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Region Five (5)

Meet your 2015-2016 Board of Directors!!

Tammy Wuertley, ACP President



I am looking forward to serving as your President this year. I am currently employed as a paralegal with the firm of Williams, Porter, Day & Neville, P.C. in Casper, and have worked in some type of legal capac-

ity for several years. In Casper I have worked for the Injury Law Firm as well as with Chapman, Valdez & Lansing.

I earned my Associates Degree in Paralegal Studies in 1986, and went on to complete my Bachelors of Business in 1995. It wasn't until I moved to Casper and met Mary Kubichek in 2009 who convinced me to take the CLA exam. I earned my CP designation in 2011, and the following year I earned my ACP in automobile accidents.

Outside of the paralegal realm, I enjoy spending time with my husband Adam and our three dogs at our home in the country. I also volunteer with CASA and have been an advocate since 2011.

This will be my fourth year serving on the Board and I am anticipating an exciting year! Be sure to contact me with any comments, suggestions, and any input on how you feel we can improve our organization at twuertley@wpdn.net.

Amanda Nelson, ACP President Elect

My name is Amanda Nelson, ACP. I am the proud mother of four amazing kiddos, Nick (9), Luke (8), Oliver (5), and Norah (8 months). My husband Eric and I celebrated our 10th anniversary this year!

I received my Associate of Arts Degree in Paralegal Studies in 2006, my CLA Certification in 2007, and my ACP in Discovery Processes in 2010. I am em-

ployed by Peter Feeny and Traci Mears at Garden Creek Law Offices. We are a firm focused on family law, which has been my main area of practice for the past eight (8) years. I am also employed by Casper College as the paralegal for Mary Kubichek and the Paralegal Program.

I have been a member of LAW since 2005 and have served on the Board of Directors in several capacities including Secretary, NALA Liaison, President

Elect, President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, and am currently serving as the President Elect for a second term. I love this organization and what it stands for. Thank you for allowing me to continue to serve on the Board!



Shannon Rezanina, ACP
1st Vice President



Hello, everyone! I want to thank you for your vote as LAW's new 1st VP. Most of you already know me, but I will re-introduce myself in case some of you may not! My name is Shannon Rezanina. I am 42 years old, married for 22 years, and have three awesome kids! I work at Williams, Porter, Day & Neville, P.C. and in August I will have been at WPDN for nine years!! I graduated from the Paralegal Program at Casper College in 2005 and received my CLA in 2006.

During my time as a paralegal I have obtained my ACP in Discovery, Trial Practice, and Personal Injury. I strongly believe in continuing our education, whether or not we are certified. I believe it is important to continue learning in the areas of law we work in as well as in the areas we

don't. I also want to encourage everyone to not only attend LAW seminars but to also try and attend the NALA convention!

Attending the NALA convention really expands your education and you get to meet some pretty amazing paralegals from all over the U.S.! Plus you get to visit different states and cities you might not have visited on your own!

I want to hear from you! I would like your ideas on topics and speakers for our upcoming seminars. So please contact me at srezanina@wpdn.net with your ideas!

Everyone have a super amazing summer! Be safe, but have fun!

Susan Lewis, ACP
2nd Vice President

I have been a certified legal assistant since 1999. I am a member of NALA and was in the first LEAP class for NALA. Currently I work at Zubrod Law Office, P.C. in Cheyenne, Wyoming, and have been working in the area of family law since 2011.

Before joining Zubrod Law Office, I worked for the Wyoming Office of the Attorney General for about three years. Zubrod Law Office has two office dogs, Mac and Shelby, who make sure everyone gets their work done!

I have a crazy Labrador Retriever and four granddaughters. In my free time, I enjoy scrapbooking and paper crafts.



Did You Know?

In late 1910, United States President William Taft named Willis Van Devanter, an attorney from Cheyenne, to the United States Supreme Court. The Honorable Willis Van Devanter served for over twenty years. He was the first and only Wyomingite to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court.

Mark Robbins, CP
Treasurer



I have been working as a paralegal in the Casper community since 2012. I graduated from the Casper College Paralegal Program in 2012 and previously earned a Bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education from the University of Wyoming.

I earned my CP certification in January 2015 and am currently employed by the Law Offices of R. Michael Shickich (Injury Law Firm), as well as by Casper Law Office. This is my third term serving on the LAW board. In my “spare” time (whatever that is), I enjoy working on my house and yard, and spending time with my cocker spaniel, Gilbert.

Jessica Keith
Secretary



I have been blessed to be on our board and to continue serving. I have been involved with LAW since 2012, as a student member. I have served as your 1st Vice President and am currently serving as the Secretary. I also serve on two other boards, Legal Aid of Wyoming as well as the Hector Foundation. I have worked in two law offices until April of 2015.

I currently work from home as a wedding officiant and an Advocate distributor. I have been married to Allan Keith since February 2011 and have four children: two boys and two girls. I look forward to working with all of you this year, and can’t wait to hear your suggestions.

Sarah Pugh
NALA Liaison



I live in Buffalo, Wyoming. I work for the State of Wyoming, Fourth Judicial District. It has been almost ten years since I graduated from the Paralegal Program in Casper, Wyoming.

I am excited to attend the 40th Annual NALA Convention in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The convention brochure states “The Nation’s Largest Gathering of Paralegals.” I am eager to meet new people, get different ideas, and brush up on my paralegal skills. When I return, I want to share my experience and what I have learned with our organization.

If you haven’t reviewed the NALA website lately, I encourage you to do so. I have been familiarizing myself with the information and preparing for the NALA Convention. I want to be ready for what is ahead – a new adventure and a learning experience.



Interested in becoming a certified paralegal? Professional certification provides many career benefits as well as opportunities to meet others around the country working in the legal field. For

more information, visit the website of the National Association of Legal Assistants (NALA) at: www.nala.org

Barbara Heisner
Region Three (3) Director

I graduated with distinction from Casper College with my Associate of Arts in Paralegal Studies in May 2015. I plan to sit for the CP Exam in January 2016.

Currently I work as a legal secretary for Kyle Ridgeway and Craig Silva at Williams, Porter, Day & Neville, P.C. in Casper, Wyoming. My previous work experience includes working as a legal assistant at Rochelle Law Offices, P.C. in Casper.

Rhonda Hoadley
Region Four (4) Director



Hello everyone! I'm Rhonda Hoadley, the newly appointed Region Four Director. Thank you for the opportunity to serve on the Board of Directors. I have been a paralegal for fifteen years getting my start in Nashville, Tennessee. In 2005 I moved

While attending Casper College, I participated in the Casper College Legal Services program, assisting in pro bono work. I was also a member of Phi Theta Kappa.

I was born in Casper, Wyoming and have lived in Wyoming my whole life. I am passionate about the fine and performing arts, an active member in the Casper College Concert Band, and the Casper Municipal Band.

I love traveling, the beach, spending time with my friends, music/theater, any-

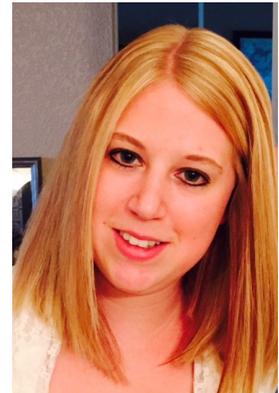
thing to do with dance, and dogs. I am an avid, die-hard St. Louis Cardinals fan.

to Cheyenne with a "five-year plan," and here I am, ten years later. I was offered my dream job just four months ago at the Laramie County District Attorney's Office. I have to say that Wyoming was a very good move for me. I joined LAW in 2007 and I have been active on the board for six years now. I really enjoy all that LAW has to offer. I look forward to each and every seminar as a get-away weekend to get to catch up with other members and make new friends.

My plans for Region Four are going to be pretty scheduled. If you know me at all,

you know I need to plan everything! We will have a membership drive within the next 30 days. Starting in July, we will have morning coffee at the downtown Starbucks on the second Tuesday of every month at 7:00 a.m. If you can't make Tuesdays, no worries, on the third Wednesday of the month, we will have a brown bag lunch in the atrium of the Courthouse at noon. I am hoping to offer some CLE opportunities as well!

The Fall Seminar will be in Cheyenne this year! I'm sure Shannon has great plans for an informative and fun seminar. I hope to see you on Tuesdays and/or Wednesdays!



Virg Bodyfelt
Region Five (5) Director



Greeting from the southwest corner! I am a legal assistant for Deputy Prosecuting and County Attorney Robert Reese at the Sweetwater County Attorney's Office in Rock Springs. My caseload

entails misdemeanor assaults and batteries, alcohol- and drug-related offenses, and plenty of traffic violations.

Before my work as a legal assistant, I was employed as a Victim Witness Coordinator for the Sweetwater County Attorney's Office and as the Project Coordinator for the Sweetwater County Family Justice Center, a pilot program administered by the Wyoming Office of the Attorney General that serves victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and elder abuse.

Prior to my time with the Family Justice Center, I worked overseas in Germany, Serbia, and Montenegro as an English instructor. I hold a Master of Arts in Diplomacy from Seton Hall University and a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations from Hawaii Pacific University.

I enjoy gardening, reading, going on long bicycle rides, and hanging out with the family dogs, Lucy and Gus.



Regions Recapped

Region One (1)

Counties: Teton, Park, Big Horn, Hot Springs, and Washakie
Cities/Towns: Jackson, Cody, Basin, Thermopolis, and Worland

Region Two (2)

Counties: Sheridan, Johnson, Campbell, Crook, and Weston
Cities/Towns: Sheridan, Buffalo, Gillette, Sundance, and Newcastle

Region Three (3)

Counties: Fremont, Natrona, Converse, and Niobrara
Cities/Towns: Lander, Casper, Douglas, and Lusk

Region Four (4)

Counties: Goshen, Platte, Laramie, Albany, and Carbon
Cities/Towns: Torrington, Wheatland, Cheyenne, Laramie, and Rawlins

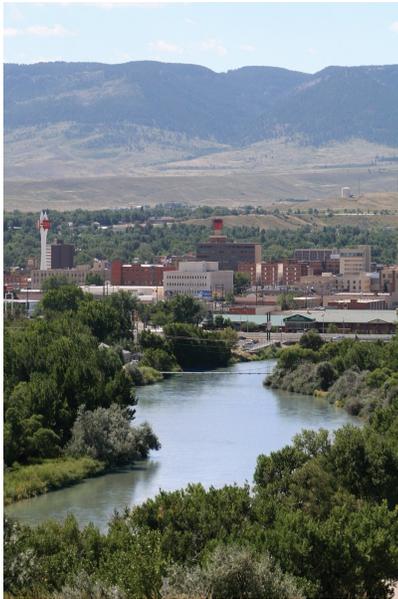
Region Five (5)

Counties: Sweetwater, Uinta, Lincoln, and Sublette
Cities/Towns: Rock Springs, Green River, Evanston, Kemmerer, and Pinedale.

Legal Assistants of Wyoming is currently looking for individuals to serve as Directors for Regions One (1) and Two (2). If this opportunity interests you or if you know anyone who might make a fantastic leader in this role, please contact LAW President Tammy Wuertley at: twuertley@wpdn.net.

A Blast in Casper:

2015 Spring Seminar and Annual Meeting



Casper, Wyoming

The Legal Assistants of Wyoming held its 2015 Spring Seminar and Annual Meeting at The Wolcott Galleria in downtown Casper from April 24-25, 2015. President Shannon Rezanina and 1st Vice President Jessica Keith welcomed the group of over 50 attendees, followed by introductions of the rest of the Board of Directors.

The floor was turned over to Mary Kubichek, Director of the Casper College Paralegal Program, who shared some news on the development of limited license legal technicians within the legal field. She also led a

discussion pertaining to the Board of Professional Responsibility, Wyoming State Bar vs. Dion J. Curtis, which reiterated the importance of the Wyoming Rule of Professional Conduct 5.3 that states attorneys are ultimately responsible for the work of their legal assistants and other employees.

Attorney Ryan L. Ford from Williams, Porter, Day & Neville, P.C., then gave a presentation titled “Utilizing Paralegals in the Office,” which generated a notable degree of interaction among the attendees. The group shared personal experiences and discussed ways to improve communication between attorneys and legal assistants in addition to comments on how to support attorneys through sound time management skills.

The first day of the seminar drew to a close so that interested attendees could participate in the Annual Meeting as well as elect the new Board of Directors.

Between presentations, raffle tickets were drawn and participants won great prizes, including bottles of wine, gift cards to Starbucks and, the ultimate prize, a new iPad mini.

Several of the attendees then ventured to Artisan Alley, a local art studio where they enjoyed dinner, painting, and socializing.

The second day of the seminar began with a presentation titled “Adoptions and the Paralegal” by Attorney Ann Rochelle of Rochelle Law Offices, P.C. With the aid of a very comprehensive handout, Ms. Rochelle defined the usual parties involved in adoptions in Wyoming, including the child, the parent, the putative father, and the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC). She described the necessary step of homesteading in adoptions and explained the contents of an adoption petition. One interesting fact learned by Ms. Rochelle’s presentation was that when adoptions fail, they primarily do so due to paternity rights.

Following Ms. Rochelle’s presentation, 1st Vice President Jessica Keith presented on the Wyoming Lawyer Assistance Program (WyLAP), a program of the Wyoming State Bar that assists lawyers

throughout the State struggling with impairment issues, including depression and substance abuse. Ms. Keith shared some interesting statistics from the 2011 Life Satisfaction Survey, which demonstrated a great amount of stress, frustration, and regret from attorneys surveyed in Wyoming who battle with the demands and harsh realities of legal work. Ms. Keith compared these feelings with those of the seminar attendees who, although overwhelmed by stress at times, enjoy their work as legal assistants overall. Seminar attendees received a copy of an article by Martin E. P. Seligman et al titled “Why Lawyers Are Unhappy.”

The seminar broke for lunch; and members dived into delicious pizza and salad from a local establishment.

After lunch, the seminar continued with a presentation from Jason Neville of Williams, Porter, Day & Neville, P.C. on products liability. Using a tragic but instructive case that involved a faulty wellhead, Mr. Neville explained the basic elements of product liability cases, highlighting the importance of expert witnesses in these cases.

Mr. Charlie Chapin of Williams, Porter, Day & Neville, P.C. gave the final presentation titled “Elder Law,” which focused on legal services most often required by the elderly. Mr. Chapin explained the difference between Durable Power of Attorney and General Power of At-

torney as they pertain to estate law and planning. It was noted that Power of Attorney over healthcare matters is becoming increasingly more important than the traditional role of Power of Attorney in financial matters.

Mr. Chapin defined three common components of a will: details pertaining to debts; bequests or clearly defined gifts that are divided among beneficiaries; and residuary, or anything left to be divided proportionally among beneficiaries. One the most important points gained from Mr. Chapin’s presentation was the necessity of estate planning and the advantages of having a clearly defined will in place. If no will exists, the State of Wyoming will dictate how assets are distributed,

which can cause unnecessary arguing and similar problems among surviving family members.

Following the presentations, seminar attendees were invited to partake in a cake commemorating the anniversary of LAW’s inception and group photos were taken. The seminar concluded in the later afternoon on Saturday, April 25th with smiles and new friendships.

Written by Virg Bodyfelt.

Photo credit: Released into the Public Domain by Urdangaray on January 2, 2008.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Casper,_Wyoming#/media/File:Casperskyline.jpg

WyLAP

Wyoming Lawyer Assistance Program

This program provides help to attorneys and others in the legal field whose ability to practice has been impaired by alcohol or substance abuse, illness, depression, and related traumas. Services include: planning and interventions; education and awareness programs; physician and counseling referrals; and peer support.

The work of the organization is supervised by an Advisory Committee of three members from the Wyoming State Bar appointed by the President of the Wyoming State Bar.

Calls to WyLAP are confidential.

If you, your colleagues, or anyone you know might benefit from WyLAP’s assistance, please contact Attorney Jack Speight at: 307-996-6834.



Domestic Violence

4-1-1

Domestic violence is a silent but real problem affecting millions of Americans. It does not discriminate, permeating through all socio-economic classes, races, nationalities, genders, and ages. According to a report from the Centers for Disease Control, “1 in 3 women (32.9%) has experienced physical violence by an intimate partner...in her lifetime” (Black 39). These numbers are disturbing and Wyoming, although scarcely populated, is not an exception to the reality that many families and individuals suffer from the negative effects of domestic violence.

Laws pertaining to personal violence or offenses against the person in Wyoming can be found in Title 6, Chapter 2, Article 5 (6-2-501-511) of the Wyoming Criminal Code. These statutes define laws against and penalties for: simple and aggravated assault and battery; child abuse; reckless endangering; terroristic threats; stalking; and, most

relevant to domestic violence, strangulation of a household member, domestic assault, and domestic battery.

In July 2014, Wyoming Statutes 6-2-510 and 6-2-511 were adopted and put into effect to further clarify the nature of these offenses and the relationship of those involved. The difference between domestic assault and domestic battery is somewhat inexplicit from a layperson’s point of view but is important enough to necessitate separate statutes. A household member is guilty of domestic assault if he or she “unlawfully attempts to cause bodily injury to another household member” if having the present ability to do so (W.S. 6-2-510). Domestic battery is committed if a household member “knowingly or recklessly causes bodily injury to another household member by

use of physical force” (W.S. 6-2-511). Both charges carry possible penalties of fines not more than \$750.00, imprisonment for not more than six (6) months, or both for misdemeanor offenses.

Navigating these statutes and understanding the complexity of domestic violence is difficult, especially in light of the many acronyms used by professionals in this field of law. To shed some light on some of the language used by prosecutors, legal assistants, victim coordinators, advocates, and non-profit entities who work to address domestic violence in Wyoming, the list below outlines commonly used acronyms and their corresponding definitions:

- ◆ **DV** – Domestic violence. This is aggressive, violent, or demeaning behavior toward a member of the household, usually against a spouse or partner. Domestic violence can be physical, emotional and/or mental in nature.



- ◆ **DVS** – Division of Victim Services. The Division is a component of the Wyoming Attorney General’s Office. Located in Cheyenne, the Division coordinates with non-profit programs and prosecuting attorneys’ offices throughout Wyoming to provide educational opportunities and technical support. It is responsible for administering the Wyoming Crime Victim Compensation Program.
- ◆ **WCADVSA** – Wyoming Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. Based in Laramie, the WCADVSA helps provide advocacy to local programs throughout the State.
- ◆ **VOCA** – Victims of Crime Act. Enacted by the federal government in 1984, the act is a federal law intended to help victims of crime by more than simply punishing the perpetrator. The law provides funds to help assist programs throughout the country, namely through the administering of grants from the federal Crime Victims Fund.
- ◆ **OVC** – Office for Victims of Crime. The OVC is one of

seven components of the Office of Justice Programs of the U.S. Department of Justice. It was created through an amendment to the Victims of Crime Act in 1988 and is responsible for administering the Crime Victims Fund, which provides grants to domestic violence programs.

- ◆ **VAWA** – Violence Against Women Act. Signed into effect by President Bill Clinton in 1994, this act provides millions of dollars toward the investigation and prosecution of violent crimes against women.
- ◆ **OVW** – Office of Violence Against Women. Similar to the Office for Victims of Crime, the OVW is a component of the U.S. Department of Justice. It administers grants to programs throughout the country aimed at addressing violence against women, especially crimes associated with domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.
- ◆ **FJC** – Family Justice Center. Usually operating as non-profits or through governmental entities, Family Justice Centers consist of multiple

agencies in one location working together to support families and victims of violent crime, including domestic violence, child abuse, and sexual assault. Most centers rely on partnerships from police agencies, prosecutors, advocacy groups, medical services, and civil legal service providers, among other community programs.

If you or anyone you know suffers from domestic violence, do not be afraid to seek help. There are many agencies in Wyoming aimed at assisting victims and their friends and families. For a list of these programs, please visit the “Who We Are” tab on the WCADVSA website at www.wyomingdvsa.org.

Works Cited:

Black, M.C. et al. The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey: 2010 Summary Report. Atlanta, Georgia: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2011. Print.

Written by Virg Bodyfelt.

The National Domestic Violence Hotline

1-800-799-SAFE (7233)



Keep your calendars open for these exciting future events:



LAW 2015 Fall Seminar

The Plains Hotel
Cheyenne, Wyoming

Join us at the capital for great presentations and good company.

September 11-12, 2015



LAW 2016 Spring Seminar

Rock Springs, Wyoming

Head on down to the southwest corner for another great seminar.

Tentative date: April 29, 2016

Funny Wyoming Law

No drunk skiing!

W.S. §6-9-301. Skier safety; skiing while impaired; unsafe skiing; collisions; penalties.

(a) No person shall move uphill on any passenger tramway or use any ski slope or trail while such person's ability to do so is impaired by the consumption of alcohol or by the use of any illicit controlled substance or other drug as defined by W.S. 35-7-1002.

(d) Any person violating this section is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than twenty (20) days, a fine of not more than two hundred dollars (\$200.00), or both.

Legal Assistants of Wyoming is grateful to our sponsors and would like to thank them for their continued support:

- ◆ Alora Kempster
- ◆ Williams, Porter, Day & Neville, P.C.



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