



The Honorable Judge Mary - My Experience with the Mock Trial

By: Ashley Barkley, CP

Every year the Casper College Paralegal Program participates in a mock trial. The paralegal students are paired up with elementary aged kids from the local catholic school and make the journey through the process of trying a case. The final showdown takes place in the federal courthouse, where the parties put their skills to the test by battling it out before “Judge” Mary Kubichek, the Director of the Casper College Paralegal Program.



This past spring, I was able to participate in the Mock Trial for what I believe is the third time. Many of us have been part of at least one mock trial because of time spent trekking through the Casper College Paralegal Program. It is like many other experiences in the life of a

paralegal; demanding, a little bit chaotic, and fun to look back on once the hard parts have passed.

For me, participation in the Mock Trial has spanned over a twenty-year period. And in case you’re wondering, I’m a year shy of the big 3-0. As a youngster, I attended Park Elementary school which happens to be the same school that Mr. Bob Kubichek (Mary’s son) attended. Unsurprisingly, Mary has always been an all-in sort of lady, and that vigor extended to her participation in Bob’s school years. I vividly remember attending various events hosted by Mary, including the etiquette luncheon for our class.

My first experience with the Mock Trial was as a juror. I couldn’t tell you what the case was about or the verdict we handed down but I can tell you I felt especially important sitting in that wooden box. Notepad and pencil in hand, writing down all the necessary details that were presented. The idea that I was being tasked with this very important decision was an

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intense thought for my elementary-aged mind.

My second experience was a result of my days in the Casper College Paralegal Program. I was assigned the Plaintiff's side of the case. We argued the inequality of a female high school soccer player that was not allowed to play on the boys' team. If I remember correctly it was a defense verdict. At that time, my real-world litigation experience was pretty much non-existent, and the weight of representing an individual didn't resonate like it would later in life. It was an experience that was much more about earning a good grade and classmate rivalry than it was a real understating of litigation.

My third, and most recent experience with the Mock Trial was on a volunteer basis. I landed an exciting role as both a coach to a couple of smart kiddos and the

witness that they would be examining. This time around I had a bit of litigation experience on my resume and felt a much better understanding of the real-world equivalent to our situation. This go around I was part of the defense team for a school district that was being sued by a student for not ensuring she had the proper education. The verdict was really a wash. The jury found that both parties contributed fault.

Of my three experiences, I think the first one was my favorite. That might seem strange because I can't remember the details like I can the subsequent ones, but for me there is, and always has been, a magic that exists in places of great power. Places of great truth. Churches, libraries, court rooms. I hope that my awe of such places and such power never dulls. It is at least part of the reason I am in this field.

It is safe to say that another very important reason I am in this field is because of "Judge" Mary. While Mary may not really be a judge, and I wasn't really an elementary aged juror, the reality is that experience gave me my first taste of the legal field. I think it was that first experience with a court room and the important feeling I had being part of something bigger than myself that ensured a lifelong interest in the law. And that first experience I owe to "Judge" Mary and her efforts in the Mock Trial.



Treasurer's Update

By: Wendy Trembath

It has been a terrific start to the year for LAW's finances.

NALA Liaison Rhonda Hoadley came in under budget on expenses for the NALA Conference in Orlando, FL by about \$300. The Sponsorship Drive has raised exactly the amount of funds budgeted (\$2500). There were more registrations for the Fall Seminar than expected by about \$130, and First VP Barbara Heisner stayed about \$525 under budget for the Fall Seminar expenses. In a little more than four months, Region 3 Director

Tammy Wuertley has collected \$25 more in CLE income than was budgeted for the entire year.

LAW was able to offer the \$500 matching donation in honor of Mark Robbins because of these events where more was collected than budgeted, and/or less was spent than budgeted. Thank you to our members for attending the Fall Seminar, and also for attending our CLE offerings! Way to go board members who have promoted their events well, and come in under budget for their event expenses!

The only real "hits" to the budget so far have been for the website expense, and membership dues.

We forgot that the website cost was scheduled to increase this year, so that line item will be about \$250 over budget. Also, we have collected less than expected – so far – in membership dues. We are about \$235 short on that line item. We need more members!

Please tell your colleagues about LAW, and encourage them to join. LAW does not pro-rate dues, but members pay lower prices for seminars and CLEs, so there is still plenty of time left in the year for everyone to get their money's worth out of their memberships.

Fall Seminar

By: Barbara Heisner

LAW's 2017 Fall Seminar was held in Gillette, WY September 22-23, 2017, at the La Quinta Inn & Suites. Attendance was high—30 people attended: 23 LAW/NALA members, four non-members, and three student members.

Speakers at the seminar included Thomas Lubnau, II, J.D. (“HIPAA Obligations for Law Firms Under the Privacy and Security Rules”); Ryan McGrath, J.D. (“Cross Examination and Preparation”); Cameron Geeting, J.D. (“The Ethical Relationship of Legal Assistants and Attorneys”); Stuart Healy III, J.D. (“Managing a Complex Case from Case Opening to Trial”); and J. David Horning, J.D. (“Dealing with Undue Influence on Vulnerable Family Members”). The surveys completed by seminar attendees showed satisfaction with the speakers, not only with the topics presented, but with the speakers personally as well.

Friday's (Sep. 22) social night was also held at the La Quinta Inn & Suites. Dinner was provided by Ruby Tuesday, and attendees 21-years of age and older could bring their own alcoholic beverages if they wished. Attendees ate; visited; played an ice-breaker game organized by Rhonda Hoadley, ACP, NALA Liaison; and played board games. Attendees found social night to be a success, overall. It was a fun evening!



The charity LAW collected donations for this seminar was the Council of Community Services, a Gillette non-profit organization that provides assistance to those experiencing poverty and homelessness, through 11 different programs. A total of \$180.00 was collected for the Council, which was not as high as hoped; however, LAW sincerely appreciates each and every donation received.

As mentioned, attendees were asked to fill out anonymous surveys regarding their experience at the seminar and ideas for future seminars. Most feedback was positive, and areas to improve on were duly noted and will be addressed where possible.

Thank you to everyone who attended this seminar. I look forward to seeing you all in the spring.



MORE FALL SEMINAR PHOTOS



REGIONAL NEWS

Region 4

Brown Bag Luncheon

By: Dena K. Alexander

Hi to all of our LAW members. Since this is a new position for me, I am getting to know the members in the region and hope we can recruit new members to LAW.

On August 30th, we had a Brown Bag Luncheon at the Laramie County Courthouse Atrium to introduce ourselves. I was so excited to have seven ladies in attendance. There were others who were interested, but were not able to attend due to work commitments. It was so nice to see some of the Region 4 members at the Fall Seminar in Gillette.

Our next Brown Bag Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, October 11th at noon in the Laramie County Courthouse Atrium again. We will be discussing the recent Fall Seminar and to make plans for a Christmas event. I look forward to seeing the Region 4 members again and I hope they will invite their co-workers and other paralegal friends to attend the luncheon.



Region 3

Events Update

By: Tammy Wuertley

As promised, Region 3 has been busy planning and hosting events. On July 29th, we held our family picnic at Adventures Crossroads Park. There wasn't a huge turn-out, but we had fun eating hot dogs and playing corn hole. It started out rainy in the morning, but was sunny and clear just in time for our picnic. Thank you to all who attended!



We also collected food donations for the Food Bank of the Rockies "Totes of Hope" program which provides meals to needy families during the school year by filling up backpacks with items such as canned meat, fruit, vegetables and other non-perishable items.

In August, Amy Iberlin of Williams, Porter, Day & Neville, provided us with a one-hour CLE on legal writing and the use of the Blue Book.

She provided great handouts which were very useful, because everyone knows we need more than one hour to review everything in the Blue Book! She gave us good pointers on legal writing style, grammar, and proper



use of capitalization and punctuation. Maybe I can talk Amy into presenting a "Part Two" for us!

In September, we held a social event at the new Gaslight Social Bar and Grill. It was small and informal, and a chance to network. I really enjoyed seeing some new faces as well as familiar ones. It's always nice to meet after work for dinner and drinks and share stories about balancing our professional and personal lives.

On September 18th, LAW hosted the Casper College Paralegal Program's "Back to School" luncheon. The theme this year was "What Not to Wear to an Interview" and we put on a hilarious skit showing the students definitely what NOT to wear to an interview, as well as what is appropriate. Wendy Trembath showed us all her creativity by writing and narrating the comical skit, while Tricia Lovelace, Ashley Barkley, Corrine Paschal, Barbara Heisner, Jared Kucera and Yours Truly got to show off our acting abilities. Be sure to check out Wendy's script and pictures from the event in this newsletter!

CLE opportunity! Attorney Kyle Ridgeway has volunteered to present for us on November 10, 2017, at noon at the offices of Williams, Porter, Day & Neville. The topic will be "How to Protect Your Evidence from Spoliation", and will be available by phone for those of you who cannot attend in person. I am still awaiting approval from NALA for 1.0 credit hour of CLE, and the flyers will be emailed to everyone around mid-October.

SAVE THE DATES!

Region 3

Region 3/Casper College Paralegal Program Christmas Party: Saturday, December 9, 2017, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Paradise Valley Country Club. Please put this on your calendars -- we will have more information the closer we get to the date. There will be heavy appetizers, a DJ, and of course a fun theme!! As always, if you have any ideas for any regional events or CLE topics, please contact Tammy Wuertley at twuertley@wpdn.net

Region 4

Brown Bag Lunch: Wednesday, November 8th at Noon at the Courthouse Atrium. Bring your lunch and a paralegal friend. We will recap the Fall Seminar, and do some planning for our Christmas Potluck!

Christmas Potluck: Wednesday, December 13th at Noon at Woodhouse Roden Nethercott. Join us at the Brown Bag Lunch to help plan the details. Please contact Dena Alexander with ideas for regional events or CLE topics at dka@bshclawgroup.com.

NALA 2017

By: Rhonda Hoadley



This year the NALA Conference and Expo was in Orlando, Florida. Just like everyone had warned, Florida in July was hot!

At the opening Wednesday morning, Denise Ryan was our keynote speaker. She gave a great presentation on Motivation by Chocolate. Who knew chocolate and life had so much in common?



The Affiliate's Expo was moved to Wednesday night. Our table was Cowboy themed. We had bucking horse lapel pins, UW Mints in a Wyoming Statute Book box, Wyoming stickers, pencils, maps, postcards, and "I Heart WY" buttons. Participants had a chance to win our "Property of LAW" t-shirts by putting a business card in the cowboy hat! Our table was a hit, and I received many comments on the theme! We also shared our table with the ladies from Mississippi. I felt right at home.

Scott Mager gave a presentation on Understanding Objections. I enjoyed his key phrase "Pop the champagne!" and words to remember "Don't move until you see it!"



I attended the round table discussion on the CLA/CP Exam updates for 2018. As of July, the new CLA/CP Exam Review Manual was not available for the 2018 test. I will keep everyone posted as the new testing information becomes available.

Congratulations to Susan Lewis, CP from Cheyenne, who was affirmed to join the Professional Development Committee at the 2017 NALA Board of Directors Annual Meeting!

As always, NALA is a great time to meet new friends and get together with your chosen family. I encourage everyone to attend NALA 2018 in St. Louis, Missouri.

Thank you all, again, for electing me as your 2017 NALA Liaison.



Fashion Show Script

What NOT To Wear to an Interview

By: Wendy Trembath, CP

Introduction

Welcome, students, to today's fashion show. There are some important things for you to know. When it comes to an interview, dress with care. Today, we'll show you what NOT to wear!

Let's meet Trisha (BAD Outfit)

Her resume is excellent, don't you know. But, everything is overdone, from head to toe. How can she type? Her nails are too long. Her makeup is garish, her perfume too strong.



She has on way too much jewelry, Her hair is too poufy and stiff, you see. Her heels are too high, her style is too bold, Trisha, what do you think this is, a fashion show?

Well, this is . . . but all of this simply won't do. Go tone down your style for an interview!

Trisha (GOOD Outfit)

Trisha is back, and has now toned it down, And her interviewer won't laugh, or even frown.

Her nails are short, natural, and clean – that's okay. Her makeup now looks like she works during the day. She's still wearing jewelry, but the volume is better, Her hair is tied back, and she's not wearing leather.

Her heel height is practical, her cologne is improved, Now it won't drive her interviewer out of the room. In fact, she's forgone the perfume altogether For a shower and unscented deodorant. Now, that's much better. For an interview, Trisha is now dressed to the letter.

Let's meet Tammy (BAD Outfit)

Her paralegal expertise is beyond compare, But, she's broken the cardinal rule about underwear! Under her white shirt, her hot pink bra is glowing, And we can see her bra straps showing.

Her skirt is too tight, which is unrefined. And we can clearly see her panty-lines. No job for you Tammy, you are nixed. Come back when your outfit is appropriately fixed.

Tammy (GOOD Outfit)

Tammy is back, and now she's in the know. Underwear should go *under*, and never show.

A flesh-toned bra under a shirt so white, Or a jacket or sweater that fits just right, And racer-back straps under a tank, just might Keep her lingerie out of sight.

And now, a properly fitting skirt, And underwear that fit, rather than flirt, Will keep the interviewer from being taken aback. Tammy is now dressed with class and tact.

And guys, even on casual Fridays, don't be saggin'. Pull your pants up, I shouldn't have to be naggin'. Your future co-workers really don't need to know, Athletic shorts, boxers or briefs, they should never show.

Now, here's Jared (BAD Outfit)

His paralegal education is certainly top notch, But, his choice of outfit for an interview? Oooh, I can't watch.



He's dressed for comfort by all means, With sandals and holes in his faded jeans. And his t-shirt, oh my, what does that say? Something about his favorite beer or bar? That's not the right way.

Jared, even for a casual office, or a casual Friday, Your outfit is too casual, you won't get any respect that way. Please go dress up for your interview today.

Jared (GOOD Outfit)

Jared is back, and hey, doesn't he look nice?
For his interview, this outfit may be just right.
A 2-piece suit may be preferred, but it's not required.
He's still dressed up, and well-attired.

Jared now has on a tie, a belt, and some slacks,
Closed toed shoes with matching socks, now the deck is stacked

In his favor, and his interviewer won't be dismayed.
His look is clean-cut for his interview today.
Thank you, Jared, I think some respect is coming your way.

Now, let's meet Barbara (BAD Outfit)

She is here for her interview.
But, oh my, her coverings are too few!
A low cut blouse, and a skirt too short,
She's lookin' fine – for the club, of course.

Oh, Barbara, your outfit will draw attention,
But, not the right kind for a professional position.
We're going to send you away for now,
To see if you can improve your outfit somehow.



Barbara (GOOD Outfit)

Remember Barbara, the one with the skimpy outfit?
Well, she's back, and this attire is more like it!
Remember that for a professional position,
More conservative clothing is the mission.

A skirt no higher than just above the knee
Will earn more respect for the interviewee.
A blouse buttoned up, or with a higher neckline
Will allow her resume and skills to shine.

Good job, Barbara, now your outfit is sublime!

Let's bring out Corrine (BAD Outfit)

Her paralegal skills? The meter is pegging.
But, today, she's not wearing pants, she's just wearing leggings!
Leggings with a top too short, it shows
More than her interviewer wants to know.
Leggings are popular, and comfortable too.

But, they're not necessarily great for an interview.
Once you have the job, leggings might be okay,
For an "in office" project, or a casual Friday.

Leggings are no substitute for a skirt or slacks.
So, now we're going to send her back.
Please, Corrine, I am begging,
Find a better way to wear your leggings!

Corrine (GOOD Outfit)

Corrine is now coming back
With her fashionable leggings still intact.
She's found dress boots and a long blouse that covers her hips.
So no ridicule or scorn will come from her co-workers' lips.

A sheath dress might also work okay,
But again, this outfit is more for a casual day.
Not recommended for court or an interview.
Days to wear this at the office are probably few.

But . . . there certainly are sometimes
When leggings, worn correctly,
Don't cross the line.
Thanks, Corrine, this outfit works just fine.

Here comes Ashley (BAD Outfit)

Her resume earned her an interview.
And look at all those lovely tattoos!

Body art can be unique and beautiful,
And many times someone's ink is meaningful.
To them, and often invokes inquiry
About that person's life and history.

Unfortunately, piercings and tats are still seen by some,
As proof of unfortunate intoxication,
Or anti-social tendencies and rebellion.

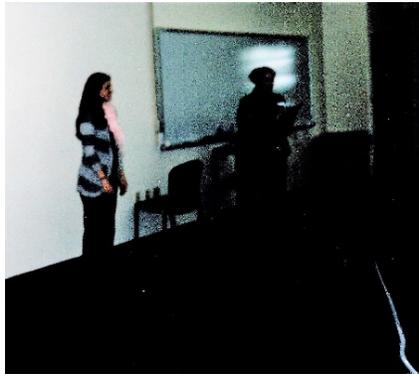
Ashley wants to give a good first impression
That she is serious about the paralegal profession.
So now, Ashley will show us some ways
She conceals her ink on interview days.



Ashley (GOOD Outfit)

A jacket or sweater, or just some long sleeves, Can cover ink on the arms, shoulders, and back with ease.

Ashley also often uses a scarf tying design To keep the ink on her chest and neck out of sight, and out of mind.



There are many ways to keep your ink under wraps. Wait until they know you better to reveal your tats. Of course, body art and piercings on the hands and face Are much harder to hide, or erase.

If you haven't gone there yet, I would encourage you, Think hard about the location of your future tattoo. You don't want your ink or piercings to rob you Of the opportunity to get a job from your interview.

Thank you, Ashley. A great lesson we've learned from you.

Closing

We've come to the end of our fashion show. We hope that now you all know All the things you should NOT do When dressing for your paralegal interview.

Good afternoon, good luck, and thank you!

Additional Student Luncheon Pictures



A Tribute to Our President, Mark Robbins



Mark Robbins was a friend and colleague to many of our members. He was an active member in our organization and the legal community. The following pages are a tribute to him. He will be greatly missed.

Mark Alan Robbins - February 1, 1971 – September 26, 2017

Legal Assistants of Wyoming President 2017-2018

Mark Alan Robbins passed away at Wyoming Medical Center in Casper, Wyoming, on September 26, 2017, following a short illness.

Mark was born on February 1, 1971, in Riverton, Wyoming, to Sally and Phil Robbins and was raised in Riverton enjoying the gifted program and graduating from Riverton High School in 1989. At the end of his junior year, when only 17, he joined the Wyoming Army National Guard and spent the summer of 1988 at Fort Sill, Okla. After high school, he attended Casper College, Central Wyoming College, and the University of Wyoming, graduating in December 1994 with a BA in elementary education. He completed his enlistment in the Guard and was honorably discharged as a Sergeant, E-5.

After a brief move to Florida, Mark helped open and manage the Library Restaurant and Brewing Company in Laramie, Wyo. In 1997, he moved to Tallahassee, Fla., to help his aunt Mimi Anzel open a coffeehouse. He later moved to Vero Beach, where he worked in restaurant and bar management for 12 years, making lifelong friends. He also worked for Dodgertown as a waiter and enjoyed meeting many professional baseball players and coaches, including Tommy Lasorda and Duke Snyder.

In 2008, Mark moved to Casper and worked for Sutherland's hardware store for four years before entering the paralegal program at Casper College, graduating with distinction in 2012. He earned his CP (Certified Paralegal) credential in March 2015. He worked for several attorneys and was currently working at the Casper Law Office for Stacy Casper, where he was a highly valued and well-loved team member. He was a member of Phi Theta Kappa, and served five terms on the Legal Assistants of Wyoming Board of Directors. He served as treasurer, president elect, and was the current president of the organization.

He was also the vice chair for Legal Aid of Wyoming, Inc.

Mark loved living in the former home of his maternal grandparents, Betty and Orval Coy. He enjoyed redecorating, and especially liked breaking Orval's rule: no paint but off white! Mark brought vibrant color and style to the home, which was built in the mid-30s. He most recently made dramatic changes to the kitchen, including discovering beautiful hardwood under layers of old linoleum.

Mark was known for his kindness and caring for others, thoughtful deeds, and outpouring of love for his many family members, friends, and co-workers. He also had a great sense of humor and delighted in creative practical jokes.

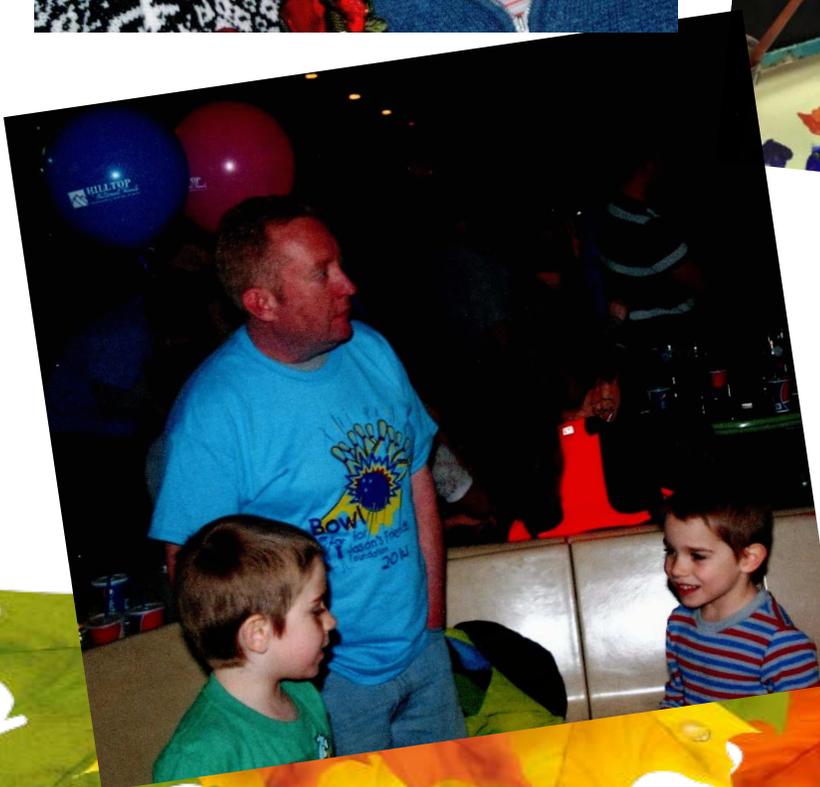
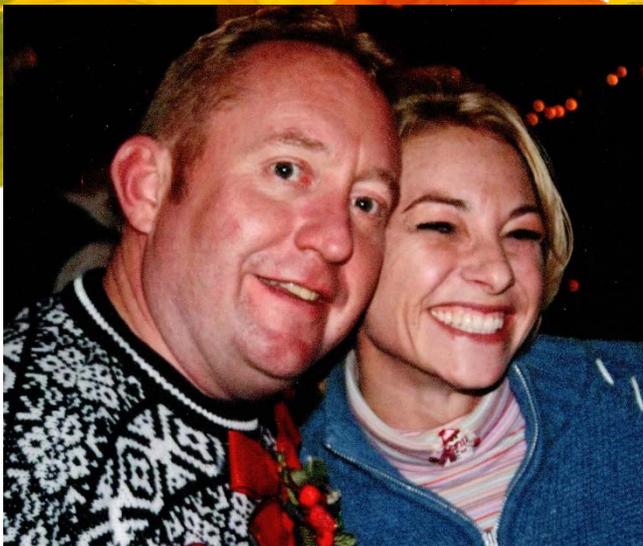


He enjoyed cooking from an early age and developed his talents over the years, treating friends and family to outstanding gourmet meals. He had both a knack and a love for entertaining, especially for large gatherings of family at the home where his mother and aunts were raised.

Mark is survived by his parents; his brother, Lewis Robbins (Pollyanna) of Nashville; sister Lynn Robbins McBride (Damien) of Seattle; three nieces, Alissa, Cameron, and Abigail; one nephew, Matthew; four aunts; three uncles; seven first cousins; and his beloved cocker spaniel, Gilbert.

He was predeceased by his maternal grandparents; his paternal grandparents, Juanita and Gilbert Robbins of Cheyenne; his maternal grandfather, Lewis Woodson, who was killed in World War II; and an uncle, attorney Mike Kleppinger.

The family is asking that in lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Legal Aid of Wyoming, 1813 Carey Ave, Cheyenne, WY 82001, Attn: Mark Robbins Fund or online at lawyoming.org. Alternatively, donations may be made to the Casper Humane Society, 849 East E, Casper, WY 82601 in memory of Mark Robbins.



Donation Drive Update

LAW has exceeded its goal of collecting a minimum of \$500 in private donations on behalf of Mark Robbins through its website! To honor Mark, and also maintain the integrity of LAW's budget, the board committed to match up to \$500 in private donations with \$500 of LAW's funds. As of the writing of this update, we have collected \$600 in private donations – that's 120% of our goal! That means LAW will be writing a check for a minimum of \$1100 to the Mark Robbins Fund at Legal Aid of Wyoming.

We will continue collecting donations through October 30, so if you have not donated yet, you still have time. You can donate online. Just go to the home page of our website at www.lawyo.com, and click on the DONATE (UNTIL OCT 30) button. You may also write a check to Legal Assistants of Wyoming, and write "Mark Robbins Fund" in the memo. Mail it to us at PO Box 155, Casper, WY 82602 before October 30th, and we will add your donation to the rest.

Thank you to all who have so generously contributed to the donation drive. Together we will maximize the impact of our donation to Legal Aid of Wyoming in Mark's name, and honor our friend's passion for helping victims of domestic violence.

Thank you to all who have donated!

\$500 Matching Donation Goal Reached! Thank you!

Collected: \$600.00
Goal: \$500.00



DONATE (UNTIL OCT 30)



Tammy Wuertley

Region 3 Director

You've Got a Friend

Carole King (Sung by James Taylor)

When you're down and troubled
And you need a helping hand
And nothing, nothing is going right
Close your eyes and think of me
And soon I will be there
To brighten up even your darkest night
You just call out my name
And you know wherever I am
I'll come running to see you again.
Winter, spring, summer or fall
All you have to do is call
And I'll be there....
You've got a friend.
If the sky above you
Grows dark and full of clouds
And that old north wind begins to blow
Keep you head together
And call my name out loud.
Soon you'll hear me knocking at your door.
You just call out my name
And you know wherever I am
I'll come running to see you again.
Winter, spring, summer or fall
All you have to do is call
And I'll be there....
Ain't it good to know that you've got a friend
When people can be so cold?
They'll hurt you, and desert you
And take your soul if you let them.
But don't you let them...
You just call out my name
And you know wherever I am
I'll come running to see you again.
Winter, spring, summer or fall
All you have to do is call
And I'll be there.
You've got a friend.
You've got a friend.
Ain't it good to know you've got a friend?

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The song on the left is the one played at Mark's memorial service. And I couldn't think of one more fitting. If there is one word that can truly describe Mark, it is the word "friend."

Mark and I weren't close friends. We were a little more than acquaintances, but I definitely would consider him a friend. I saw him at almost every LAW seminar, social events, at garden parties hosted by our dear friend Margot, at work, and at all the board meetings. It was I who first elected Mark for the treasurer position on the Board. I didn't know him very well, but he always seemed professional and smart – someone who could definitely handle taking care of LAW's finances. He served on that position for two years, and then as President-Elect, and finally President.

At Mark's memorial service there was a memory tree and we were all asked to write our favorite memory of Mark. I have several memories of Mark, but my favorite was at one of the seminars in Laramie, where we lost him at the Cowboy Bar. It is going to be very strange and difficult to go to a seminar or function and not see his kind face, hear his gentle voice and words of encouragement.

Life isn't fair, and I will miss my friend Mark. May his passing remind us that life can be too short, that we all need to be kind to each other, offer encouragement to one another and basically just be a good friend.

Like Mark was.

-Sadly missed by Tammy Wuertley.

Ashley Barkley

President Elect

I was very fortunate to know Mark before he entered the legal field. I met Mark at Sutherlands, a home repair supplies store, where we worked together. If you have ever visited Sutherlands in Casper you are aware of the nifty buttons available for customers to push when they need assistance. Those buttons were a great reason to gripe and make jokes while working. Mark and I often joked about the horrid “button pushers” to pass the time at work. During my training, in the event we were separated, I would belt out “Red Robin!” until I could locate him with his “Yum!” response. As I write it now, it sounds corny, but it was our thing. It was our experience at Sutherlands that made us friends and I am grateful for that. I vividly remember a night at Mark’s home where we shared some wine, stories of life and love lost, and a few tears. It was that experience that established my deep personal bond with Mark and it’s my strongest memory of him. Every once in a while, I will stumble upon a text or email from him and it takes my breath away. A little reminder of the pain that is the loss of my friend. I will miss Mark dearly. Forever my Red Robin.



Rhonda Hoadley

NALA Liason

I have had the pleasure of serving on the board for the last 4 years with Mark and being the incoming Treasurer after him. He made that position on the board look so easy. Mark was always prepared and knew how much money our organization had. When he became President-Elect, he proposed modified bylaws for approval at the Annual Meeting, and was always there to assist me with any questions I had as Treasurer. As President, he ran a very tight group. Mark followed the rules of parliamentary procedure, and was quick to refer to the bylaws, whenever questions arose. Mark's time as our President was cut too short.

My favorite Mark story will always be how, as a board, we discussed attire for an upcoming seminar and an Annual Meeting, most of us being women discussed appropriate attire and Mark, like always, sends a witty email saying "I'm going to wear khaki's, like Jake, from State Farm!"

Mark, we were not close in distance, but I know you were always there if I needed anything, and I always considered you a real friend.

Barbara Heisner

First Vice President

Mark, I still will not say “Goodbye” to you; rather, I’m sticking with “I’ll talk to you later.” Our friendship began in the paralegal program at Casper College, where we spent many fun, yet often grueling hours together, plodding along through legal writing, legal research, and so much more, learning together and building a comradery with our classmates. Over the years that we knew each other, I learned how kind of a heart you had—I can count on one hand the times I heard you mention anything bad about another person. While we were classmates, we were co-workers as well. We seemed to drift to one another throughout the early years of our careers. When I moved on from my first legal assistant job, you took my place. When you made a career move in later years, I moved into your spot. You did so much, and put in so many late hours, to make sure things were ready for me. I am so grateful for that. Looking back and reminiscing, it is fun, albeit painful, to remember the times we spent together and with our friends. We bowled together for Jason’s Friends Foundation. You came to my 21st birthday party. We spent time together at numerous LAW parties, seminars, and functions. We had garden parties at your beautiful home that you were so proud of, with your best furry friend, Gilbert. I remember when we went to the LAW seminar in Cheyenne together several years ago—you were so terrified of my driving on the interstate! We had a great time on that trip, some of the few students who attended that year. We laughed for years, debating the “felons in LAW issue,” and we WILL reconvene one day to re-address that issue. Mark, you were truly a treasure on this Earth. I will always love you, my friend, and you make me think twice about the choices I make in being a kinder person.



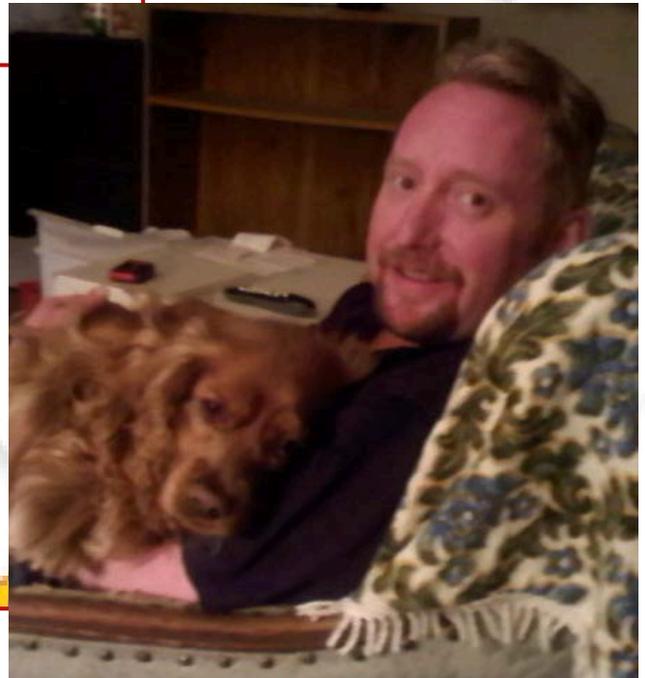
Corrine Paschal

Student Liaison

My first conversation with Mark was when we talked on the phone about me becoming the student liaison for LAW. We were both enthusiastic about this opportunity, and he had a warm, welcoming tone to his voice. I officially met Mark when I stopped by Stacy Casper's office to pick up a flash drive. He had a radiant smile on his face, and he gave me a firm handshake. Mark exuded compassion and warmth, just like the tone of his voice did on the phone.

I was a little intimidated at the first LAW meeting, but Mark welcomed me as soon as he walked into the room. Even while conducting the meeting, Mark exuded compassion and warmth and really paid attention to the input of others.

The legal community lost an amazing soul, and he will be greatly missed. Although my time with Mark was short, I'm grateful to have had the opportunity to work with him. He will forever hold a special place in my heart.



Dena K. Alexander

Region 4 Director

I became the Region 4 Director this past summer, and I wasn't quite sure of what I was doing. Mark was very helpful and supportive in making me feel welcome to the LAW Board, and making me feel comfortable as the Region 4 Director. He was a wonderful leader for LAW, and he will be greatly missed.



Wendy Trembath

Treasurer

Mark was very friendly and likeable from the first time I met him. Oddly, I knew his parents before I ever met Mark. My husband and I were in a Bible study with Phil and Sally Robbins in 2008 or 2009. I met Mark around 2010-2011 when he was a student in the Casper College Paralegal Program. Despite the same last names, I didn't put together that Mark was Phil and Sally's son until I saw them at church together a year or so later.

Mark and I had some things in common. We both had bachelor's degrees and had gone through the CC Paralegal Program on the "Post-Baccalaureate" track. I had won the Outstanding Student Award in 2007, so it was my pleasure and honor to award it to Mark in 2011. He had excellent grades, and was very smart. Mark and I both became active in Legal Assistants of Wyoming right out of school, but Mark held a board position before I ever did. He was Treasurer for several years, the position I will now hold for two years. When I was doubtful about taking on the Treasurer position, Mark encouraged me, and said he would help me if I needed it.

Mark and I had an interesting "job swap" in 2015. I left Michael Shickich's office after 7 years for Williams, Porter, Day & Neville, and Mark left WPDN and went to Michael Shickich's office. He was only there a short time before he went back to the kind of work that was most fulfilling for him – helping families through crisis at Stacy Casper's family law office.

It was great to learn that Mark was a prankster and had a great sense of humor. I think Mark was more reserved and serious around me. Maybe because he knew I went to church with his parents. ;-) I knew Mark had struggled with alcohol, and was so proud of him when I learned that he had been attending AA, and had 14 months of success under his belt.

Mark was a great President for LAW, and I think he really enjoyed serving on the board. I really respected that he never seemed to overreact, and always handled his responsibilities calmly and professionally. He was always saying how much he enjoyed working with this board, and I think we all enjoyed working with him. I know I did.

Mark was two years younger than me. My student award letter to him in 2011 spoke about his bright future as a paralegal – and it was bright. He was very good at his career, but only 6 years later, he is no longer with us. His untimely death has reminded me that we never know how much time we have left, or what the future holds. Mark took advantage of his opportunities in this life, and he lived and served well during the time he was given on this earth. I have missed him these last few weeks, and will continue to miss his leadership, encouragement, and friendship.



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