

# DE DIE IN DIEM

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTERN MONTANA BAR ASSOCIATION

MAY 2014

*President's Message by Tal Goldin:*

## ***A job well done, but not complete.***

On Friday, April 25, 2014 WMBA vice-president, Dave Steele, and I attended the State Bar's Local Bar Leadership Meeting in Helena. I cannot tell you what an honor it was to represent all of you in front of other local bar leadership, State Bar staff and officers and members of the Montana Supreme Court. I was quite proud to share with my colleagues from the bench and bar all that you, as members of the WMBA, have accomplished over the last year since the last Local Bar Leadership Meeting. Here are some highlights:

- Our jurisdiction (the 4th and 21st Judicial Districts) holds the largest number of active attorneys in the State of Montana at 663. Just under one-third of those attorneys are members of the WMBA. The WMBA board will continue to work on increasing that percentage with the goal of counting every attorney in our jurisdiction as a WMBA member.
- The WMBA is one of the most active local bar associations in the State. WMBA activity includes our pro-bono programs, newsletter, email information distribution, luncheons, professionalism CLE, holiday party, in-memoriam celebration and other programs. The WMBA board will continue to look for new ways to en-

gage our members and, as always, we are open to feedback.

- You are an exceptionally giving bunch. This year, our pro-bono activities were outstanding. Through our strategic partnerships with the Montana Legal Services Association (MLSA), District Courts, the School of Law and the exceptional leadership of our Pro Bono Committee, MLSA and court staff and volunteers, we have had a very successful year:

- o The Pro Bono Program placed 96 full representation cases with pro bono attorneys in Missoula, Mineral and Ravalli Counties. These attorneys have donated their time and expertise with custody and visitation cases, dissolutions, minor guardianships, actions for possession, adoptions, and consumer issues.



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- o In addition, the WMBA Pro Bono Program has placed approximately 43 cases with volunteer mediators and settlement masters.
- o We have hosted 14 family law advice clinics (one per month with an occasional overflow clinic) with the gracious assistance of Boone Karlberg, P.C. and its support staff. These clinics provide income-eligible clients with a free consultation with a pro bono attorney.
- o We have worked with the School of Law, Boone Karlberg, P.C. and MLSA to provide a free estate planning assistance clinic for veterans.
- o The WMBA has again paired with the School of Law and MLSA to pilot advice clinics aimed at helping low income tenants recover their security deposits.
- o The WMBA has also begun work with a local women's shelter to provide in-shelter advice clinics.

This work could not have been done without the tireless assistance of our membership, partners and program staff. Thank you for all your work. Please keep on giving you time and expertise— we cannot rest on our laurels as the need for pro bono service continues to grow.

Finally, the WMBA Board needs your help. With our membership year ending in August, we are seeking at least two additional board members to serve as directors at large. Other positions on the Board may also be available. Please check your emails for further announcement regarding board vacancies.

Again, I want to thank you all for your active participation in making the WMBA one of the most vibrant local bar associations in the state. Keep up the good work by serving on the Board, engaging in pro bono activities and coming to our luncheons if for no other reason than to share a much needed laugh with a colleague!

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**Please join us for this month's luncheon on May 15, 2014. Melissa Hartigan, Staff Attorney for the U.S. District Court for the District of Montana will provide an overview of the local rule changes.**

Ms. Hartigan graduated from the University of Montana School of Law in 1999 and was a clerk for Judge Donald Molloy for two years. She worked in private practice in Bozeman then returned to the federal court as a staff attorney in 2002. She has worked on the District of Montana Local Rules Committee since 2000.

**Please RSVP to [westernmtbar@gmail.com](mailto:westernmtbar@gmail.com)**

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

# EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## WELL-SUITED

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

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**IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE STATE BAR OF MONTANA:**

**CLE DEADLINE EXTENDED**

**ATTORNEYS MAY EARN AND REPORT CLE UNTIL JUNE 1, 2014, WITHOUT PENALTY.**

**VISIT [HTTP://MTCLE.ORG](http://MTCLE.ORG) OR [WWW.MONTANABAR.ORG](http://WWW.MONTANABAR.ORG) FOR MORE INFORMATION.**

### **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](mailto: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.