

Summons

WESTERN DAKOTA ASSOCIATION OF LEGAL ASSISTANTS

An Association for Paralegals/Legal Assistants

www.wdala.org

Melissa M. Klimpel, ACP, Editor

President's Message

By Alice M. Johnson, ACP



Spring is here! The time of renewal, of coming out of our winter slumber to open ourselves to growth and re-growth, and the time for new beginnings. This is the perfect time to take inventory of where you are in your career and what you can do to “amp it up”!

Perhaps you are interested in an area of law where you don't normally practice. This is the perfect time to grab a webinar on the topic! There is never such a thing as too much knowledge! Maybe you are feeling more confident in your chosen area of practice. Try getting more involved in it, going above and beyond your normal responsibilities. The boss is going to take notice, I can assure you of that! Even if the boss doesn't go with the set of interrogatories you put together or the line of questioning for that upcoming deposition, don't feel bad. They can see that you are growing and will realize that you are becoming more and more of an asset!

Promoting yourself seems to go “against the grain” of everything we have been taught as we slowly but steadily becoming more proficient in our work. But I would ask you – how is

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President's Message continued

your boss or your co-workers supposed to know what you can actually do if you don't let them know! You may not be an expert yet, but you are learning more and more and are a reliable source! You may surprise even yourself with how far you've come or how much you know!

One of the best ways to "discover" what your knowledge base is to write an article for *The Summons*. When you do this, you have to first pick a topic – ANY topic! Then, by writing, you find yourself examining all the minute details that go into doing what you do! That is when you begin to realize how much you know – without knowing you know it!

I guess the crux of my message is this ... there is no better time than now! It is never too early or too late to take that first step, that initial inquiry, or that "oh so scary" leap of faith. We are all beautifully unique in who we are, what we do, and how we do it! What works for me may not work for you but if I'm struggling in an area and read something about how someone else does it and try that – who knows? It may just work better!

As I write this, there is over 24 inches of snow on the ground, and I have been snowed in at home for 4 days. It sure doesn't seem like Spring ... except that we live in North Dakota and are all well aware that stuff like this really DOES happen! And we also know that, sooner rather than later, all this snow stuff will turn into well-needed moisture to turn the grass green, fill up the dams and lakes, and give us that "hope of Spring" that creeps up on us this time of year.



So – you've heard me preach about it before – step outside your box, promote yourself, explore how much you know, or try something new! Spring into Spring!

welcome

to **WDALA**



Angie Dietrich is from Fairview, MT and currently works for Borkus Law Group, LTD.

Angie has lived in various places around the United States but eventually settled back in her hometown. She is married to her husband, Casey, of almost 10 years, she has one daughter, Taylor and the sweetest little dog, Betty. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with family and friends and she also enjoys kayaking during the summer months.

Angie has over 15 years of experience as a paralegal in various areas of the law and in several states.



**NALA 2022
CONFERENCE
& EXPO**

JULY 14-16 | PHOENIX, ARIZONA
JW MARRIOTT DESERT RIDGE RESORT & SPA

EARLY BIRD DEADLINE IS MAY 13!

NALA's Board of Directors Meeting in Charlotte, NC



Congratulations to NALA President-elect Debra L. Overstreet, ACP! Her Presidential term will begin in July 2022. Melissa J. Hamilton, ACP, honored Deb with the president's pin at NALA's Board of Directors meeting in March in Charlotte, NC.

Congratulations!



Volunteer Spotlight



Alice M. Johnson, ACP

Why do you volunteer for WDALA?

There are a lot of reasons I volunteer for WDALA! I believe that if I am going to join an organization, I am going to be active in that organization! Volunteering, being on a committee, being on the board, or actively taking part in WDALA lets me be that active member! Volunteering is one of the best ways to get to know your fellow members. I have made lifelong friends through WDALA and that is truly a blessing! By actively helping with our events, being a part of a committee, being a part of the board or whatever we are doing in WDALA, I am helping to support and promote WDALA to everyone! And it's just downright FUN AND SATISFYING being a part of whatever we are doing!

Which event is your favorite? Why?

I don't know that I have a favorite activity!

The drug court picnic allows me to give a glimmer of hope to those who have gone through so much and are working hard to get their lives back together! It also introduces me to people I wouldn't normally get to meet – whether it be the participants of drug court, their families, the probation officers, or the justices in a non-formal setting where we can just be people! Of course, there's the food ... and I LOVE food! 😊

The seminar planning, although a lot of work, is so satisfying because you get to not only explore what areas of the law and legal work may be outside your box but also because you get the satisfaction of being able to help provide legal education and information to others.

Of course, the Christmas activities of baking for the Drug Court participants and court personnel as well as providing presents to those who otherwise may not have a Christmas at all simply gives me the “warm fuzzies” of knowing that maybe – just maybe – I made a difference in a life.

Let's not forget the Santa Run! The overall joy of everyone who participates, either as a volunteer or runner, is simply infectious! Last year I got to be the person taking pictures of runners and their families. I have never seen so many smiles and that brings a huge joy to my heart!

Do you have a favorite memory from volunteering?

I don't really have any one favorite memory of these events. I just know that whatever I am doing, I already know that I will have a great time and, more often than not, will be amazed at the ingenuity, efficiency, and generosity of my fellow WDALA members!

If I did have to pick one thing, it would probably be attending Drug Court when WDALA donated in memory of Carol Solberg. I will never forget the feeling of pride in WDALA that I felt when listening to the accolades we received, knowing in my heart that Carol will always be a part of it!

What would you tell new members about volunteering for WDALA?

I would tell anyone – new or old members – that you only get out of an organization what you put into it! Volunteering in any capacity is a prime way of supporting your organization, meeting new people, and is the most fun you will ever have, regardless of the amount of work involved!

What motivates you to stay involved?

As I stated before, I believe in being an active member (at least until I am retired)! Staying involved helps me feel like I am doing something worthwhile for an organization I support in so many ways for so many reasons. I am also one of those people who likes to know what's going on and have found that involvement is the best way to "be in the know"!

**What volunteer contribution or achievement are you most proud of?**

All of them! Each and every activity, event or meeting held continues to prove to me that WDALA is such an amazing organization and has such amazing members! I so very proud of each and every one of our members and everything WDALA does!

What other organizations or causes do you volunteer for and support?

WDALA is the only organization I actively participate in and volunteer for with the exception of the JFHC (Johnson Family Heart Club) which consists of my human family, dogs, cats, and horses! Other organizations I do support, however, are the Central Dakota Humane Society, Furry Friends Rock and Rescue, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and the National Rifle Association. I also support local businesses whenever possible!

Tell us a fun fact about yourself!

I traveled to South Korea and trained for 10 days with my Great Grand Master and hold the rank of 4th Degree Master Blackbelt in TaeKwonDo.

Get to Know . . . Jon J. Jensen, Chief Justice, North Dakota Supreme Court



What are your job duties?

A Justice on the Supreme Court has both adjudicative and administrative responsibilities. On the adjudicative side we review district court decisions when litigants believe the law has not been correctly applied or they believe they were treated unfairly. It is amazing that our district courts handle approximately 180,000 new and reopened files each year, but our Court sees only about 400 appeals each year. Most of the cases are affirmed. Those statistics tell us our district courts are functioning really well. On the administrative side we are tasked with participating in committee work, managing the budget for the entire judicial branch, and reviewing potential rule changes.

What did you want to be when you grew up and are you currently doing it?

One of my brothers was in law school while I was in high school and he had a significant influence in my decision to go to law school. Seeing and hearing about his experiences convinced me that being a lawyer would be a great career path. After bouncing between electrical engineering, Russian studies and a few other things, I eventually settled on accounting as an undergraduate major anticipating the next step would be law school.

What led you to this career and how did you get into your current field or position?

I did not anticipate how much I would enjoy accounting and I've been licensed as a certified public accountant for about as long as I have been a licensed lawyer. Fortunately, I was able to combine my accounting background with my law degree and spent approximately 20 years doing mostly criminal and civil tax litigation. In 2013 I was appointed to the district court bench, was elected to that position in 2016, appointed to the Supreme Court in 2017, and elected to that position in 2020. Becoming a judge was not something I had really thought about. I enjoyed private practice and, even though I love my current job, there is a lot about private practice that I miss. Applying for the judgeship was the result of discussions with Linda Bata, my spouse who is also a CPA and attorney, when a district court position became available in the NECJD in 2013. The timing wasn't perfect, and I had not been thinking about being a judge, but judgeships do not always open up at the perfect time and we decided I should apply. It's worked out very well and both Linda and I couldn't be more pleased with the decision.

Get to Know . . . Jon J. Jensen, Chief Justice, North Dakota Supreme Court continued

What is a typical day like at your job?

Reading. More reading. Even more reading. Typically we have 30 pending cases to decide each month. With an appellant's brief, appellee's brief, reply brief, district court record and research we spend much of our time reading. The balance of our days are attending to administrative matters and working on the opinions assigned to our chambers.

What advice can you offer to attorneys / paralegals to make your job easier?

Proofread. I say that as someone who admittedly does not proofread very well. With the volume of reading we do each month errors jump out and disrupt our reading. You want to make our reading as easy as possible. Also, make sure your argument matches the issues you have identified. Finally, use the basic structure of identifying the issue, provide the rule that resolves the issue, apply the rule to your case, and tell us why you should prevail.

What's the biggest misconception people have about your position?

That we reach the right decisions because we are really smart. (People who know us well probably do not have that misconception and they know we are not that smart.) It is the power of collective decision making that hopefully leads us to the correct decision. The five members of the Court arrived here on different paths, with different experiences, and with different strengths. We check each other's work, challenge each other and have the benefit of five people searching for what we believe is the correct result.

What piece of advice would you give to yourself at the beginning of your career?

After gathering the facts, give your client reasonable expectations. To me, that means sitting down at the start of the case and outlining for the client what result can reasonably be achieved, what results are not likely or may not even be possible, what the process entails and how long it will take, and what the cost will be. Outline the risks and the benefits. You do not need to be pessimistic and you cannot make guarantees, just be honest with your assessment. It is amazing how taking the time at the beginning of the case eliminates disputes over subsequent bills and promotes understanding rather than frustration when the outcome is not the most desired outcome. Do



Get to Know . . . Jon J. Jensen, Chief Justice, North Dakota Supreme Court continued

not be afraid to decline a client who insists on pursuing an unachievable outcome. A second piece of advice I would have given myself is to immediately pick up the phone and contact my client when I learned about an adverse result. Talk to them directly. You want to be the one who tells your client. Then, after the phone call is done, send a written copy of the decision with a detailed evaluation and confirmation of a time to meet in person. Client frustration arises most frequently because of the failure to communicate.

Do you have any favorite quotes?

“The harder I work, the luckier I get.” The quote has been credited to, and used by, a lot of people. It may also seem a little corny, but I was very active in Scouting growing up, and still remember The Scout Law: A scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent. I often think of those twelve words. When I am able follow those twelve simple words, things will work out pretty well.

What could you give a 30-minute presentation about with no advance preparation?

Two things, one from my current job and one from my past experience. The first is related to my current position and is the structure of the North Dakota Judicial System: Courts, Judges, Caseloads, Clerks and more! The second is from my private practice experience and is: The Selection of the Proper Court for Tax Court litigation.

If you could only have three apps on your smartphone, which would you pick?

Microsoft Outlook to have access to emails and my calendar. Zwift, a bicycling fitness/training application. Chrome to allow internet access.

What book or movie have you recently read/seen and why would you recommend it?

The book, *Thinking, Fast and Slow* by Daniel Kahneman. The book was very challenging for me; it was not an “easy read” for me. The book discusses the two ways we all process information. One is fast, intuitive, and emotional. The second is slower, more deliberative, and more logical. It was eye opening to realize how easily we are misled by ourselves and others when we are making decisions. It was shocking to begin to understand how distorted our decision making process is by things like loss aversion and confirmation bias.



Get to Know . . . Jon J. Jensen, Chief Justice, North Dakota Supreme Court continued

If you could choose to do anything for a day, what would it be?

Controller/Flight Operations for a major airline before computers largely took over the process. Before computers took over the task, an airline's flight operations would be responsible for making sure there was an airplane, pilots and a crew everywhere they were needed. Airplanes are expensive, and airlines do not have spare airplanes sitting idle in the event another plane is delayed by weather or has a mechanical problem. For example, a plane scheduled to fly from Bismarck to Minneapolis may also be scheduled to fly from Minneapolis to Phoenix and then from Phoenix to Atlanta. All of the flights can be disrupted by a single mechanical problem. Also, because airplanes can fly continuously but crew and pilots have limitations, crew and pilots cannot be permanently matched with airplanes. Using the same example, the pilots who were to fly from Bismarck to Minneapolis may have been scheduled to fly from Minneapolis to Detroit (not Phoenix), so both the pilots and the plane need to be covered. It is easy to see how a few weather delays and mechanical problems can cascade across the entire route system. I think it would have been fun to have the challenge of solving that puzzle of getting airplanes, crew and pilots where they need to be as efficiently as possible.



**WDALA's Fall Seminar
September 12-13, 2022
Bismarck**

Autoimmune encephalitis: The trial of my life

By Jackie M. Stebbins, Esq.



I'm not really sure when, but sometime in early-2018, Candy, with WDALA, reached out to me and asked me to present on workplace safety that summer.

You don't remember that presentation. But it's not your memory, it's because it didn't happen. I couldn't speak to you, as I was in the trial of my life. But it didn't involve lawyers or the courtroom, it involved doctors and my will to live. And I didn't call Candy to discuss my absence. Someone else did, because I was incapacitated.

Prior to May 9, 2018, I was the senior partner at the Stebbins Mulloy law firm in Bismarck, North Dakota. I mainly practiced in family law and criminal defense, but was in the process of transitioning to more civil litigation and employment law. Although I was very successful at family law and enjoyed the trial work, I felt the stressful practice wearing on me.

It was. But something else was going on inside of me.

On November 6, 2017, I woke up at 4:00 a.m., as if someone had set an alarm clock in my head. It was odd, but I brushed it off. It routinely continued for months and went from irritating to arduous. At the time, I was juggling not only my firm and practice, but a stay-at-home husband and two young children. I had a lot of floating balls in the air, so I tried to push through it and not miss a step.

But by March, 2018, my situation grew worse when I became an insomniac. Sleep became impossible to come by, and the threads of my mind and body quickly began to wear.

As I quietly searched for answers, all roads led back to work-induced anxiety and depression. Known for my drive and stubborn nature, I kept my symptoms guarded, because I couldn't bear to admit that mental health was possibly affecting me. But as exhaustion overwhelmed me and I feared it would interfere with my job, I finally sought prescription sleep medication.

The pills provided some respite, but then my symptoms doubled down. I had severe anxiety, clenched my jaw, and white noise blared in my ears. I eventually admitted to my law partner that I felt burned out and believed it was causing insomnia. We agreed that I would slow down and take some time to recharge that summer. But as we met that day, I

Autoimmune encephalitis: The trial of my life continued

felt oddly emotional and my hands were shaking.

I persevered until I could no longer, and unbeknownst to me, I walked out the door of Stebbins Mulloy never to return again. I also didn't realize that earlier that day, while sitting by myself in my office, I had a major panic attack. I told the office I was leaving for a week, but fate had larger plans.

Immediately upon my departure, I stopped communicating and mostly stared. I could not sleep, so I mostly sat or lay down, blankly. At night, I suffered from terrifying hallucinations and paranoia. I saw dead people floating above me. I believed a man from one of my divorce cases shot me in the face and lurked in our home to kill my family. My mental health had debilitated me to the point that I couldn't care for myself or my children, so I begged to be committed to the psychiatric ward and was hospitalized there for forty-eight hours.

In the psychiatric ward, my belief that I had worked myself to sickness was verified by the clinicians, and I was diagnosed with anxiety, depression, and a panic disorder. It was there I struggled to read, write, know the date, and read a clock. But I had become a prisoner inside of myself, so I was unable to call out for help. I mostly cried and walked the circular hallways in my socks.

Upon my return home, I was in worse condition. I was easily frightened, confused, exhibited bizarre behavior like putting my clothes in the bathroom sink, and struggled to walk without aid. My demise was apparent and terrifying to my husband. I had rapidly gone from a thirty-four-year-old, thriving woman, to a dementia patient.

Six days later, my life was saved when Nurse Practitioner Stephanie Macdonald saw me at a follow-up psychiatric appointment. In an instant, she believed that I had a neurological problem and not a behavioral one, and expedited my referral to local neurologist, Dr. Ralph Dunnigan.

The next day, I saw Dr. Dunnigan and failed neurological and cognitive examinations. I barely knew right from left and was unable to draw a clock. He referenced a book to my family, "*Brain on Fire*," where a woman was diagnosed with a rare brain illness, autoimmune encephalitis (AE), and also couldn't draw a clock. He believed I suffered from AE.

I thank God for Stephanie's intervention and Dr. Dunnigan's diagnosis, or I don't believe I'd be writing this today.

Autoimmune encephalitis: The trial of my life continued

But by that point, I was a runaway train. As he began the clinical workup, I had a grand mal seizure in bed that was so violent, it broke and dislocated my shoulder and broke my back in three places. Blood clots were also discovered in my right leg and lung. I was hospitalized for a week as those around me wondered: *Will Jackie ever return?*

Upon my release, I was given intravenous steroids and miraculously, they immediately turned my brain back on. But as I came to, I believed the world around me looked bleak. I was months behind my personal and professional life that my husband and a few friends had taken over. I believed that my career was over, that I'd lose everything I'd worked for, and that I'd never know myself again. I was devastated. And terrified.

Because my condition is so rare, I didn't have a healing handbook to follow, nor a support group to meet. So I set out on the road less traveled, and I set out alone. I had one goal: Survive and recover for one year. And it was harder than I ever could have imagined.

A broken brain is a chore to heal. For me, it took a lot of rest, seclusion, exercise, meditation, and the small journal I kept. People learned of my condition via social media and a Caring-Bridge page, as I was unable to be even basically social. My day-to-day healing process was mostly alone. Multiple times daily, I ingested powerful cocktails of medication to treat my immune system, brain, and mental health; pills to prevent seizures and blood clots, and more. The steroids saved my brain, but

made me irritable and incapable of sleep, and filled my face and body with fluid. I grew facial hair, but hair fell out of my head. I steadily doctored at the Mayo clinic and in Bismarck. And with my inability to work, came a loss of purpose, routine, and my dignity.

The saying, "One day at a time," resonated with me, because that was the only way I could handle life. I used the mantras: #StebbinsStrong and #JustKeepSwimming to tackle that overwhelming and somber year. And I kept the faith in #BetterDaysAhead.



Autoimmune encephalitis: The trial of my life continued

Slowly but surely, long days turned to months, and the months to one year. I began to feel some confidence and personality come back. I started to drive again and was able to leave the house for small outings and events. And I celebrated on May 26, 2019, because I did it! I was AE and seizure free!

Not too long after, we found out my survival had meant more for our family than we ever could have imagined. We learned that we were expecting our third child, a healthy baby girl. She was born in the early days of the pandemic, and her initials are A.E. She is the light we prayed for in our dark times.

Life went on and we went on with it, obstacles and all. I retired from the law on July 31, 2019, ten years to the date of my beginning practice. My husband returned to his old job and my kids began school. I renewed my passion for writing and speaking, and now I find purpose and meaning in inspiring others through my story of resilience through devastation. And I'm very open about how my journey has affected my mental health.

I may have missed speaking to your group in 2018, but I'm glad to be back. And based upon my story, it is my humble opinion that you need to take good care of yourself professionally. The legal environment is stressful. Deadlines are demanding and attorneys can be too. Perform with dignity and respect, but follow your heart into work that leaves you happy and well. Set healthy boundaries around your work and personal life, and afford yourself rest. And stay mindful of your mental health, because anxiety, depression, stress, trauma, and insomnia are all real. While many people will never deal with AE, like me, we all have minds to nurture. Be kind to yourself and others, and please, stay well.

Jackie M. Stebbins was living her dream as a nationally recognized trial lawyer and senior partner at her own law firm, when she was diagnosed with autoimmune encephalitis (a rare brain illness wherein the patient's immune system mistakenly attacks her brain) (AE). Her journey with AE includes a horror story illness, miraculous recovery, retirement from her career at age thirty-five, and a miracle baby. She later founded JM Stebbins, LLC, to follow a new dream as a writer and motivational speaker. Her memoir, Unwillable, will be available on June 1, 2022.

Jackie lives in Bismarck, North Dakota, with her husband, Sean, and their three children. She enjoys reading, current events, camping, aqua jogging, and chasing her kids.

*JM Stebbins, LLC
jmstebbins.com*

Helping the Indigent

By Michelle Christie, RP



“Safeguarding the rights of others is the most noble and beautiful end of a human being.” -Kahlil Gibran

There are three indigent defense systems in the United States: 1) public defender programs, 2) assigned counsel, or 3) contract attorney programs. States then develop their own indigent defense system based on one or more of these methods.

Prior to 2005, the indigent services program in the North Dakota state court system was administered by the North Dakota Supreme Court. The system was comprised of entirely private contractors who were appointed by the District Judges, who also monitored the contracts. Their bills and expenses were submitted to the District Judges for approval. For years, there was a debate over the direction of the delivery of indigent services in North Dakota; however, one of the main goals was to separate the judiciary from the delivery of indigent services and thereby avoid an appearance of conflict.

In 2005, the legislature formed the Commission on Legal Counsel for Indigents (“CLCI”). The CLCI is governed by a 7-member board appointed by varying entities who serve staggering terms. The administrative office is located in Valley City, ND with 8 public defender offices located in Bismarck, Minot, Fargo, Williston, Devils Lake, Dickinson, and Grand Forks. Each office employs staff who solely work on indigent cases, including legal assistants. CLCI still works with private attorneys to aide in the representation of indigent defendants/respondents on a contract basis.

The CLCI provides services in matters in which a person has a constitutional, statutory, rule based right to counsel, or if the defendant/respondent has been declared indigent. A party has a right to counsel in a criminal, civil, family, or juvenile matter under the following circumstances:

- a. Defendant who is charged with a felony in District Court;
- b. Defendant charged with a misdemeanor in District Court unless the

Helping the Indigent continued

Court has determined there is no possibility of imprisonment, but not a matter transferred from or on appeal from Municipal Court;

- c. A child's parent, legal guardian, or custodian at a detention hearing or dispositional stage of a juvenile delinquency matter, all proceedings in a child in need of protection or services, or in a permanency or review of an order entered in any of the aforementioned proceedings;
- d. A child, regardless of income, in any proceeding in which the juvenile is alleged to be delinquent, a child in need of services, or a child in need of protection if the child is of sufficient age and competency to assist;
- e. A child for a nonjudicial adjustment;
- f. Parents in a termination of parental rights proceeding (notwithstanding exceptions under N.D.C.C. Ch. 50-12);
- g. A child in a guardianship proceeding if the Court determines the interests of the child are or may be inadequately represented;
- h. A parent in a guardianship proceeding;
- i. Respondent in a child support enforcement action (Order to Show Cause or arrest on warrant) but only if jail is a likely sanction;
- j. Respondent in a civil contempt proceeding but only if jail is a likely sanction;
- k. Respondent in confinement proceedings for those with communicable diseases;



Helping the Indigent continued

- l. Petitioner suspected of having human immunodeficiency virus requesting review of a Protective Order (only for the review of an order issued by the State Health Officer);
- m. Developmentally disabled respondent in a hearing for psycho surgery;
- n. Defendant in an extradition proceeding;
- o. Proceedings to restore fitness to proceed or regarding an individual found not guilty of a charge by reason of lack of criminal responsibility; or,
- p. Upon appeal of any case in a matter listed above.

To qualify for services, an individual must fill out an application and submit to the Court. The Court will then make a finding whether a party qualifies for services. After the Court has approved services for an individual, the CLCI is responsible for the assignment of counsel. If your office is interested in providing aide to indigent defendants/respondents, you can contact the administrative offices in Valley City.

“Your job is not to judge. Your job is not to figure out if someone deserves something. Your job is to lift the fallen, to restore the broken, and to heal the hurting.” -Joel Osteen

Michelle Christie, RP, grew up in Glen Ullin, ND. She graduated from Minnesota State University Moorhead where she received a B.S. in Paralegal Studies with an emphasis in Criminal Litigation, Civil Litigation, Probate/Tax/Real Estate. She has worked in the legal field for 17 years with 6½ of those years at the Bismarck-Mandan Public Defender Office. Michelle currently works at Robert Quick Law PLLC in Bismarck, ND and Redmann Law, P.C. in Mandan, ND. She obtained her Registered Paralegal designation from the National Federation of Paralegal Associations (NFPA). Michelle is a member of NFPA, American Bar Association (ABA), and Western Dakota Association of Legal Assistants (WDALA).

How WDALA has Helped Me Grow Personally and Professionally

By Ashley Miller, CP



Hi everyone. I was asked to write about how WDALA has helped me grow personally and professionally. Well, I can safely say WDALA has changed my life. Ever since I was a young child, I knew I was going to be a professional musician when I grew up. However, when I moved from Colorado to North Dakota about ten years ago, I left my career as a musician and decided to start a new chapter with a new career. First, I tried my hand at tax accounting. My boss was awesome and I really enjoyed working with numbers and learning about the different businesses. After tax season was over, it became a little too slow paced and repetitive for me so I looked for a new

job in accounting. I then found a job at a lighting store as the accountant. There was always something new for me to learn in regards to the inventory and evolving technology with lighting. The accounting and managing other employees proved to not be a great fit for me. So, I decided to find a job that would not be affected by the economy as I wanted a stable career.

When looking for a new career, I kept an open mind and applied for jobs I didn't have experience in. To my surprise, I got the position as a legal assistant. I didn't have a clue what I was doing or what anything meant but worked hard and asked a lot of questions to get up to speed. About a year after working for the firm, I attended a WDALA seminar in Mandan. This seminar provided a lot of information about e-filing. I learned so much helpful information and was impressed by how kind everyone was. At this point, I knew I had found my new career path.

Two paralegals and WDALA members, Melissa Klimpel and Tami Hulm, shared information with me about WDALA and the certification available through NALA. The paralegal certification was definitely something I wanted to advance my career. I looked into completing a degree in paralegal studies in order to qualify to take the test. However, I was pregnant with my first child and also working a second job so I didn't believe it would be possible. I decided to put my head down and work hard until I would qualify to take the test. In order to take my CP exam, I had to work in the industry for at least seven years and have CLE credits.

How WDALA has Helped Me Grow Personally and Professionally continued

I decided to join WDALA and take advantage of the seminars they offered. I really enjoyed getting to know some of the WDALA ladies and being around other professional women who love their career. Being a part of WDALA helped motivate me to learn more and study hard for my exam. After studying my CP exam book for several months, I decided to attend the NALA conference last summer to take advantage of the CP exam review courses. WDALA was offering to pay for five members to attend the virtual NALA Conference so I signed up and was able to attend at no cost. This was of substantial value to me and helped me feel prepared to take the exam.

Since I was a member of WDALA, I decided to get a little more involved and attended some drug court hearings. This was such a cool experience. When winter came along, I wanted to do more to help the families in drug court so I participated in a fund raiser at the Smith Porsborg firm with the WDALA ladies who work there. We then got together and wrapped all the presents purchased and cookies other members baked. The icing on the cake was getting to deliver the presents and watch the families open them. It truly was a rewarding experience.

Once I hit my seven years at Smith Porsborg, I sent in my application to take the exam. WDALA's scholarship covered this fee so I was able to do this at no cost as well (WDALA offers a scholarship each year to assist members with the expense of continuing education). My application was accepted so I contacted Alice Johnson and asked if she would proctor my test. Alice spent her Saturday morning watching me take the Knowledge portion of my exam and celebrated with me when I passed. This was also at no cost to me as Zuger Kirmis and Smith allowed me to use their conference room and made their staff available to us.



I felt confident about taking the Essay portion of the exam at first but that quickly disappeared as I studied more. I expressed my concern to a few WDALA ladies who offered me help. ReBecka Wohl provided me with a YouTube video that I watched over and over. Melissa Klimpel reached out to Kelly LaGrave and asked if she would be willing to grade a practice essay for me. Kelly taught the NALA review course on essay writing that I had attended. These connections made it possible for me to thoroughly prepare for the exam and pass. Alice again spent another Saturday morning proctoring my test. I can safely say that if it wasn't for WDALA, I would not have become a Certified Paralegal.

How WDALA has Helped Me Grow Personally and Professionally continued

The area of practice I was working in at the Smith Porsborg firm was Family Law. I was very fortunate to work for the attorney I worked for there. Stacy Moldenhauer taught me so much about law and being a strong working woman with a family. We even ended up having children at the same time just four years ago. Somehow, we survived both being pregnant and working in a stressful occupation together. Over the years, I discovered working in family law had taken a toll on me and my family. It became increasingly difficult to leave the stress at work. I had become hardened to certain things but was becoming more and more empathetic towards our clients. I decided it was time to find a new area of law to focus on but hadn't applied for any jobs. One morning, I was told about a job opening through my WDALA friends. It sounded too good to be true so I jumped on it and applied. I was offered the job and decided to leave my comfort zone for a better opportunity. I now work for Tom Dickson doing criminal and civil litigation and couldn't be happier.



WDALA has changed my life for the better in several ways. I have new friendships that I hope will last a long time. My confidence in myself has improved drastically. I have become a Certified Paralegal at no cost and just a little work. The networking available through WDALA helped me prepare for the exam and find my new job. I can safely say without WDALA I wouldn't be where I am today. I would like to thank Melissa Klimpel for encouraging me to keep advancing and do what is best for me and my family. Alice Johnson, thank you for having more confidence in me than I had in myself and spending two days with me testing. There are several more of you WDALA ladies that have made an impact on my life. Thank you!

Ashley Miller, CP, was born in Lake Arrowhead, California. She attended the University of Denver Lamont School of Music as a French horn performance major. Ashley worked as a private instructor and freelance musician until she met her husband, a native of Bismarck, and moved to North Dakota. She worked as a Legal Assistant/Paralegal for Smith Porsborg Schweigert Armstrong Moldenhauer & Smith Law Firm from 2014 – 2022. Currently, she is the Paralegal for Dickson Law Firm. Ashley received her Paralegal Certification from the National Association of Legal Assistants (NALA) and is a member of both WDALA and NALA.

Insurance Coverage

By David D. Schweigert, Attorney



I've been hit by an Uninsured Driver! Now what!

You are on your way home from work. It's Friday and you're looking forward to a weekend at the lake. Suddenly Bamm! You vaguely remember seeing a light post before waking to a woman dressed in blue standing over you asking if you feel any pain. You do, your left leg feels as if someone just stuck a hot fork into your thigh. The pain is excruciating. You're whisked off in an ambulance and instead of spending the weekend sipping cold Seltzers in the back of a boat under the sun, you spend it under the bright lights of a

surgical table and then hospital room with an IV in your left arm managing the pain in your leg.

As you're starting to get your bearings as to where you are, in walks a police officer. He asks how you're doing. He asks what you remember about the accident. After you tell him not much, he advises you that witnesses saw it all clearly. A big red pickup truck came flying through the stop sign hitting your rear passenger door. Several witnesses report seeing him with his head down as if he was using his phone, and when officer's arrived, a TikTok was streaming. Pretty clear he was at fault for this collision. Some relief comes over you since at least it doesn't appear you did anything wrong, but then comes another punch you weren't expecting. Apparently Big Red Pickup driver was having some financial issues and it appears his insurance coverage had lapsed. Now what! How can I afford this hospital stay, and what about the fact I likely won't be at work next week, not to mention this lovely new scar down my left leg, months of PT, pain ... how can this be happening to me!

Being struck by an uninsured driver at first glance can seem to be a nightmare. However, in North Dakota, a properly insured driver may not be wholly out of luck if they are hit by an uninsured driver.

North Dakota auto liability policies have many different coverages. Included in this bundle of coverage are several coverages that protect you if you are involved in an accident with an uninsured motorist. They are commonly referred to as Uninsured Motorist Coverage (UM Coverage) and No-Fault or PIP Coverage. First, to be clear, the coverages we are about to discuss only protect you as it relates to your personal injuries. They do not apply to damages that your vehicle may have sustained. In order to protect your vehicle from an uninsured driver you need to carry collision coverage for the property damage to your vehicle. If you have a lien on your vehicle, you likely have this coverage. This arti-

Insurance Coverage continued

cle will not be discussing that coverage.

Uninsured motorist coverage protects you in the event you are involved in a motor vehicle accident with an uninsured driver. It is mandatory coverage in any North Dakota automobile policy. Similar to the liability limits you choose, you also choose the UM limits. Most agents will write those limits similar to the liability limits you choose. This coverage is cheap, so don't decrease these limits to save a buck or two. Remember, this is coverage that will protect you, the members of your household and any individuals riding with you in a collision.

The other type of coverage available to you when hit by an uninsured motorist is no-fault coverage also commonly referred to as Personal Injury Protection Benefits (PIP Coverage). North Dakota is one of approximately nine states who have made no-fault coverage mandatory. Originally no-fault type coverages were intended to reduce lawsuits against those at fault. That is a discussion for another day. This coverage however applies in every auto collision. North Dakota state law mandates the minimum amount of no-fault coverage to be \$30,000.00.

Now that you know there are two coverages available, how do they work, and how do I maximize the coverage. The first coverage that will apply is the no-fault coverage. Similar to its name, under North Dakota law, regardless of who is at fault for a collision, your auto insurer is going to be primarily responsible for the first \$10,000 in medical expenses that are incurred. If you have health insurance, once you have incurred \$10,000 in medical expenses the auto insurer can then coordinate benefits with your health insurer. If coordination occurs, your health insurer is then primarily responsible for medical bills over \$10,000 and any remaining no-fault coverage can be used to pay deductibles and co-pays. No-fault can also be used to pay wage loss and replacement services. Since the no-fault limits on what can be paid as to wage loss and replacement services is still capped at limits set by the legislature in the 1970s, the amount of your covered wage loss required to be paid by no-fault is limited to the lesser of 85% of your gross weekly wages or \$150. Similarly replacement service loss is capped at \$10/day and can't be a household mem-



Insurance Coverage continued

ber. Thus, have someone stop over every day for 15-30 minutes to water your plants, mow your yard or pick up your mail. If they do it all in one day your reimbursement is capped at \$10.00. Once your no-fault insurer has paid \$30,000 in a combined total of covered losses the coverage ends.

In most instances, payment for your non-covered economic loss, i.e. wages not paid by no-fault, medical bills over and above what no-fault paid, mileage expenses to and from the doctor, etc. and your non-economic damages claim, damages for pain, suffering, disfigurement, inconvenience, etc., is then made to the party at fault's liability insurer. Here because Big Red Pickup driver did not have insurance that claim is now made to your own auto insurer per your UM Coverage. Some people are concerned it will raise rates. You should not be. Not only are these benefits you have paid for, there is a law that advises an insurer should not raise your rates because you had to make a UM claim. The claim against your UM insurer is now identical to the liability claim you would have made to the Big Red Pickup Driver's insurer. Your UM insurer will raise the same defenses as any liability insurer would raise. The only difference is that if you need to sue to recover what is fair, the defendant is an insurer instead of the other driver. Your recovery is capped at whatever limits you may have chosen for your UM coverage or the value of your claim, whichever is less.



If you have any questions, the lawyers and paralegals at SKM would be happy to assist.

Having grown up on a ranch in a small town in the middle of oil country Dave has a deep appreciation for the hard work ethic of those who keep our great country rolling. He considers it an honor and privilege to represent the people he grew up with and incorporates that work ethic in his practice. Dave and his wife Suzanne, who is also an attorney, have three boys. When he is not in the office, he can be found coaching, taxiing and cheering on his boys at football, hockey and baseball games and practice. He enjoys being outdoors hunting, running or helping out on the family ranch located in the Williston Basin that has been in his family for generations. Dave is board certified as a Certified Civil Trial Specialist by the National Board of Trial Advocacy and has been recognized by his peers for many years as a Super Lawyer.

The Criminal Justice Act Panel: Private Practitioners Providing Representation for Criminal Cases in the United States District Court for the District of North Dakota

By Chief Judge Peter D. Welte and Mark A. Friese, Attorney



**Chief Judge Peter
D. Welte**



**Mark A. Friese,
Attorney**

The federal court system consists of 94 federal judicial districts, organized into 12 regional circuits. One of the 94 is the District of North Dakota, comprised geographically by the entire state. The District is divided into two divisions—east and west. The District includes four courthouses, located in Minot, Bismarck, Grand Forks, and Fargo. Judge Daniel Traynor generally presides over western division cases in Minot and Bismarck. Chief Judge Peter Welte generally presides over eastern division cases in Fargo and Grand Forks. Judges Welte and Traynor are assisted by Senior Judge Daniel Hovland and Magistrate Judges Alice Senechal, Clare Hochhalter, and Charles Miller, who serves part-time.

Over the past dozen years, the District processed an annual average of more than 300 criminal cases. Many cases include multiple defendants, and the District averaged more than 420 individual criminal defendants during that same time.

At an initial court appearance, United States Magistrate Judges will determine whether individual defendants possess the necessary resources to retain counsel for their defense. While many defendants retain counsel, and while some represent themselves, most criminal cases in the District result in appointment of counsel. Nationwide, almost 90 percent of federal criminal defendants are assisted by lawyers, legal assistants, experts, and investigators provided under the Criminal Justice Act (CJA).

The CJA became law on August 20, 1964. Six years later, Congress established a full-time federal defender service. Most but not all districts have federal defender offices. Our

District is one of the last to develop and staff a full-time defender office. In November, 2005, full-time defender offices opened in Bismarck and Fargo.

The Criminal Justice Act Panel: Private Practitioners Providing Representation for Criminal Cases in the United States District Court for the District of North Dakota continued

Full-time defender representation is limited due to the volume of cases and conflicts resulting from multi-defendant cases. As a result, most appointed criminal cases involve representation by CJA panel lawyers and their staff. Our District Panel consists of approximately 100 lawyers in private practice. Many panel lawyers are not primarily criminal practitioners, but instead supplement their practice with CJA appointments. Others agree to accept CJA appointments to serve and give back to the community. To qualify, panel lawyers must complete initial orientation and annual training with the Federal Defender's Office.

Multiple resources are available to assist CJA attorneys and their legal assistants. The Defender Services Office (DSO) Training Division manages a comprehensive website at [fd.org](https://www.fd.org). The website includes multiple resources for counsel and staff. Portions of the website are password protected, available to all CJA counsel upon application. Other portions are available to the public. General CJA practitioner resources are available at this link: <https://www.fd.org/cja-resources>.



DSO offers hundreds of in person and online (live and archived) training programs. While most programs are designed for CJA counsel, specialized training is also available for paralegals, investigators, and others providing services. Training is generally without cost to qualified participants. Participants are however responsible for travel, lodging, and meals. Limited scholarships are occasionally available to assist with these costs. A calendar of upcoming events is regularly updated and available publicly: <https://www.fd.org/training-events>.

Additionally, DSO manages a “hotline” for CJA attorneys, providing CJA counsel guidance and information on all aspects of federal criminal defense. <https://www.fd.org/hotline>. Local panel lawyers routinely report outstanding assistance and exceedingly positive experiences from their hotline inquiries. The hotline is available during normal business hours, eastern time, at 1-800-788-9908.

The Criminal Justice Act Panel: Private Practitioners Providing Representation for Criminal Cases in the United States District Court for the District of North Dakota continued

The District also has a significant number of resources available online for CJA counsel and staff. Included is the District CJA plan, training updates, guides to assist in locating pretrial detainees, practice resources, and much more. <https://www.ndd.uscourts.gov/criminal-justice-act-info>. The District Panel Representative and Clerk's Office maintain an up-to-date list of panel members, and regular informational updates are routinely transmitted through a distribution list for panel lawyers.

Finally, in addition to providing training and oversight to the Panel, the Federal Defender's Office routinely assists panel lawyers and their staff with technical expertise. Assistant federal defenders in Bismarck and Fargo routinely provide technical expertise and recommendations for panel lawyers. Jason Tupman serves as the Federal Defender for our District and the District of South Dakota. Jason and his staff have unique expertise and insight to assist CJA counsel and their staff. The Federal Defender's Office may be reached at 605-330-4489.

The Court encourages interested practitioners to join the CJA Panel. The Court relies extensively on CJA panel lawyers and their staff for effective representation of those accused of crimes in Federal District Court. While challenging, service as a CJA attorney or staff member is never boring. It is at times extremely gratifying. And it is always appreciated by the Court and the community.

Judge Welte has served as the Chief Judge for the United States District Court for the District of North Dakota since November 11, 2019. President Donald Trump nominated Judge Welte for appointment on January 16, 2019. Judge Welte's nomination was confirmed by the Senate on July 30, 2019. Judge Welte previously served as an Assistant States Attorney and States Attorney in Grand Forks. Immediately prior to his appointment, Judge Welte was a shareholder with the Vogel Law Firm in Grand Forks.

Mark Frieese is a shareholder with the Vogel Law Firm in Fargo, and has been a CJA Panel Attorney since 2001. In 2008, then-Chief Judge Ralph Erickson appointed Mark to serve as the CJA Panel Representative. Mark has served in that position since 2008.

We Asked . . . You Answered

**Is Wordle, Quordle, or Nerdle a part of your daily routine?
Any other games?**

Not daily, but at least weekly I do a crossword and sudoku.

No but I do play Wheel of Fortune on my phone daily! (What a nerd!)

Wordle is absolutely part of my daily routine!!! My cousin introduced me to Wordle about 2 months ago and I love it. I also do “Spelling Bee”.

No. The only game on my phone is “gravity pop”. And I occasionally get to play that during long car rides or flights.

No.

Wordle and Quordle are definitely part of my daily routine! If you haven’t tried either, I highly recommend trying them.

Wordle is a part of my daily routine.

Wordle

Just started doing wordle and I am looking to make it a daily habit.

Wordle and Candy Crush

I don’t even know what any of those things are?!?! LOL!

Wordle – my husband and I find it fun to do it together every morning. On a busy day, we can’t go to bed until we have done the word of the day!



How do you stay organized at work and home?

Calendars! On my phone, work calendar, and my planner.

I'm probably edging on the OCD spectrum but I rely on my routine to keep me organized both at work and at home. I also take a look at the “big picture” of what needs to be done, make a list, and prioritize the list.

“Organized”? Is that even a thing? I used to be pretty good at it. I know there is lots of really good, really important information in a very safe place in my home. I just wish I could remember where that place is.

I try to stay on top of putting documents away so they don't pile up and it helps that I hate clutter! I also have an updated deadline sheet so I know my priorities for the week. I believe all things have a "home" and they should always be placed back into their "home" once they are done being used (Ha! That sounds ridiculous when saying it out loud but it works).

I use a planner and calendar to keep me organized at work and home - it is always on my desk and all the things are in it! At home, I stay organized (or at least feel organized) by making sure my kitchen stays tidy and mostly clutter free.

I like to create organized piles and work through them in order of importance. Lists also help me stay organized.

Sticky notes and To-do lists.

I have a “Weekly List” paper pad next to my computer mouse where I write my daily to-do lists. I also use the “Notes” app on my phone. Occasionally I also put deadlines on our firm online shared calendar if it’s really important as a safeguard.



Lists, lists, and more lists.

At work I have lists! Lots and lots of lists! At home I do as much pre-planning as possible - I pick out my work clothes for the week on Sunday night and I put together meal plans for two weeks at a time to minimize trips to the store during the busy work week.

I use 3 calendars on my phone and which are colored coded so I can see them all at a glance by date. One for me that includes birthdays and anniversaries and already has all the holidays on it; one for my husband and me for all our stuff, appointments, happy hour dates, and certain bills to pay, including quarterly condo dues, tax payments, etc.; and the third one is for my 85 year old Dad and his doctor appointments that is shared with my brother and sister and we also add to that calendar when us 3 are out of town, so he knows where we are, or as he says “I can keep track of my kids!”.

The calendar/tasks on my phone, the calendar on my kitchen wall, and post-it notes are how I survive and keep everything, and everyone organized.

What is your most used emoji?

Without a doubt the laughing to tears smiley face!!!

The laughing crying emoji. He just sums up my life!

Smiley face emoji

The crying laughing emoji

The winky face

Crying laughing emoji

Definitely the winky face

Expressionless face

Most used emoji? The Smack My Head one! I know I overuse the exclamation mark in my text and email communications, too!

Not sure this qualifies as an emoji – but I love it.



Officers/Board of Directors' Reports

Education Report

By Anna Heinen *for Holly A. Radke, ACP*



The 2022 WDALA Spring Seminar was another success! The seminar was held Monday, May 2, 2022 at the ARC in Williston In-Person and Virtually via Zoom! We had 11 participants registered, with 4 attending virtually. We also had 2 presenting attorneys stay for the conference. The Seminar was approved by both NALA and SBAND, so attorneys were able to earn credits in addition to our paralegals! Our seminar offered a total of 6.0 hours of CLE credits – Under NALA, we were approved for 3.0 substantive CLE credit hours, 1.0 Ethics CLE hour and 2.0 non-substantive CLE hours; and under SBAND, we were approved for 5.0 ND CLE credits and 1.0 ND Ethics

CLE credit.

We received \$725.00 in registration dues, with our expenses being \$775.72, so we came out with a small loss of \$50.72. WDALA had budgeted \$1,500.00 for use at the 2022 Spring Seminar so we were well within our budget for the seminar.

The night before the Seminar our 1st VP Holly had a family health emergency and was unable to attend. Holly usually leads the seminar and handles the virtual part of the seminar but Alice (WDALA President) and Ashley (Regional III Director) were able to get the technology figured out and the seminar was available virtually without an issue. Because we all know that being a paralegal is about learning things quickly in a short amount of time and just rolling with the punches!!

All of the speakers put on great presentations and we learned a great deal of information. The presentations included the following:

“Identifying and Dealing with Potential Ethical and Conflict Issues When Accepting Clients”

Presented by Kent Reiersen, Attorney, Crowley Fleck, PLLP

- Stay away from the “gray area” of conflicts when taking on a client.
- Trust your gut.
- Get the names of all the parties involved and do your research on each of them.
- Send out a fee agreement and engagement letter to set the parameters of your

Education Report continued

relationship.

“Utilizing Technology to Enhance Legal Services”

Presented by Emily Ramage, Attorney, Pippin Law Firm, P.C.

- Studies show that Attorneys only have 2.3 hours of billable time in an 8-hour workday.
- *Microsoft Outlook Applications*
 - ⇒ Delayed Sending
 - ⇒ Quick Parts
 - ⇒ Quick Steps
- *Adobe PDF Pro Tools*
 - ⇒ Stamps
 - ⇒ Comments
 - ⇒ OCR
 - ⇒ Bate Stamping
 - ⇒ Exporting PDF to WORD
 - ⇒ Converting JPG to PDF
- Utilizing *Google Drive* for document sharing
- *Remote Online Notarization*
- Utilizing *Our Family Wizard* for texting, document sharing, and Attorney or Court viewing



“Client Relationships”

Presented by Thomas Kalil, Attorney, Kalil Law Firm, PLLC

- Get the Attorney to handle difficult clients.
- Communicate with clients regularly. Arrange a specific meeting time and put it on your calendar.
- Set expectations with client early on.
- Under Promise and Over Deliver.

“Preparation and Organization for Complex Cases: From the Perspective of Handling a Murder Case”

Presented by Jeff Nehring, Attorney, Nehring Law Office, PLLP

- Know the ins and outs of your case early on.
- Choose a theme/story and stick with it.
- Arrange the file on your server in smaller subsections and categories.
- Pull documents for potential exhibits during your initial review. It is al-

Education Report continued

ways easier to delete them later than to try and relocate that “exhibit” in a document intensive file.

- Test your technology and always have a back-up plan.
- Coordinate trial/hearing exhibits with opposing counsel.

“Municipal Law”

Presented by Taylor Olson, Attorney, Furuseth, Olson & Evert, P.C.

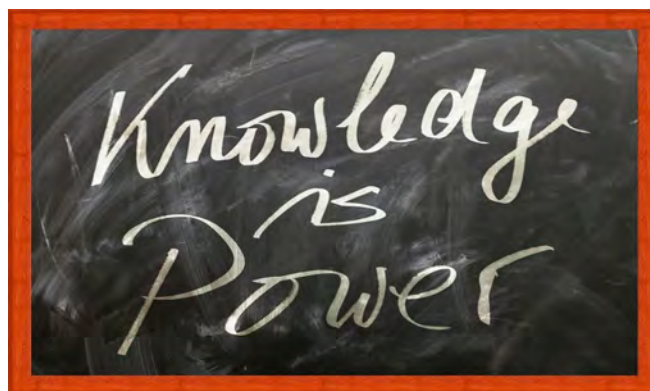
- Municipal law is B misdemeanors, infractions, code, and traffic violations that take place within City limits
- Hearings are held two days per week.
- If the decision is appealed, the case is heard by the district court and if appealed again it will go to the Supreme Court of North Dakota. The same City attorney will handle the case from Municipal Court to the higher Courts.
- City attorneys assist in the drafting of municipal ordinances, amendments, resolutions, procedures, rules, and regulations. They also answer legal questions from city departments.

“Attorney Advertising Thoughts for Paralegals”

Presented by Randall Borkus, Attorney, Borkus Law Group, LTD

- Utilize a good website designer.
- Don’t ride the line between ethical and unethical advertising.
- Do not make false guarantees.

We have already begun the agenda for the Fall Seminar so please be on the lookout for our brochure and registration! **The 2022 Fall Seminar will be held on September 12th and 13th in Bismarck at the North Dakota Heritage Center and State Museum.**



Officers/Board of Directors' Reports continued

2nd Vice President's Report

By Kathy Johnson, CP



As of this date, our membership stands at 37 members: 32 Active and 5 Emeritus.

We did gain one new member – Angie Dietrich from Williston, ND. Welcome Angie!

If anyone needs to contact me or has any questions regarding membership, you can email me at kjohnson@ndcourts.gov.



Treasurer's Report

By Anna Heinen



Hello again winter!! I hope everyone was able to weather this record storm from the comforts of their home. Thank you Covid for giving us the tool to work from home! I am looking forward to our Spring Seminar on Monday, May 2nd. Maybe the snow will be gone again by then and we will actually be having Spring weather. I will bring your WDALA t-shirts with me so if you haven't received yours yet please consider attending!

The treasurer balance for the Western Dakota Association of Legal Assistants as of April 14, 2022, is \$13,833.74.

Officers/Board of Directors' Reports continued

NALA Liaison's Report

By ReBecca Wohl, ACP



It is officially what I like to call, the “slow” time of year. There’s just not a lot going on, other than Snowmageddon, which kind of took us all by surprise. While I’ve been working from home for the last week, I have been cleaning up my to-do list, which includes getting flights, hotels, and registration taken care of for the NALA Conference!

NALA Conference 2022 will be held July 14-16, 2022 in Phoenix, Arizona. There are both virtual and in person options this year. Further details as far as speakers and time frames can be found on NALA’s website: <https://nala.org/>.

Remember: your \$80 NALA member credit is good towards conference or any of the webinars and CLE trainings NALA offers, so do not let that go to waste. As always, please reach out with any questions and if I cannot answer them, I will find someone who can!

Region III Report

By Ashley Miller, CP



Hello WDALA. Region III has continued with our monthly luncheon meetings. However, we had to cancel our last meeting on April 12th, due to the blizzard. We will hold our final meeting on Tuesday, May 10th. That is, until after summer. I hope everyone was safe and warm during the snow days! I can’t wait for the warm weather to return.

WDALA's Officers/Executive Committee and Board of Directors



President
Alice Johnson, ACP



First Vice President
& Region I Director
Holly A. Radke, ACP



Second Vice
President
Kathy Johnson, CP



Secretary
Charlene Smith,
ACP



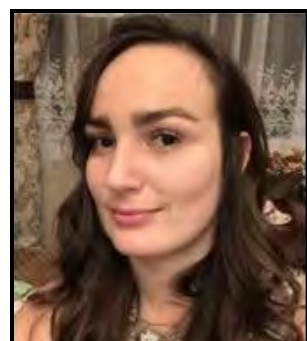
Treasurer
Anna Heinen



Parliamentarian
Tammy Berger



NALA Liaison
ReBecka Wohl, ACP



Region I Director
Anna Oleksik, CP



Region II Director
Andrea Johnson



Region II Director
Afton Basden, CP



Region III Director
Ashley Miller, CP



Region IV Director
Josie Schaefer

WDALA Committees

Education

Holly Radke, ACP (Chair); Anna Oleksik, CP; Afton Basden, CP; Andrea Johnson; Ashley Miller, CP; Josie Schaefer; ReBecka Wohl, ACP; Anna Heinen; and Alice Johnson, ACP

Membership

Kathy Johnson, CP (Chair); Holly Radke, ACP; Anna Oleksik, CP; Afton Basden, CP; Andrea Johnson; Ashley Miller, CP; and Josie Schaefer

Finance/Budget

Anna Heinen (Chair)

CLA Chairman

ReBecka Wohl, ACP

Nominations/Elections

Unfilled

Auditing

Becky Kocourek, CP

Legal Assistant Day

Anna Heinen and Ashley Miller, CP

Ethics/Professional Development

Mitzi Sundheim and Becky Hillerud-Johnson

State Bar/NDTLA Liaison

Tammy Berger

Historian

Laurie Guenther, ACP

Student Liaison

Anna Oleksik, CP

Public Relations

Melissa Klimpel, ACP (*Summons* Editor); ReBecka Wohl, ACP (Facebook); Alice Johnson, ACP (Website); Tami Hulm, ACP; Michelle Christie; Laurie Guenther, ACP; Shannon Barth; Candy Schaefer, CP; Andrea Johnson; and Afton Basden, CP

Googles: anxiety, fatigue,
depression, insomnia, tachycardia
Web MD: "you work at a law firm"



What Kind of
Suit did the
Lawyer wear
to Court?
A Lawsuit!!

FOLLOW WDALA ON FACEBOOK:

WDALA (Western Dakota
Association of Legal Assistants)

MAY 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 	2 International Harry Potter Day	3 National Foster Care Day	4 Star Wars Day	5 Cinco de Mayo	6 National Nurses Day	7 National Fitness Day
8 	9 National Women's Checkup Day	10 National Clean Your Room Day	11 National Eat What You Want Day	12 National Nutty Fudge Day	13 National Apple Pie Day	14 National Dog Mom's Day
15 Kathy Johnson, ACP 	16 National Do Something Good for Your Neighbor Day	17 National Cherry Cobbler Day	18 National No Dirty Dishes Day	19 National Devil's Food Cake Day	20 National Rescue Dog Day	21 National Armed Forces Day
22 Melissa Hamilton, ACP 	23 National Taffy Day	24 National Brother's Day	25 National Wine Day	26 National Blueberry Cheesecake Day	27 National Road Trip Day	28 National Hamburger Day
29 National Paperclip Day	30 	31 National Smile Day				

JUNE 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Tammy Berger 	2 National Leave the Office Early Day	3 National Donut Day	4 National Cheese Day
5 National Cancer Survivors Day	6 Tiffany Knopik 	7 National Chocolate Ice Cream Day	8 National Best Friends Day	9 National Strawberry Rhubarb Pie Day	10 National Iced Tea Day	11 National Corn on the Cob Day
12 National Red Rose Day	13 National Weed Your Garden Day	14 Carmen Dukeman 	15 Nature Photography Day	16 National Fudge Day	17 National Flip Flop Day	18 National Splurge Day
19 	20 National Ice Cream Soda Day	21 National Selfie Day	22 National Onion Ring Day	23  Paralegal/Legal Assistant Day in ND	24 National Take Your Dog to Work Day	25 National Strawberry Parfait Day
26 National Chocolate Pudding Day	27 National Sunglasses Day	28 Stephanie Howe 	29 National Camera Day	30 National Work from Home Day		

JULY 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 National Joke Day	2 Becky Kocourek, CP 
3 National Eat Beans Day	4 	5 National Graham Crackers Day	6 National Fried Chicken Day	7 National Father Daughter Take a Walk Day	8 Be a Kid Again Day	9 National Sugar Cookie Day
10 Pick Blueberries Day	11 All American Pet Photo Day	12 Cow Appreciation Day	13 Frankie Magelky 	14 National Mac and Cheese Day	15 National I Love Horses Day	16 National Cherry Day
17 World Emoji Day	18 Anna Oleksik, CP 	19 National Daiquiri Day	20 Vicki Kunz, ACP 	21 National Junk Food Day	22 National Hammock Day	23 National Gorgeous Grandma Day
24 National Parents' Day	25 National Wine and Cheese Day	26 National Aunt and Uncle Day	27 National Crème Brûlée Day	28 National Refreshment Day	29 National Lasagna Day	30 National Cheesecake Day
31 Josie Schaefer 						