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Newsletter

**July
2017**

MEET THE NEW PRESIDENT, MARK ROBBINS!!

I am a Wyoming native, born and raised in Riverton. Following high school graduation, I attended Casper College for one semester, Central Wyoming College for three semesters, and the University of Wyoming for the remainder of my degree; graduating in December, 1994 with a BA in Elementary Education. During this time period, I was also a member of the Wyoming Army National Guard, completing my enlistment contemporaneously with my graduation from the University, and being honorably discharged as a Sergeant, E-5 in March, 2015. After a brief move to Florida, I returned to Laramie for two years to manage the Library Restaurant and Brewing Company for friends of mine for whom I had worked while in college. I then returned to Florida, moving initially to Tallahassee to open a coffee house, but eventually finding my way to Vero Beach, where I spent the next 12 years, primarily working in restaurant and bar management, making some great lifelong friends, and enjoying many wonderful, memorable experiences that I would have missed, had I remained forever in Wyoming. I also, however, experienced several destructive hurricanes, and longed for the west.

I returned to Wyoming in the fall of 2008, with a desire to find my niche. Fortunately, (thanks to an aunt who taught a similar program in St. Paul, Minnesota,) I came with knowledge of, and an interest in, the Casper College Paralegal program. I was informed that Mary's program is "the best, hands down," was encouraged to investigate it, and am so glad that I did.



(continued)

Upon my return to Casper College after nearly twenty years, I discovered that I had a true interest in the law, became a member of Phi Theta Kappa, a student member of Legal Assistants of Wyoming, and graduated with my certificate in Paralegal Studies in 2012. I then earned my CP in March, 2015.

I am currently employed by Stacy Casper as a paralegal at Casper Law Office, and have been (aside from a two month period) since January, 2012. Stacy exclusively practices Family Law. I have also been employed by Williams, Porter, Day, and Neville, where I worked as a legal assistant to P. Craig Silva, and had the opportunity to add insurance and criminal defense to my resume, and by Injury Law Firm, where I was employed as a paralegal to R. Michael Shickich, and had the opportunity to experience working personal injury cases. During the periods of time when I was employed by WPDN and by Injury Law Firm, I continued to work evenings at Casper Law Office, (aside from the previously mentioned two month period,) and returned to Stacy full time in November, 2015. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to work with such great attorneys, all of whom I consider my friends, and for having been exposed to a number of areas of law in a fairly short amount of time. I have been encouraged by all of the attorneys for whom I have been employed to pursue a law degree, and may well do so.

This is my fifth term serving on the Legal Assistants of Wyoming Board of Directors, having previously served three terms as Treasurer, and then last year as President Elect. I am excited to serve this year as your President, and by the great mix of seasoned and new board members that were elected to serve alongside me. I look forward to our Fall Conference in Gillette, to our Spring Conference and Annual Meeting in Casper, to exposing a new batch of students around the state to our organization, to attracting new regular memberships, and to all of the LAW activities and CLE opportunities that are on our horizon for this year.

CHANGES IN THE WYOMING DISTRICT COURTS JUDICIARY, BY MARK ROBBINS, CP

The appointment of a new Wyoming District Court Judge is a fairly common event – judges retire or move on to other things. In the course of my fairly short time being involved in the Wyoming legal community, I have seen Judge Scott Skavdahl leave the Seventh Judicial District to accept an appointment at the Federal District Court level, Judge Keith Kautz leave the Eighth Judicial District to accept an appointment to the Wyoming Supreme Court, and Judge David Park retire from the Seventh Judicial District. Currently, however, we are in the midst of an unusual occurrence, with the practically simultaneous retirement of three Wyoming District Court Judges, and the appointments of their subsequent replacements.

Judge Wade Waldrup, of the Second Judicial District in Carbon County, retired on July 7, with Governor Matt Mead appointing Dawnessa Snyder to fill the vacancy. Snyder, a native of Rock Springs, received her Bachelor and Law degrees from the University of Wyoming, and served most recently as the Chief Deputy in the Carbon County Attorney's Office. She has also served as an Adjunct Professor for Western Wyoming Community College. Many of Snyder's supporters have cited her successful prosecution of sex offenders and her compassionate work with child victims. She was also instrumental in the construction of the Carbon County Youth Crisis Center, a group home for at risk children.

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Judge Steven Cranfill of the Fifth Judicial District in Park County is the next Judge slated to retire, effective July 31. The Governor has appointed William L. (Bill) Simpson to fill the vacancy occurring in this district. A graduate of Cody High School, Simpson has a Bachelor of Science degree, with honors, from the University of Wyoming and a Juris Doctor degree from the UW College of Law. He has been in private practice in Cody for 33 years - with Simpson, Kepler & Edwards beginning in 1984 upon graduating from law school, and since 2000 with Burg, Simpson, Eldredge, Hersh & Jardine. Simpson has also worked for the Wyoming Public Defender's Office for almost three decades. His pro bono work through the years, in a variety of matters including domestic relations, child custody, family law, and indigent defendants, has been significant.

The last to retire, effective August 4, will be Judge John Brooks of the Eighth Judicial District, serving Converse, Niobrara, Platte, and Goshen Counties. This retirement is more meaningful to me than the others, as I am quite familiar with Judge Brooks and his reasoning, having attended many trials in his Converse County courtroom. Governor Mead has appointed F. Scott Peasley to fill this vacancy. Peasley has been in private practice for 16 years in Douglas with his father. His practice has been broad and diverse, including representation of municipalities as well as the local school district. He has also served as a part-time deputy with the Converse County Attorney's Office since 2001, where he handled misdemeanor and felony criminal cases until recently, when his work turned primarily to Converse County civil matters.

Source: <https://www.wyomingbar.org/>

ASHLEY BARKLEY, CP (PRESIDENT ELECT)

I am a Wyoming Native currently employed as a paralegal with Chapman, Valdez & Lansing in Casper. My family and I moved back to Wyoming from Colorado about two and a half years ago. In the time that I have been back I have had the privilege of working in a variety of roles at my current firm including receptionist, legal secretary and for the last two years paralegal. Interestingly enough, before I finished college I started as a runner at the firm so it feels like home.

I earned my Associates Degree in Paralegal Studies in 2010, and went on to complete my

Bachelors Degree in Criminal Justice in 2012. Just after graduation I moved to Colorado to be closer to family and consider the possibility of law school. After much thought it was my conclusion that focusing on my family and using the degrees I already possess was the best option for me.

My family includes my amazing husband Josh, and our three boys, Ivan (10), Roan (3.5), and Otto (born 1/2/17). Josh and I stay busy trying to keep up with our boys and their activities; visit our geographically scattered family members; and on occasion, squeeze in a date night (if we're lucky).

I am excited to be part of the LAW board again this year. I am hoping to continue to expand on my professional network and really get to know some of the amazing paralegals in this state.



BARBARA HEISNER, CP 1ST VICE PRESIDENT

After graduating with distinction from Casper College with my Associate of Arts in Paralegal Studies in May, 2015, I became a Certified Paralegal in March, 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.

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. In 2016, I became a member of the first Casper College chapter of Lambda Epsilon Chi, the National Honor Society in Paralegal/Legal Assistant Studies.

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 and family, music/theater, anything to do with dance, and dogs. I am an avid, die-hard St. Louis Cardinals fan.

I am happy to continue serving on the Board of LAW and look forward to fun times with other fellow Wyoming paralegals!



2017 SPRING SEMINAR RECAP BY MS. HEISNER

LAW's 2017 Spring Seminar was held in Cheyenne, Wyoming April 28-29, 2017 at IBMC, where we were graciously provided with a meeting space for no charge (thank you to Rhonda Hoadley, ACP for facilitating that!) The seminar qualified for five hours of CLE through NALA, including one hour of ethics. Despite the questionable road conditions, approximately 25 people attend-ed.

Speakers at this seminar included Monique Meese, J.D., who provided an in-depth overview of the juvenile court system; Timothy "TJ" Forwood, J.D. and Zac Fisher, with a joint presentation on the JERS system and criminal prosecution in the U.S. District Court; Mark W. Gifford, JD and Wendy Soto, CP, MPA, giving the legal ethics portion of our seminar, focusing on how attorney-mandated ethics affect paralegals; and finally, Debora A. Person and Tawnya W. Plumb, professors from the University of Wyoming College of Law, whose presentation was entitled "Polishing Your Legal Research Skills". The speakers were all very well prepared and informative, and TJ and Zac wove some much-appreciated humor into their topics.

Friday night social hour was held at Shake It Up Design Studio & Boutique, where we had

(CONTINUED)

dinner catered by Qdoba and took a large group lesson in painting a picture of dandelions. There were some very creative, beautiful pieces of work when we were all said and done! I hope everyone who attended had a great time!

Award winners for this year include the following:

CLA-CP Attainment Award: Heather McAfee and Annette

Sause Outstanding Student Award: April Canada

Outstanding Member Award: Mary Kubichek, J.D. *Page 6

and 7 are from Mary!

Thank you ladies for your hard work and dedication to our program, our organization, and our field of work.

I was very pleased with the amount of items donated for this year's charity. We collected full-size toiletries and school supplies for Laramie County School District families in need. We collected many items. In addition, at the end of the seminar, Rhonda Hoadley, ACP, and I took all of our left-over snacks to the homeless shelter in Cheyenne. Those donations were met with extreme gratitude. I think it's important for LAW to continue to make charitable contributions, when we are able, of course.

I look forward to seeing you all at future seminars!

HEATHER MCAFFEE 2ND VICE PRESIDENT

I have served as a legal assistant and office manager at Steiner Law, LLC, a family law firm, in Cheyenne for over five years. Before that, I was a receptionist at Buchhammer & Kehl, P.C., a firm specializing in insurance defense, criminal defense, and family law, for about two years. This is my second year serving on the LAW board. While I do not have any fancy academic letters after my name just yet, I am all registered to take the certified paralegal exam this September, and then I plan to take the advanced certified exam in family law. When I am not working, I enjoy working out, playing softball, getting tattooed, and spending time with my family and dogs. I look forward to meeting everyone at the regional events and at the Fall Seminar in Gillette!

SPEAKERS



LAW SPRING SEMINAR 2017

ELECTIONS



AWARDS



SOCIAL HOUR



PAINTING



As many of you know I have my "Lottery Job".

I love this profession and the people in it.

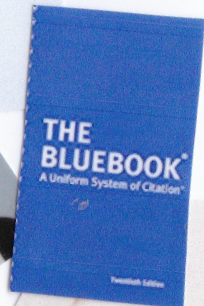
Thanks you for honoring me.

Thank you for surprising me.

Mary



THANK YOU



IRAC, therefore, I am.



I Love Legal Writing!
Mary Thanks



Some of My Best Friends Are Paralegals



LEGAL ASSISTANTS OF WYOMING
P.O. Box 155
Casper, WY 82602-0155

THANK YOU

are you crying? there's no crying!
THERE'S NO CRYING IN PARALEGALING!

"Objection!"
said Atticus.

**DON'T BE STUPID
YOU'LL BE FINE**

COURT IS NOW IN SESSION



Each Spring, the Ewing T. Kerr Courthouse is the host for St. Anthony School 5th grade students as they conduct a mock trial under the direction of Casper College Paralegal Program Director, Mary Kubichek. This year their case was High School Student Chris Moss vs the New Columbia Public School District. Mary Kubichek emphasizes that these mock trials incorporate social sciences, public speaking and research skills. Students portray witnesses, lawyers and interact with a jury made up of parents as well as Casper College paralegal students.

with much appreciation

If you plan to take the exam at Casper College, please contact Mary Kubichek at (307) 268-2618, or email her at kubichek@caspercollege.edu to make arrangements.

CLA/CP Exam:



*nobody puts
Paralegal
in the Corner*

thank you

Thanks!

Thanks

Mary Kubichek

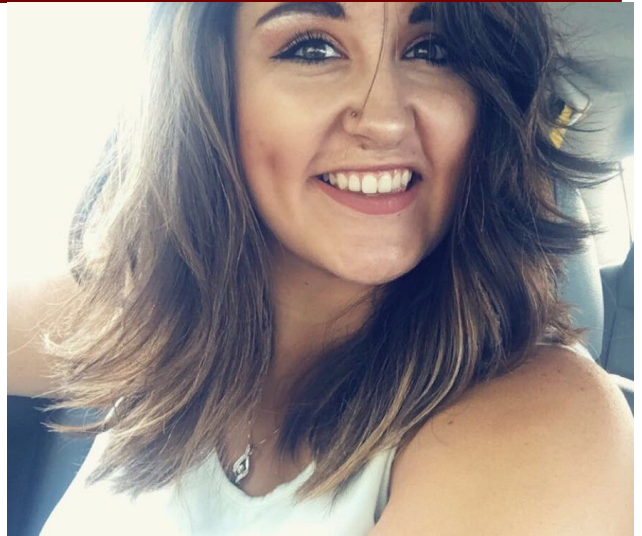


Mary-

SAVANNAH SHAFFER SECRETARY

I currently work for Dixon and Dixon, LLP in Casper and just graduated from the Paralegal Program at Casper College. I am planning on sitting for the Certified Paralegal Exam in September. Although I work in a family law office I would like to someday work in the criminal field as well as Native American Law.

I was born and raised in Casper and I am proud to call it home. I love to travel, hike, eat, laugh, and learn new things. I am excited to be on the board as the secretary and get to know all of you!



RHONDA HOADLEY, ACP NALA LIAISON

Hello LAW Members and thank you for electing me as your NALA Liaison for the 2017-2018 year. I am very excited to get to go to Orlando, Florida, July 19 -21 as the representative for LAW.

Did you know that Shannon Rezanina, ACP is running for an At Large Director (formerly a Region Director) position on the NALA Board of Directors? How exciting is it to have someone from Wyoming in the race for a NALA board position? We wish you much success in Orlando, Shannon!

As many of you have probably heard, NALA is changing the format of the CLA Exam in 2018. I will do my best to keep you all apprised of the changes. One benefit of the new format is that the exam registration will be on demand, and you have 365 days to pass the knowledge portion of the test before taking the skill section. I will be sure to get more information on the test while in Orlando.

Thank you again for electing me to be on the 2017-2018 Board of Directors. Please feel free to contact me should you need anything in the Cheyenne area.



WENDY TREMBATH, CP—TREASURER

I was born and raised in Colorado. I earned a B.S. in Broadcast Journalism in 1991 from the University of Colorado at Boulder. I met my husband, Wallace, at college. We got married in Guam, USA in 1992 and lived there until 1995. I worked as a radio and TV news producer, reporter and anchor for KUAM-Island News for those three years.

We followed job opportunities to a few other places until 1997 – like West Jordan, Utah where I worked for KSL-TV/Radio and Portland, Oregon. Then, Wallace applied to law school at the University of Oregon in Eugene, and we lived there for about 8 years during and after law school.

In April 2005, Wallace decided to move to Casper and open his own law firm. He asked me to assist him as his paralegal. I moved to Casper in June, and started classes at the Casper College Paralegal Program in August. I

graduated with my Post-Baccalaureate Paralegal Certificate in May 2008, and passed my CLA/CP Exam in July 2008.

The law firm did well, but Wallace decided to shut it down in 2007. He took a full time position at the City of Casper Attorney's Office, which meant I was out of a job. I began working for a plaintiffs personal injury firm (The Injury Law Firm – R. Michael Shickich) in Spring 2007 until February 2015, when I moved to a defense firm. My current job at Williams, Porter, Day & Neville was made possible by knowing someone at the firm – *through LAW* – who put in a good word for me when the firm was hiring paralegals. (Thanks, Shannon!) I am the paralegal for Patrick Murphy and Scott Klosterman at WPDN.

I have greatly benefitted from my membership in Legal Assistants of Wyoming in other ways as well. I won the Outstanding Student scholarship in 2007, and won the CLA/CP Attainment scholarship in 2008. I was LAW's Secretary in 2014-2015, and I have chaired the Awards Committee for many years – which I really enjoy. I also like technology, and have been on the Website Committee for several years. Now, I am the Treasurer for the next two years, and I am looking forward to learning the ropes. I hope to bring some innovation to the position as well.



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Wallace and I are adventurers and adrenaline junkies. We have parachuted, bungee jumped, and roller-coastered our way through 25 years of marriage, and have been blessed to travel to exotic locations like Palau, Bali, Belize and Fiji. We enjoy scuba diving and snorkeling in the tropics. We spend many of our summer weekends whitewater kayaking the rivers of Wyoming and Colorado, and we plan to travel to Costa Rica in the next few years for whitewater kayaking. I also enjoy hiking, gardening (mostly flowers), and decorating (mostly for holidays). We downhill ski in the winter. When we are not running around with our hair on fire, we enjoy lounging at home with our cat, Oliver, and serving as Pre-Marital Mentors at our church. I also perform often in my church's musicals, skits and choral productions.

TAMMY WUERTLEY, ACP REGION 3 DIRECTOR

I'm originally a Michigander, but celebrated my 10th year as a Wyomingite this month. I am excited to be back on the board as your Region 3 Director! I currently work as a paralegal at Williams, Porter, Day and Neville for Ryan Schwartz, Stuart Day, and Craig Silva, specializing in personal injury/defense litigation and sometimes a little bit of everything else. When I moved here in 2007, Mary Kubichek convinced me to take the CLA exam. I decided to get married first, and then earned my certification in 2011. I then obtained my ACP in automobile accidents a year later. I hope to earn more advanced certifications one of these days.



I live with my husband, Adam, a Wyoming native, along with our four dogs, Jed, Sadie, Riley, Lola and our 14 chickens on 80 acres just outside of Casper. We are always doing home and garden projects, but enjoy camping, four-wheeling, boating, and attending all the great events here in Casper when we can. Of course, meeting friends for dinner and drinks is always a blast. I'm looking forward to serving as the Region 3 Director this year, and hope to have a lot of fun and educational things planned for us.

REGION 3 NEWS BY TAMMY WUERTLEY

After taking a brief hiatus, I am back and ready to be your Region 3 Director! It seems that there has been a problem in the past with members actually attending regional events, so this year I am hoping to mix things up a bit and increase attendance. I contacted some local attorneys to see if any of them would be willing to provide free CLEs to the LAW members, and have had four responses! In addition, I've been brainstorming and researching a variety of different social, family-friendly events for our region. Some of these ideas include:

- Ice Skating, Crazy Bowling, Mini Golf, or an Evening at the Driving Range
- Murder Mystery Party with a Roaring 20s theme
- Participating in a 5k Run or Walk
- Participating in community service events
- Adopting a family at Christmas
- Hayride and Campfire Night
- Family picnic
- "Best Ball" Golf Tournament
- Attending a sporting event as a group
- Participating in the Beans and Baubles or the Annual Chili Cook Off events
- Potluck and Bunco Night

These are a few ideas, and of course, we can't forget after-work cocktails! We are also in the planning stages of the Casper College Back-to-School luncheon and our annual Casper College/LAW Christmas party!

As your regional director, I want you to come to our events, so please send an email to me at twuertley@wpdn.net with your ideas for social events as well as continuing education topics. I am tentatively planning a family picnic for our Region 3 members and their families to be held in late July or early August, as well as a CLE for all members.

DENA ALEXANDER, ACP REGION 4 DIRECTOR

I have been working in the legal field for 24 years as a legal secretary and paralegal. My husband Bill and I have been married 34 years with a very furry family of dogs and cats. I am originally from Lima, Ohio, and graduated from Hocking College in Nelsonville, Ohio, in 1982 with an Associate of Applied Science degree in Recreation and Wildlife. I received an Associate of Applied Science degree as a Legal Assistant in 1993 from Laramie County Community College in Cheyenne, Wyoming. I successfully completed the CLA exam from NALA in 1996. Because my husband was in the Air Force, I was fortunate to work for a number of law firms in different states (Wyoming, Texas, and New Mexico). When Bill retired from the Air Force, we returned to Cheyenne and I worked for Bailey, Stock & Harmon as a paralegal from March 2004 through November 2007. Bill got a job as the fire chief in Pierre, South Dakota and I went with him and worked for the Tieszen Law Firm for about 4 years. I re-turned to Bailey | Stock | Harmon | Cottam P.C. in January 2012. I work primarily with Mr. Wallace Stock in family law. I received my ACP in Family Law – Child Custody, Support and Visitation in 2016. I have been a member of Legal Assistants of Wyoming (off and on) over the past twenty years or so. My hobbies are scrapbooking, photography, gardening, and reading. Bill and I enjoy traveling, especially to Walt Disney World or Disney Cruises (my escape from reality!), and spending time with our many dogs and cats.



SAVE THE DATES!!!

**JULY 29: Noon-4 pm, Region 3 Picnic at
Adventures Playground at Crossroads Park,
Casper**

**AUGUST 1: NALA Exam Application deadline
for September testing**

**SEPTEMBER 22 and 23: LAW SEMINAR IN
GILLETTE**

**JULY 11-13, 2018: NALA Convention and Ex-
po in St. Louis, MO**

Want to contribute to the newsletter?? The
LAW Board is always looking for substantive
contributions to the quarterly LAW
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heather@steinerlaw.net

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