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LAW introduces the Paralegal Pal Mentoring Program.....

by Amanda C. Nelson, ACP

The Legal Assistants of Wyoming Board is excited to introduce our pilot, "Paralegal Pal Mentoring Program"! L.A.W. is committed to the promotion of career development and professionalism of paralegals in Wyoming. This includes paralegal students, as well as working professionals. The "Paralegal Pal Mentoring Program" focuses on paralegal students and junior paralegals, who are the future of our profession. In order to familiarize everyone with our vision, I have answered some frequently asked questions:

1. **What is the Paralegal Pal Mentoring Program?**

It is a pilot program that we are launching. We hope this program will be a resource for junior paralegals and paralegal students as they transition into the professional community!

2. **Who can Participate?**

Everyone! If you are a paralegal student or a junior paralegal (someone who is new to the field, maybe just graduated or possibly working in your very first law firm) or essentially any paralegal who feels they could benefit from the mentoring of a seasoned paralegal. You would be a Mentee.

If you are a seasoned paralegal and believe you could be a benefit to a junior paralegal or paralegal student, you would be a Mentor.

3. **What is the Commitment?**

We are requesting a semester long commitment between the Mentor/Mentee. However, since we are just launching our program and the semester is already half-way over, we would love to see any Mentor/Mentee relationships made this semester continue through next semester. We do understand that circumstances arise in our lives that render some commitments impossible to complete. We simply request that you effectively communicate any difficulties so we can make appropriate adjustments so neither the Mentor or the Mentee are harmed by these circumstances.

4. **Where do I find more information?**

The LAW board has created a Paralegal Pal Mentoring Program handbook with useful information, hints and tools. This handbook will be published on the website very soon. In the meantime, you can contact me, Amanda Nelson at acnelson85@hotmail.com and I will forward you the entire handbook.

5. **How do I get involved?**

If you are interested in becoming a Mentee, there is an application page in the handbook for your completion and return. If you are interested in becoming a Mentor, please let me know. I will diligently work to match Mentors/Mentees based upon areas of practice, areas of interest, schedules and any other information you indicate would be important or helpful.

At this time, we have nine (9) interested Mentees. I would highly encourage you to consider becoming a Mentor and make a difference in these young paralegals' lives. Please contact me at acnelson85@hotmail.com to let me know if you are interested, if you have any additional questions, or if you would like a copy of the handbook!



LEGAL
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OF
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2012-13 Officers:

- President: Amanda Nelson, ACP
- President-Elect: Rhonda Hoadley
- 1st Vice President: Tammy Wuertley, CLA
- 2nd Vice President: Kristi Fields, ACP
- Treasurer: Mark Robbins
- Secretary: Sarah Finn
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- Region 3 : Jessica Duty, CLA
- Region 4: Susan Lewis, CLA

Committee Chairs:

- Awards: Wendy Trembath, CP
- Nominations & Elections: Amy Wyatt, CLA
- Website: Wendy Trembath, CP, Amy Wyatt, CLA
- Casper College Liaison: Lindsey Shablo
- LCCC Liaison: Susan Lewis, CLA

Seminar News by Tammy Wuertley, CLA

The 2012 Fall Seminar was held in Laramie at the University of Wyoming College of Law on September 14-15, 2012. We had over 20 attendees and a variety of speakers, including two professors from the University and a past L.A.W. board member. We had interesting and informative presentations about the Judicial Code of Ethics, Domestic Violence, Legal Citation, Construction Law, and a workshop on finding your inner strengths. I learned that I am a visual learner, as well as many of my co-paralegals, and I LOVE to make lists! We also split up into groups to construct a tower using only materials that were provided to us, which made for some great team building and creativity. The legal citation class was also very helpful and explained a lot of the confusion I have when it comes to understanding the Blue Book. The topics presented at the seminar gave me valuable insight as well as provided me with tools that are essential in our profession.



Everyone enjoyed pizza and wings at The Library Pub & Grille on Friday night. On Saturday, we held a pre-game tailgate party prior to the UW v. Cal Poly game. It was a great time and exciting game, even though the Pokes didn't win.

The Annual Meeting and Spring Seminar will be held in April. The Board is looking at different locations, but we need your input! What locations are you interested in? What topics are you interested in? Do you know of any speakers that you would like to hear at our next seminar? All ideas and comments are welcome. Please email me at tammy@injuryfirm.net.

Tammy Wuertley, CLA
First Vice-President

Communication Connection



Test your Skills ~ Legal Writing Quiz for Paralegals!

*Answer each question with True or False:

1. A Term of art is a legal word that has no plain English substitute.
2. In legal writing you should write in plain English.
3. Motions, pleadings, and discovery are types of persuasive writings.
4. In writing any kind of document, you should always identify your audience and their degree of expertise in a legal area.
5. A motion requests that a court take an action and can only be filed by the Plaintiff.



Answers: 1-T; 2-T; 3-F; 4-T; 5-F

Region News!

Regional Director Vacancies By Amanda Nelson, ACP

The Board is still attempting to fill the position of Regional Director for regions 1 and 5! This position is a great way to become more acquainted with fellow LAW members and to become more involved in your professional organization! If you are interested, or know of anyone who may be interested, please contact me at acnelson85@hotmail.com! I would love to fill all the Regional Director positions for the 2012-2013 term!



Region 4 - CLA Exam Review/Study Group

Are you preparing for the CLA/CP Exam and living in the Cheyenne area? Would you like to join a study group to help prepare you for this exam? Please contact Rhonda Hoadley, President-Elect at rjchamblin@yahoo.com for more information!!!

Region 3: Halloween/Costume Party



Region 3 is hosting a family friendly Halloween/Costume Party!

Where: Paradise Valley Country Club
When: October 26, 2012 ~ 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.
Cost: \$12.00/adult and \$6.00/child (12 and under)!

- ~ Unlimited Appetizers & Soft Drinks
- ~ Cash Bar
- ~ Games & Activities for all Ages!!
- ~ Prizes for best family/couple costume and best individual costume!

Contact Jessica Duty
jduty@cmsatty.com for more information!
We hope to see you there!!!!

Region 4 Luncheon
October 24, 2012 @ 12:00

Courthouse Annex Building

**Diane Sanchez, Deputy Clerk
of District Court**

Dinner CLE with Traci E. Mears, J.D.

“Stewards of Children
Training”
November 5, 2012
6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Contact
jduty@cmsatty.com
For more information!

Region 3/Casper College Ugly Sweater Christmas Party

The Region 3/Casper College Christmas Party is scheduled for December 5, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. at the Caddie Shack Restaurant on the Municipal Golf Course. The cost is \$10.00 per person. Dinner and soft drinks are included, along with a cash bar.

Wear your best ugly sweater for a chance at some great prizes!!!

More information to come!

**Happy
Halloween** 

Upcoming Events!

- October 24, 2012 - Region 4 Luncheon Courthouse Annex Building
 - October 26, 2012 - Region 3 Halloween/Costume Party
 - November 14, 2012 - Region 4 Luncheon Courthouse Annex Building
 - November 5, 2012 ~ Region 3 Stewards of Children Training with Traci Mears, JD, 3 Hours of CLE
 - December 5, 2012: Region 3 Christmas Party ~ Caddie Shack Restaurant
- *Watch your E-Mail, FaceBook and the Website for CLE's and Regional Events in the works for the upcoming months!!



Legal Assistants of Wyoming (LAW) is a nonprofit organization established in 1990 to promote continuing education, professionalism and networking to paralegals in Wyoming and the surrounding areas. LAW is registered with the Wyoming Secretary of State and operates under [Bylaws](#) adopted by its members. LAW has also adopted and is governed by the [The National Association of Legal Assistants Code of Ethics and Professional Responsibility](#).

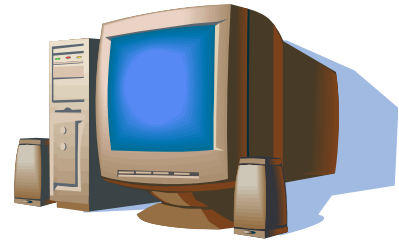
LAW is an affiliate member of The National Association of Legal Assistants (NALA). NALA is the leading professional association for paralegals/legal assistants, with over 18,000 members. To find out more about NALA, visit their website at www.nala.org.

**Check us out
on
Facebook!!!!**

www.facebook.com and search "Legal Assistants of Wyoming"

FREE NALA Webinar!!!

NALA will be hosting a FREE webinar for those transitioning from the classroom to the workplace, AND for those seeking employment due to lay offs and life changes. This webinar will be offered January 17, 2013, at 3:00 pm central time. If you are involved in a NALA affiliated association, please share this with your student members!



2013 NALA Convention Update!

There will be a new schedule for the 2013 meeting -- the convention will now end on Friday with the installation of officers ceremony and reception. The educational programs schedule will remain as it is, but there will not be any Saturday educational sessions. The NALA Member Exchange sessions will be offered free of charge to all interested, on Thursday afternoon, July 11. The schedule was modified slightly to help attendees manage expenses by reducing the number of nights. In addition, those who want to explore the area more will have more time available.

It's never too early to plan. The meeting will be held at the Hilton Portland & Executive Tower in downtown Portland. The room rate is \$149, single or double plus occupancy tax. Reservations are now being accepted. The BEST news is...there is no sales tax in Oregon.



Visit

www.nala.org

*for more helpful information and
educational opportunities*

NALA Campus Live! Upcoming CLE Opportunities

Business/Corporations

- Working Through the 'pitfalls' of Article 9 Oct 30
- Mergers & Acquisitions Nov. 6

Employment

- Employment Eligibility Verification: Form I-9 Nov. 27

Ethics

- Ethics & Movies: What We Learn from a Civil Action Oct 22
- Basic Ethics I Nov. 1
- Basic Ethics 2 Nov. 15
- Advanced Ethics Nov. 29

Family Law

- QDROs for Dummies or the Insane Nov. 9

General – Practice Areas and Skills

- Spanish for Paralegals: The Initial Consult Oct. 25
- Deciphering the Medical Record - Basic Nov. 5
- Deciphering the Medical Record - Intermediate Nov. 12
- State & Federal Administrative Law for the 2012 Paralegal Nov. 26
- Judgment & Legal Analysis Dec. 7

Immigration

- Beginners' Look at Immigration Law Oct 31

Legal Research

- Blue Book Review of Citing Nov. 2
- Legal Research Nov. 30

Litigation – Trial Preparation

- Civil Litigation: Part 3 Oct. 23
- Expert Witnesses Nov. 16
- E-Discovery Investigation Nov. 19
- Freedom of Information Act Dec. 4
- E-Discovery: Practitioner's Lab Dec. 6

Real Estate

- Deeds Oct 24
- Closings I Nov. 7
- Closings II Nov. 14

Other Specialty Areas

- Environmental Law Oct. 29
- Public Finance with a Real Estate Component Nov. 13
- Securities Arbitration Dec. 5

To register, visit www.nala.org!!!!

***All times are Central time zone. Times and dates are subject to change. Stay abreast of the latest schedule changes at www.nala.org/onlineed.aspx

Welcome to LAW!!

*New Student Members:
Danielle Feldon - Region 3
Shayla Sindelar - Region 3



Kristi Fields, ACP, Jessica Keith, and Tammy Wuertley, CLA working hard at the Fall Seminar!



Jessica Duty, CLA and Shelly Applegate, CLA; Winners of the building exercise!



We studied hard with great speakers!

PORTLAND

NALA IN THE GREAT NORTHWEST

JULY 2013

38th Annual Convention,
Institutes & Exhibition
July 10-13, 2013 • Portland, OR



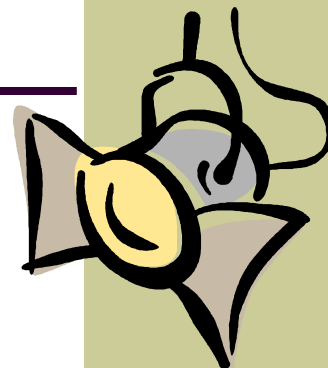
**THE ASSOCIATION OF
LEGAL ASSISTANTS • PARALEGALS**

1518 South Boston Avenue, Suite 200 • Tulsa, OK 74119 • www.nala.org

Member Spotlight: Kim Benson ~ Active Member



1. What is your name?
Kimberly Dawn Benson, but I go by Kim.
2. Do you have a certification designation?
Certified Paralegal
3. Who are you currently employed by?
I work for Schwartz, Bon, Walker & Studer, LLC, 141 So. Center, Suite 500 Casper, Wyoming 82601; kimcla@schwartzbon.com
4. What area(s) of law does your firm specialize in?
We specialize in civil litigation, some criminal defense, estate planning, patents and trademarks, and bankruptcy.
5. How long have you been a member of LAW?
I believe I joined LAW in 2000...but that was a long time ago. I have served twice as 1st Vice President, and once as President.
6. What is your educational background?
I attended the University of Wyoming from 1986-1990; I attended Casper College from 1998-2000; I am currently enrolled in CSU Global (but I am taking a break this term).
7. How long have you been employed as a paralegal?
I interned at Williams, Porter, Day & Neville, PC during my last semester in 2000 which actually turned into a short-term paying position. They needed extra help on a specific case. I was then hired at Schwartz, Bon, Walker & Studer one week after graduation in May, 2000.
8. Please tell me about your family? Are you married, do you have children, do you have pets, what are their names and ages, etc.
My family is my son, Jonathon, who is 19 and I.
9. What are your favorite hobbies?
Going to the gym daily, trying to win in my fantasy football league; reading fitness articles and other books and magazines not related to work; cross-stitching; trying different (weird) foods and recipes, Beef cheek tacos from Don Juans are my latest craving; and all types of college and pro sports, although I wish hockey would start! I am also a Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest addict. I love anything spur of the moment.
10. What is your favorite color?
It changes with my mood, but I tend to come back to blue (like 80% of the population...or the Chicago Bears colors!
11. If you could work in any area of law, what area of law would you choose and why?
I would probably always stay in litigation, specializing in environmental or disability law.
12. If you were an animal, what would you be and why?
Definitely a Puma - because they are strong and fast!
13. If you could live anywhere in the world, where would you live and why?
Greece or Italy - home of democracy, ancient history, great food, and close to the beach!
14. Is there anything else about you that you would like to share?
Go Bears, Vols and Wyo Cowboys! (football reference); My personal philosophy - "Leave the gun, take the cannoli"; My special talent is that I can use a football analogy to explain and solve any problem in life!



Again and again,
the impossible problem
is solved
when we see that
the problem is only
a tough decision
waiting to be made.

~Robert H. Schuller

Have exciting news you want to share, recently passed your CLA or ACP exam, or have a topic you would like to discuss in the next newsletter???

The Board is now accepting articles for the October 15th edition!!!

Contact
Amanda Nelson, ACP at
acnelson85@hotmail.com
for more information !!!

Doing your part for Legal Assistants of Wyoming..... by Rhonda Hoadley

Hello LAW Members!

I can't believe the year is almost over and in December our Board of Directors will also mark the halfway point to our terms. We have made great strides this year and continue to set and achieve our goals, both personally and as a professional organization. I have enjoyed being a board member for 3 years now and I'm excited to see who will run for an office at our annual meeting this spring. I would encourage all of you to consider serving on our Board of Directors at least once. As a member of this board, you get to decide on ideas for seminars, fund-raisers, charity events for our organization; this is a wonderful opportunity to see what you can do for LAW and its members. If you want more information about duties of each position, you can check our website or just ask the person that currently holds the position you are interested in!



October Trivia ~ Supreme Court Justices!

How well do you know the United States Supreme Court Justices??? Take a shot at the three questions below for a chance to win a \$5.00 Starbucks Gift card!

1. Who was the first female Supreme Court Justice?
 - A. Sonia Sotomayer
 - B. Sandra Day O'Connor
 - C. Elena Kagen
 - D. Ruth Bader Ginsbury

2. Who was the first Hispanic on the Supreme Court?
 - A. Elena Kager
 - B. Henry Baldwin
 - C. Horace Gray
 - D. Sonia Sotomayer

3. What is the current ratio of male to female justices?
 - A. 8 to 1
 - B. 6 to 3
 - C. 7 to 2
 - D. 5 to 4

Please the first to acnelson85@hotmail.com with all correct answers and receive a \$5.00 gift card to Starbucks! Good luck!