taught or supervised at the University of Washington, Lewis & Clark College, the University of Oregon, and served as an Oregon School Improvement Facilitator. He has studied the scholarship and practice of resiliency with a focus on schools for over twenty years and collaborated with other institutions and individuals to build more resilient families and communities. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Education/English, and a Master's Degree in Education/Psychology from Portland State University and a Ph.D. in Education Policy and Management with a focus on Organization Development from the University of Oregon.

Kristen Grauer, Board Member and LAB Leader, Executive Committee

Kristen Grauer is Development Manager at Green Empowerment, a nonprofit founded and based in Portland that helps rural communities around the world access clean water and renewable energy, often for the first time. She champions the organization's local fundraising efforts, donor stewardship activities and communications strategy. She is deeply connected to Portland's nonprofit sector having previously worked for organizations like the Nonprofit Association of Oregon and Partners Diversity. She holds a B.A. from Carnegie Mellon University, majoring in Global Studies, with a focus on human rights and Latin American socio-political history. Kristen formerly served as Chair of SAGE's Young Leaders Advisory Board and continues to serve on the LAB in addition to serving on SAGE's Board.

Ward Greene, President and Chair, Executive Committee

Ward Greene is Senior Counsel at the commercial law firm of Williams Kastner Greene & Markley. He has practiced law for forty years, served as President of the Multnomah Bar Association and Vice President of the Oregon State Bar. In addition to serving on SAGE's Board, Ward currently serves on the Board of Ascent Funding. Ward has a B.S. in business from Florida State University, followed by a J.D. from Duke University.

Danielle Lessler, Board Member, Chair Revenue Committee

Danielle Lessler is an audit senior assistant at the accounting firm of Deloitte & Touche, LLP. Originally from the United Kingdom, she has become an active member of the Portland State University community and is passionate about helping other students meet their educational and career goals. She is also the Vice Chair of SAGE's Young Adult Leadership Advisory Board, which serves as an inter-generational bridge to advance solutions to challenges facing future generations. Danielle has a Bachelor of Arts from PSU in Accounting and Supply Chain Management. Danielle formerly served as Vice Chair of SAGE's Young Leaders Advisory Board.

Leslie Johnson, Board Member

Leslie Johnson is a commercial lawyer at Samuels Yoelin Kantor LLP. She has practiced law for over twenty years and brings to her practice a broad range of pre-law experience, including six years at NIKE, Inc., and in law offices working on complex business transactions and business litigation issues. Leslie also has many years of volunteer experience with Bar committees and programs. Outside of law, she focuses her energy on nonprofits that build civic engagement, community good will and

neighborhood involvement. Leslie has also served on the Board of Governors of the City Club of Portland. She has a B.S. from Portland State University, followed by a J.D. from the Northwestern School of Law at Lewis & Clark College.

Mary Markley, Board Member

Mary Markley has worked as the Alumni Director for Lewis & Clark Law School, and as an Account Manager for First Data Corporation. Mary has over 30 years of volunteer experience focusing on nonprofits that advance civic engagement. She is a former Board Member of the Multnomah Athletic Club, the Multnomah Athletic Club Foundation, Folktime (an organization for adults with mental illness), the University Club Foundation (served as President) and is a past member of the Junior League of Portland. She has a B.S. in Communications from Portland State University.

Rick Nitti, Board Member

Rick Nitti served as Executive Director of Neighborhood House for 18 years. He is a highly regarded leader in the Oregon nonprofit community, having served as President of the Board of the Nonprofit Association of Oregon, and on the Board of the Southwest Community Health Center. At Neighborhood House, Rick dramatically increased the organization's size and reach of its services and oversaw programs to help low-income, recent-immigrant, and other vulnerable people overcome challenges so they can achieve success, stability, and independence. He holds a BS from the University of Illinois and an M.Ed from Loyola University. Rick received the 2017 Spirit of Portland Award from Mayor Ted Wheeler in recognition of his contributions to the region.

Diane Ponti, Board Member

Diane Ponti is a writer, editor, and storyteller, and has worked as a public-school teacher and bond broker. She has 20 years of volunteer experience focusing on nonprofits that promote writing and literature, including as Board Chair for Literary Arts and as Board Member for Portland Story Theater. She has a B.S. from Oregon State University and an M.S. from Portland State University.

Jeanne Roy, Board Member

Jeanne Roy is the co-founder of the Center for Earth Leadership and currently serves as the President of the Eco-School Network. She is a recognized leader of Oregon's environmental movement and has served as a full-time volunteer for 35 years. She is the co-founder of numerous organizations including Recycling Advocates, Portland's Master Recycler Program, the Oregon Natural Step Network, and the Northwest Earth Institute. Jeanne serves as a continual advisor to public agencies on environmental policy matters. She has a B.S. in Humanities and Social Science from Oregon State University.

Elizabeth Schellberg, Secretary

Elizabeth (Liz) Schellberg is a retired Certified Public Accountant. She has also worked for nonprofits and religious institutions. She has 20 years of work and volunteer experience with a variety of nonprofits – both in operations and board membership – involved in the environment, peace and justice, the arts, healthcare, and crisis intervention. She has a B.A. in philosophy from Washington State University and a Masters of Divinity from San Francisco Theological Seminary.

Randy Sell, Treasurer

Randy Sell is an experienced banker and most recently served as Senior Vice President & Private Banking Manager at Northwest Bank. He has over 25 years of volunteer experience focusing on nonprofits that help children, including serving as Board Chair of the Portland Parks Foundation, Trillium Family Services and Waverly Children's Home. Randy has also served with the Oregon Ethics in Business, YMCA of Columbia-Willamette, St. Andrew Legal Clinic, University Club, and Loaves & Fishes. He has a B.S. in Business from Oregon State University.