

DE DIE IN DIEM

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTERN MONTANA BAR ASSOCIATION

APRIL 2014

President's Message by Tal Goldin:

Talking to children about the law.

As a new father, I find myself musing on what “take your daughter to work day” might look like. In my prior career, as a scenic designer for theatre, film, and television, I surely could have relied upon beautiful full color renderings, technical drawings and three-dimensional models that sometimes look like a dollhouse from an imaginary wonderland.

But, as a lawyer, what will I say? Tongue in cheek, I joke that I’ll explain how daddy writes letters and talks on the phone, which to a little boy or girl is as exciting as melba toast. But, more seriously, I think about the critical role lawyers and judges play in preserving democracy, about the oath we all took to support and protect the constitution, and how important it is for children to understand, in their own way, how laws enable the unique freedoms we enjoy and so many citizens of the world still long.

At the same time, the call to preserve and strengthen democracy is as strong as ever. Each year, the ABA supports the celebration of Law Day on May 1. Law Day is a day set aside to reflect on the importance of the rule of law. This year, as we approach the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the law day theme is “American Democracy and the

Rule of Law: Why Every Vote Matters.” The ABA has compiled an extensive set of materials for talking to children about this theme and celebrating Law Day at www.lawday.org.



I encourage you all to think about ways to celebrate Law Day with children you know. It may be as simple as talking to them over dinner about what the Constitution means, in terms they can understand. Perhaps, take a few hours off to talk to a classroom about how laws are made and how important it is that everyone has an equal voice in the process. While sometimes it feels like the work we do is confined to talking and typing, the impact of that effort defines what it means to live in a democracy for better or for worse. I’d like to think that one day, my daughter would say her daddy made the world a little a bit more democratic today. And yes, I know that rhymes.

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EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please join the WMBA on April 17, 2014 for the monthly luncheon.* Dr. Laura Kirsch, PhD, will present a lecture on “The Promises and Pitfalls of Psychological Evaluations for the Courts.”

This talk will discuss the basics of psychological evaluations for criminal and civil court proceedings (i.e., forensic evaluations). The basic components of a good forensic evaluation will be reviewed, as well as elements specific to particular evaluation types. In addition, commonly-used assessment instruments and the legal basis for their admissibility will be discussed. Finally, some recommendations for attorneys who are requesting forensic evaluations will be provided, with the goal of increasing evaluations’ usefulness to attorneys and the courts. Dr. Kirsch is a licensed psychologist and Adjunct Professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of Montana.

Please RSVP to westernmtbar@gmail.com or Reception at 721-9700

**Luncheons are at Noon in the Florence Building
\$15 member/\$20 for non-members.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS, QUESTIONS, ADVERTISING INQUIRIES:

De Die In Diem is published monthly by the Western Montana Bar Association. It is designed and edited by WMBA secretary, Hannah Stone, in conjunction with the WMBA board. For announcements, questions and advertising inquiries contact Hannah Stone at hstone@bigskylawyers.com. The WMBA is not responsible for the content of any announcement or advertisement. The WMBA does not support or oppose any candidate for public office or public official. For advertisements and announcements please provide at least one week advanced notice. Thank you.

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELL-SUITED

*Julie Brown and Meri Althausser
Montana Legal Justice, PLLC, Missoula, Montana*

Montana Legal Justice chose ALPS as their malpractice insurance carrier because they share not only the same Missoula street with the ALPS home office, but more importantly, the same philosophy. They appreciated ALPS' unique understanding of their challenges, not just as a two-attorney firm but also as a small business. So whether you're two blocks away or 2,000 miles, find out what more than 14,000 attorneys across the country already know.

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* In Memoriam *

Each year, in conjunction with the State Bar and District Court, the WMBA holds a memorial service to remember and celebrate the lives of our recently departed colleagues. Please contact the WMBA at westernmtbar@gmail.com with the names of recently departed attorneys that should be included in the memorial. Although the WMBA actively participates in state bar events, the WMBA reminds its members that it specifically serves the legal communities of Missoula, Ravalli and Mineral Counties. Therefore, the WMBA respectfully asks that any submissions be limited to attorneys who have lived and practiced in those counties.

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE NEW LAWYERS SECTION'S TOOLKIT CLE: ESSENTIAL SKILLS FOR MODERN PRACTICE

WHEN: APRIL 11, 2014, 11:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M. (IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING MONTANA SUPREME COURT ORAL ARGUMENTS HELD AT U OF M)

WHERE: UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA SCHOOL OF LAW

LUNCH PROVIDED?: YES

CLE CREDITS PENDING: 4.0, INCLUDING .5 ETHICS

COST: ADVANCE ONLINE REGISTRATION ON STATE BAR WEBSITE, \$25; REGISTRATION/PAYMENT AT THE DOOR, \$35.00; LAW CLERKS: FREE

NEW LAWYERS SECTION'S SOCIAL

WHEN: IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE CLE, 4:30 P.M. – 6:30 P.M.

WHERE: 520 S. 5TH ST. E., MISSOULA, MT (APPROXIMATELY 2 BLOCKS FROM THE LAW SCHOOL)

FOOD PROVIDED?: YES

SPACE LIMITED. RSVP WITH ONLINE REGISTRATION FOR CLE, OR TO NLSRSVP@YAHOO.COM

Join James for the 2014 Barristers' Ball ~ April 26

The University of Montana School of Law is reviving an old tradition in honor of the Barrister's Ball Centennial in 2015



You are cordially invited to the

2014 Barristers' Ball

Please join us for the Barristers' Reception
6 pm to - 7:30 pm and dancing begins at 8 pm

ALPS Ballroom - Downtown Missoula

Black-tie optional

All proceeds benefit the School of Law Scholarship Fund

Student tickets Singles \$25 - Couples \$40

Members of the Bar \$50 - Couples \$90

Tickets and sponsorship opportunities are available at: umt.edu/law/CalendarandEvents/BarristersBall.php

Please support the tradition and the legacy of the

Barristers' Ball

