

THE ATTRACTIVE NUISANCE

In This Issue:

President's Message:
Page 1

Stateside News
Page 2

Welcoming New Members:
Page 4

Know any Champions?
Page 5

2013 Officers:

President:
Jeffrey Greenwell

President Elect:
Amy Eddy

Secretary:
Paul Sullivan

Treasurer:
David Sandler

Members at Large:
Jeff Ellingson
Kai Groenke
Joyce Funda

State Bar Trustee:
Marybeth Sampsel

The President's Message

By Jeffrey K. Greenwell, Esq.

I sit here with much humility writing my first monthly column as the Northwest Montana Bar Association's President. During my three-year tenure as a board member, I have witnessed extreme dedication and hard work by our board. Because of this dedication, our association is now one of the most highly regarded bar associations in the state. Luckily, we have a history of hard working board members that have dedicated their time and energy to build our membership base to over 100 attorneys. Not long ago we averaged five attorneys at each CLE presentation, and sometimes that was a high number. We currently average 40 attorneys at our CLE presentations, which is a testament to the commitment of our members and the great work of our board.

The board's commitment to providing service to both its members and community at large is the principal reason for the association's success.

This commitment includes providing our members with ongoing CLE presentations, and social gatherings that allow our members to forget their stress for an evening and provides a forum to mingle with each other outside of our practices. Although we receive direct benefits as members of our association, our indirect benefits far outweigh them. The board works hard to create and continue the goodwill throughout the community by providing the indigent with increased access to pro bono activities, and creating programs in cooperation with our schools and businesses to educate the public about the utility of our members.

Over the next year, I will continue the board's progress in providing excellent service in which our members and community have come to expect. We will have strategic planning sessions to develop additional ways to add benefits for our members. In order to continue our progress, I ask that all



Upcoming:

January 13, 2014

Collection Primer
by Jeff Greenwell

current members invite other attorneys to our CLE presentations and other events. The board's ability to provide continuing and additional benefits to our members is highly contingent on the commitment and support of our members.

I want to express my gratitude for all the hard work that John Wagner (Outgoing President), Valori Vidulich (Treasurer), and Kim Christopherson (Member at Large) have provided to make our association successful. They will be tough to replace, but I am sure that our new board members will do a magnificent job. Brian Joos is our Outgoing President, Amy Eddy is our President Elect, David Randall is our Treasurer, and Jeff Ellingson is our Member at Large. Please thank our new board members as well as the existing board members who continue to volunteer their time and effort to provide our members with the excellent service in which they are accustomed.

Stateside News

UPCOMING CLE

We have great, upcoming opportunities for CLE in the Valley. Check out the General Practice CLE in Kalispell on April 25 (sponsored by the State Bar) and the Family Law Update on June 20 in Whitefish, sponsored by the Family Law Section. Other opportunities include:

CLE and Ski – Big Sky Resort, January 17-19

Real Estate CLE – Fairmont, February 14

Paralegal CLE – Helena, March 7

St. Patrick's Day Ethics CLE – Fairmont, March 21

General Practice/Commercial Law – Great Falls, April 4

Annual Bench-Bar Conference – Missoula, April 11

Oil, Gas & Water Law – Billings, May 2

Employment Law – Helena, May 9

Don't forget, you're no longer required to have SAMI credits, but we'll all need 3 ethics credits per year. Everyone starts a clean slate in 2014, no matter what they had from prior carryover. New ethics credits from live CLE will carry over next time, but credits from video or webinar will not.

BAR-SPONSORED LEGAL RESEARCH COMING SOON!

Great News! The Board of Trustees authorized a contract with Fastcase for on-line legal research. All Bar members will have access to free, on line legal research. Tentative rollout will be next spring. Fastcase will also provide services to convert some of our Bar publications and CLE material into e-books for purchase. In the meantime, Fastcase's mobile app is free. Give it a try and you'll shortly be using it on your desktop. We'll have seminars and local instruction for its use. Stay tuned!

2014 ANNUAL MEETING AT BIG SKY

Randy and the Annual Meeting Committee are planning a big splash for the State Convention next year which will be at Big Sky Resort. Early discounts will be offered, package registrations will be offered and there will be a reduced rate for paralegals to attend Friday only. There will be the usual hot topics discussion, Supreme Court arguments and lots of recreational opportunities outside the classroom.

No dues increases on the horizon

The Trustees approved the fiscal 2014-2015 Budget for \$1,668,140. Your State Bar has not increased expenses since the last dues increase, except due to scheduled salary increments and inflation. Several years ago, a dues increase was anticipated as the Bar had dipped into reserves in order to meet expenses. This last year, even though the budget scheduled a net loss and reliance on reserves, actual income and expenses left us with a surplus. We expect similar results in the next few years, even with adding the expense of Fastcase to the budget (about \$26,000.00 per year). This is due in large part to increased dues from new members becoming licensed in Montana and an increase in interest on savings. This could be offset at some point as our generation starts to retire out, but that appears to be a number of years away. Our Lawyer Fund for Client Protection claims continue to decrease, we believe due to the Lawyer Assistance Program benefits. ODC has significant reserves in their budget, so no increases are likely for some time here, either. I have detailed budgets, audited reports and reports on saving and investment accounts for any who are interested.

The Judge Shuffle

Justice Brian Morris and Susan Watters were each sworn in to Montana Federal District Court. Candidates are already lining up for Justice Morris' position on the Montana Court. New District Judge Jim Manley recently put on the robe in Polson, replacing Judge McNeil. Somewhat surprising, magistrate R. Keith Strong announced his retirement as federal magistrate in Great Falls.

Law School News

Applications are up again this year for next fall's enrollment. That's good news as the trends nationwide are still not good. The search committee concluded its work and negotiations are in progress with the nominee for the new law school dean. But no announcement yet. The school is also hiring a new property professor, following Kristen Juras' retirement. That has also not yet been announced. Bill Corbett has announced his retirement, but it's uncertain whether his position will be replaced.

Randy Snyder
Chief Deputy, 2013-14

Welcoming New Members

The Northwest Montana Bar Association would like to announce three new board members following the annual vote by its members. The board has a new President Elect, Treasurer, and Member at Large.

Amy Eddie – President Elect: Amy grew up in the mountains of Idaho working at a family lodge in the summers. She attended Cal Poly University, graduating cum laude in 1997 with a social science degree. She spent the next year working on issues before the Idaho State Land Board, before attending the University of Montana School of Law, graduating in 2001. While in law school she was a member of the National Moot Court Team, and clerked for the Honorable Magistrate Leif Erickson.

Following graduation from law school Amy became an associate and then partner with her firm, Eddy and Sandler. Her practice specializes in all aspects of appellate, serious personal injury, employment, construction, and insurance coverage disputes. Amy has represented numerous individuals, businesses and non-profit organizations in all aspects of litigation.

David Randall – Treasurer: David Randall is originally from Kalispell, Dave has found his way back to the valley and is currently practicing at the firm of Johnson, Berg and Saxby, PLLP. Dave is a graduate of the 2010 class of the University of Montana School of Law. Directly out of law school Dave served a one-year clerkship for the Yellowstone County District Court before making his way back to Kalispell in 2011. Dave also currently serves on the Board of the New Lawyer's Section of the State Bar of Montana. Besides practicing law Dave also enjoys traveling, backpacking, hunting, fishing, skiing and mountain biking.

Jeff Ellingson – Member at Large: Jeff Ellingson has been in law practice in his Kalispell, Montana, hometown since 1980, including prior partnerships with Randy Ogle, Darrell Worm, Terry Trieweiler, Mike Prezeau, Joe Bottomly, and Amy Eddy. Since 1987 Jeff has been primarily engaged in plaintiff's trial practice, involving personal injury, wrongful death, products liability, insurance, estates, consumer and business claims, and class actions. He also enjoys putting his experience to use as a mediator from time to time.

Long before appearing before trial juries, Jeff appeared on stage at a number of community events— after winning a Flathead Valley talent contest at age 10 as a ventriloquist. The ventriloquism career morphed into community theater, and professional summer theater, beginning with Shakespeare festivals while a student at FVCC. Jeff soon traded his makeup kit for hiking boots, and was lucky enough to work for six summers in Glacier National Park as a seasonal backcountry ranger. He finished his undergraduate education at the University of Montana, before

venturing off to enjoy the weather in Silicon Valley, California for the requisite three years at Stanford Law School. Jeff maintains his California connection with many law school friends and with his Pasadena-born wife Susan. Susan and Jeff have a blended family of five children and step children, and three beautiful, rambunctious granddaughters under age five. As of April 2013 Jeff merged his solo law firm with his new partners to become Kaufman Vidal Hileman Ellingson PC. When not battling for justice at the keyboard of his Macintosh Powerbook, Jeff can often be found taking in the fine view into Glacier Park from his northeast corner office -- and counting his blessings.

Know Any Champions of Justice?

Do you know a Champion of Justice?

Tell us about his or her good works!

The Montana Justice Foundation is celebrating it's 35th Anniversary by honoring 35 Champions of Justice

Over the past 35 years, MJF has been privileged to lead and support the critical efforts in the fight for equal justice. We would not have been able to do so without the significant contributions of individuals from all sectors of the community including lawyers, bankers, elected officials, medical providers, teachers, and others.

The MJF is seeking nominations for our 35 honorees. Please tell us about the individual who has most inspired you through their contributions to equal justice in Montana by submitting your nominee today. The nomination form is included at the end of this month's newsletter.

Best Ad Space in Town

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Have a suggestions for a MYSTERY PROFILE in an upcoming newsletter? If so, please contact Paul Sullivan at paul@measurelaw.com

JANUARY 2014

MEDIATE!



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JANUARY 2014

GREENWELL LAW PLLC
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELLOR AT LAW

Kalispell Financial Solutions
Law Firm

KALISPELL BANKRUPTCY LAW - BUSINESS LAW - COMMERCIAL
LAW - WORKOUTS - CONTRACT DISPUTES

(406) 257-8909

Scott Anderson

formerly of ANDERSON & BLIVEN PC

Takes pleasure in announcing the formation of his new law firm



ANDERSON LAW ASSOCIATES PLLC

Meridian Office Complex

690 N. Meridian Suite 108

Kalispell Montana 59901

He will continue to focus his practice on personal injury. Additional services include insurance bad faith, serious food borne illnesses, civil litigation and estate planning.

Referrals and Joint Counsel Associations representation greatly appreciated.

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Kalispell, MT 59901

NORTHWEST MONTANA BAR ASSOCIATION
PO Box 2272
Kalispell, MT 59903-2272

2014 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Attorney Name: _____

Firm Name: _____

Street / PO Box: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

Check Amount: _____

Check Number: _____

Please remit \$50.00 along with your completed membership form
to the address above by April 1, 2014. Checks should be
made payable to NWMTBA.

CHAMPION OF JUSTICE

Nomination Form

Do you know someone deserving of recognition for exemplary support of equal justice in Montana? The Montana Justice Foundation is seeking nominations for its 35th Anniversary Champions of Justice Celebration. Honorees will be individuals from Montana communities who have proven dedication to ensuring access to justice for all Montanans. Nominations may be made in memory of an individual's outstanding contributions during their lifetime.

Please submit completed nomination forms to the MJF by January 31, 2014 at:

Montana Justice Foundation

P.O. Box 9169

Missoula, MT 59807

Or

MJF@mtjustice.org

NOMINEE INFORMATION

Nominee's Name: Title:

Address:

City: State: Zip:

Phone: Fax:

Email: Website:

NOMINATOR INFORMATION

Nominator's Name: Title:

Nomination Date:

Address:

City: State: Zip:

Phone: Fax:

Email:



Please describe the Nominee’s exemplary contributions to access to justice in Montana. Responses should be limited to a single page.