

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



Hello WDALA members! I hope you are all enjoying the warm, sunny days of summer – along with the lush green that Mother Nature has blessed us with this year! All I know is that mowing is now almost a full-time operation at our house and the horses are belly-deep in it!

It's funny how things can change in what seems like the blink of an eye. Last year, we were hot, and everything was brown from lack of rain. This year we've had the heat (that's just part of a North Dakota summer), but everything is so luxuriously green from the rain. Life is funny like that and that's part of what makes us stronger.

As paralegals, we learn to weather the storms of the bad and enjoy the triumphs of the good. We find ourselves working on cases that are unfamiliar territory and learning all sorts of things we didn't know before. We "lose" cases as well as "win" others ... and I say it like this because we all know – there is no win or loss when it comes to the law. There is only compromise. But we go on. We gain some compassion, we lose some smugness, and we learn to become better than we

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President's Message continued

were. We also learn how to think on our feet when things don't go according to Hoyle and fearlessly step up when the situation calls for us to shine.

Stop and think about when you first started out as a paralegal. It was exciting and scary all rolled into one! Now think about how far you have come and how far you can go! What sets our profession apart from others is you! You are a paralegal! You are enthusiastic about the law, but you are also so much more! You don't shy away from learning things you never thought you would encounter. You take on responsibilities that are above and beyond where you ever thought you would venture. And win or lose, perfectly executed or rife with mistakes, you grow and become a better person because, as a paralegal, you know that everything teaches us something!

I have had the privilege of being your President for the past three years and can tell you that I have never been so proud or amazed at the outstanding people who make up WDALA. Thank you all for putting up with me for this long and for entrusting me with this office! I hope I have helped inspire you in some way during this time. I want to encourage all of you to continue doing the best you can, to continue learning all you can, and to not let your perceived failures define your path. You have the world in front of you – take it on with a smile and an attitude of “I am a paralegal and I CAN do this!”

Thank you all for inspiring me to push on and for allowing me the unique opportunity to work with the most amazing people I have ever encountered! Forty years ago, when I first started working as a paralegal, I never envisioned where I would be today. Life is funny that way. Enjoy the ride!



welcome

to WDALA

Kolette Balsam: My name is Kolette Balsam, and I am a Paralegal for Pearce Durick PLLC in Bismarck, North Dakota. I grew up on a cattle ranch in South Eastern Montana, and moved to Bismarck when I was seventeen. In my free time I enjoy hosting dinners for friends and family at our home, gardening, cooking, and basically anything outside. I have been married to my husband Keith for almost three years, and we have a beautiful daughter, Charlie, who is one. I am currently pursuing my dream of achieving my Juris Doctorate to become a Civil Litigation Lawyer.



Shari Erdman, ACP: I live in Williston, ND with my husband of 34 years, Kirk, and our 19-year -old cat, Koko. We are lucky that all three of our children and our granddaughter live in Williston, too.

I am a Certified Paralegal through NALA and also have my ACP in Trial Preparation. I worked in the Williams County State's Attorneys Office for 13 years and after that worked in a private law firm for almost 7 years in civil litigation. Being a "goals" person, I left the legal field in 2015 and returned to school as a full-time student. I graduated from Williston State College in May 2017 (at the age of 50!) with two associate degrees. I was finally able to fulfill one of my goals of going to college! Shortly after graduating, I received a job offer from the college and worked there until April 2021. Life threw my family some challenges after this with the passing of my father, two uncles, and my daughter's boyfriend in the short span of 4 months. I certainly do not rule out returning to work if the right thing comes my way. I plan to continue maintaining my CP with the necessary CLE credits. For now, I keep myself busy with DIY house projects, maintaining my father's property East of Williston, spending time with my almost 7-year-old granddaughter, and helping both my mom and mother-in-law with whatever they need.



Bailee Vetter: My name is Bailee Vetter. I was raised on a cattle ranch 30 miles south of Lemmon, South Dakota. My mom was ultimately the person who pushed me to become a paralegal. There are days that I thank her but there have also been times that I questioned her judgment! I attended Western Dakota Tech in Rapid City and received my Associates in Paralegal Studies in the Spring of 2007. I had wonderful college instructors whom I still keep in contact with. I have worked as a paralegal for the past 15 years. I love my job and can't imagine doing anything different. One of the best decisions I made was moving to Bismarck eleven years ago. I spent 10 years with Dickson Law Office and not only did I grow professionally, I grew as a person. I gained many

invaluable contacts and mentors through my work with that office and I am grateful for the experience. In March, I transitioned into a new position as Paralegal at the Burleigh County State's Attorney's Office. When I am not plugging away at deadlines and keeping up with attorney demands, you will find me chasing around my three children; Charlie (8 years old), Annie (7 years old), and Molly (5 years old). I am excited to be a part of WDALA, my only regret was not joining sooner!



Samantha Lachenmeier:

Hometown: Bismarck, ND

Work: Legal Assistant with Jackson, Thomason, Welder & Arthurs, Inc.

About Me: I am new to the legal field but have quickly come to enjoy it and look forward to making it my profession. During the summer, I enjoy being outdoors, playing softball, going golfing and spending time with my family and friends. In the winter you can find me curled up with a novel and taking care of my many houseplants. I am very excited to be a member of this association and look forward to getting to know other members.



A graphic of a spotlight shining from the top left onto a yellow oval in the center. The oval contains the text "Volunteer Spotlight".

Volunteer Spotlight



Ashley Miller, CP

Why do you volunteer for WDALA?

I volunteer for WDALA to pay it forward. This organization and other individuals here in ND have shown me great kindness. I'm trying to better myself and do the same. Drug court also holds a special spot in my heart. I enjoy supporting the program, supporting the participants, and spending time with WDALA. It also seems that the more effort I put into participating with WDALA, the more I get out of it.

Which event is your favorite? Why?

My favorite event is Christmas! It's so much fun getting together with the WDALA ladies, wrapping presents, and then presenting the gifts/food to the families. I enjoy seeing the smiling faces of both the people who are giving, and the families receiving. There is so much joy being shared that time of year!

Do you have a favorite memory from volunteering?

My favorite memory is last Christmas when we gave the gifts/food to the single mother with three children, one of them being handicapped. She was so appreciative and thankful that it really made an impact. For someone who has suffered so much to smile and have a little bit of joy that day made me feel all warm inside. Another memory I will not forget was working with my fellow WDALA members to keep the show rolling at our Spring 2022 seminar. It was an amazing experience to be surrounded by such great ladies that can work together and overcome obstacles.

What would you tell new members about volunteering for WDALA?

If you can find the time, it is worth it. Volunteering was scary for me at first because I am extremely shy and introverted. I didn't know what to do or where to start. The other ladies made me feel comfortable and appreciated that I made the effort to just show up. The more involved I become with WDALA, the more confidence I find I have in myself.

Volunteer Spotlight continued

What motivates you to stay involved?

I'm motivated to stay involved because I want to help keep WDALA going. WDALA has a presence in this community and an awesome reputation. I want to continue to be a part of that. I also enjoy getting to know our members and surrounding myself with positive and awesome ladies.

What volunteer contribution or achievement are you most proud of?

I don't have one specific contribution or achievement I'm most proud of. I think I'm just proud of myself for stepping out of my comfort zone and making the time to do something good for our community.

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

I'm not currently a part of any other organization or cause that I volunteer for. However, I try to be kind to everyone in our community and help where I see help is needed. Whether it be paying for some groceries for the single mother that doesn't have enough cash or giving a gift card to the homeless man by the train tracks.

Tell us a fun fact about yourself!

I was enlisted in the Marine Corps for about a year prior to them allowing me to break my contract to pursue my education at the University of Denver Lamont School of Music as the principal French Horn.



2022 NALA
Conference
& Expo
July 14th-16th

Your Career
is a Journey
Stay Connected

Phoenix, AZ



Alice Johnson, ACP; Becka Wohl, ACP; Melissa Hamilton, ACP; Melissa Klimpel, ACP; and Anna Heinen



Melissa Hamilton, ACP; Anna Heinen; Becka Wohl, ACP; Melissa Klimpel, ACP; and Alice Johnson, ACP



Presentation of NALA's Student of the Year Award by Melissa Klimpel, ACP and Melissa Hamilton, ACP

2022 NALA Conference & Expo-Phoenix, AZ continued



Melissa Klimpel, ACP; Anna Heinen;
Becka Wohl, ACP; and Alice Johnson, ACP



Melissa Klimpel, ACP and Melissa Hamilton,
ACP



NALA Presidents: Kelly LaGrave, ACP
(2014-2016); Cassandra Oliver-Divens,
ACP (2016-2018); Debra Overstreet,
ACP (Current); Jill Francisco, ACP
(2018-2020); and Melissa Hamilton,
ACP (2020-2022)

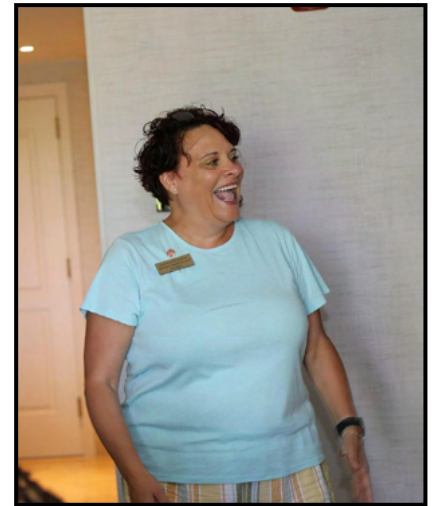


Melissa Hamilton, ACP; Melissa Klimpel,
ACP; Alice Johnson, ACP; Anna Heinen;
and Becka Wohl, ACP

2022 NALA Conference & Expo-Phoenix, AZ continued



NALA's Board of Directors SURPRISED Melissa Hamilton, ACP with a gathering at the NALA conference to celebrate the conclusion of her successful presidency. Melissa was surprised and at a loss for words. The Board of Directors wore special t-shirts displaying Melissa's travel adventures over the years. #HAMILTONED



2022 NALA Conference & Expo-Phoenix, AZ continued

Melissa Hamilton, ACP
NALA President
2020-2022



2022 NALA Conference & Expo-Phoenix, AZ continued



Melissa,

Thank You

For your service to NALA
and the paralegal profession!



2022 NALA Conference & Expo-Phoenix, AZ continued

Congratulations to ReBecka Wohl, ACP who was presented with the 2022 NALA Affiliates Award at the NALA Conference in Phoenix, AZ in July. WDALA nominated Becka for this award.

Affiliate Awards recognize members or committees of affiliated associations for their contribution to the goals and programs of the nominating affiliated association.



NALA Affiliated Associations Director, Bridget Stuhr, ACP; ReBecka Wohl, ACP; and NALA President, Melissa Hamilton, ACP

Becka's Nomination from WDALA:

Becka is a very active member and a source of inspiration for our members! Not only is she enthusiastic about holding office in WDALA but she regularly volunteers for practically every activity in which we participate. Becka finds the time in her busy work schedule to balance her very active family life with work and still finds the energy and time to give to WDALA. Becka truly represents the phrase "lead by example"! WDALA is proud to nominate Becka for this award!

NALA Liaison Report and NALA 2022 Conference

By ReBecca Wohl, ACP



The NALA 2022 Conference was held July 14-16, 2022 in Phoenix, Arizona. What an amazing opportunity to be able to attend in person as WDALA's liaison. I have attended conference virtually for the last two years, and I can officially say virtual seminars are just not for me. However, the in-person seminar was amazing!

I came back with a new look on my career, new friends, and all the swag! As an added perk this year, anyone who attended conference in person is receiving the conference bundle of all 32 CLE's for free! What an amazing added benefit being provided by NALA. I am actually looking forward to going back through and listening to a couple of the CLE's I enjoyed, as well as the ones I was not able to fit into the jam-packed schedule.

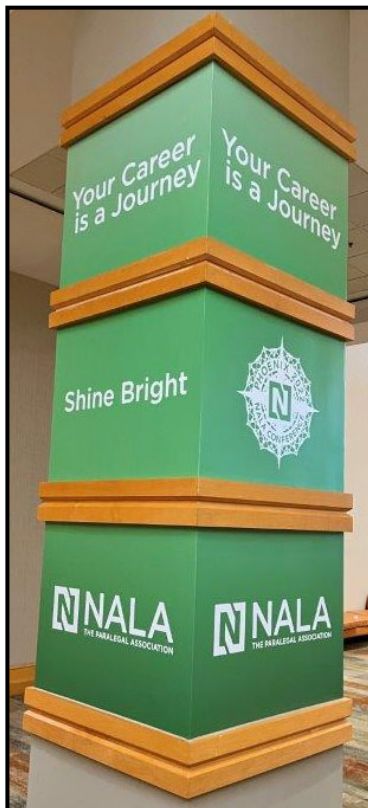
I attended the Affiliated Associations meeting, NALA's Board of Directors meeting, the installation of officers, and as many CLE sessions as I could fit in while I was in Phoenix. I am so appreciative to WDALA for nominating me for the Affiliated Association Award, which I was able to accept from Melissa Hamilton before she passed the reins of NALA presidency over to Debra Overstreet, ACP. It was very cool to be acknowledged by NALA, as well as WDALA. Again, thank you!

thank you!

The seminars offered were a wide arrangement of topics, from a diverse background of speakers. I personally went to sessions on excessive force and police shootings, social media and ethics, motions in limine, anatomy of an appeal, becoming a freelance paralegal, social security disability claims process, trauma informed legal practice, and more. While only a few of these will help me in my day-to-day work, all of them proved to be insightful, provide knowledge, and some were even comical.

NALA Liaison Report and NALA 2022 Conference continued

I cannot stress enough how beneficial conference could be for you. If you are someone who is on the fence in their career, this could be the thing that changes your mind. If you aren't quite sure if the area you are currently working in is for you, going to a large conference gives you options to feel out other areas of law that might not be on your radar. It also provides you with insight into how a large association is run, what their board members deal with, gives you contacts to reach out to if you have questions or concerns, and provides you with connections to resources such as stenographers, process servers, and legal software representatives.



We were able to have conversations about how to grow our local associations, how to drive membership, what we can do to better our board, and so on. I am very much looking forward to sharing these ideas with WDALA at future luncheons, seminars, and board meetings.

Also, because I'm nothing if not a broken record sometimes, remember: your \$80 NALA member gift certificate 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!

NALA 2022 Conference

By Anna Heinen



I was granted the ability to attend the 2022 NALA Conference in Phoenix, AZ, July 14-16th on behalf of WDA-LA. It was a very empowering experience being surrounded by others in the same profession and being reminded that you are a vital part of the legal field. The conference had an approximate in-person attendance of 400 and a virtual attendance of roughly 800 participants. The conference offered numerous presenters on a wide array of topics. I received a total of 14 CLE credits, including 2 hours of Ethics.

All of the speakers put on great presentations and I left with a great deal of information. The presentations I personally attended include the following:

“Police Shootings, Excessive Force, and the Constitution”

Presented by E. Lee Whitwell

Assistant County Attorney and Adjunct Professor of Law in Tennessee

“Social Media and Paralegals – Ethical Pitfalls”

Presented by Joy C. Belk, NCCP

Managing Director of Paralegal Certification for the North Carolina State Bar

“Everything You Wanted to Know About Motions in Limine”

Presented by Nancy L. Jordahl, ACP, FRP, FCP

Paralegal at Weinberg Wheeler Hudgins Gunn & Dial in Florida

“Anatomy of an Appeal”

Presented by Judge Richard Dietz

Judge at North Carolina Court of Appeals

“CP Review – Legal Ethics”

Presented by Kelly A. LaGrave, ACP

Senior Paralegal at Sparrow Health System in Michigan and Former NALA President

NALA 2022 Conference continued

“Tips and Tactics for Paralegals in Workers’ Compensation Claims”

Presented by Stephanie Durham-Rivera

Paralegal with McAngus, Goudelock & Courie in North Carolina

“CP Review – Estate Planning & Probate”

Presented by Glenn A. Leier, Attorney

Founder and Administrator of AchieveVia, LLC in Oregon

“Drafting and Preparing Summary Judgment Motions”

Presented by E. Lee Whitwell

Assistant County Attorney and Adjunct Professor of Law in Tennessee

“Law Enforcement and Legal Staff”

Presented by S. M. Kernodle-Hodges

Legal Project Manager for Tolliver, Richardson & Kernodle, LLC in North Carolina

“Space Law 101”

Presented by Memme Onwudiwe

Executive Vice President of Legal and Business Intelligence in California

“CP Review – Legal Essay Writing”

Presented by Kelly A. LaGrave, ACP

Senior Paralegal at Sparrow Health System in Michigan and Former NALA President

“Steps to Becoming a Freeland Paralegal”

Presented by Rachel L. Royal, CP, NCCP

Certified Paralegal for Royal Touch Legal & Business Solutions, LLC in North Carolina

I want to thank WDALA for supporting me in my professional journey as a Paralegal and I am already looking forward to representing WDALA at the 2023 NALA Conference in Boston, MA, held July 12-14, 2023.



NALA 2022 Conference-Phoenix, AZ

By Alice M. Johnson, ACP



NALA's Annual Conference this year was held at the JW Marriott Desert Ridge Resort in Phoenix, Arizona, from July 14 through July 16. As implied by the title, the resort was amazing from the accommodations to the staff to the food to the pool area! This year, the pool and lazy river were a definite must during the brief off hours of meetings and educational sessions as the temps soared from 110 to 116 during the day and "cooled down" until 96 at night! Major kudos to NALA, once again, holding the conference at a place where its members were given the red-carpet treatment!

The conference unofficially kicked off with a Welcome Cocktail Hour hosted by the Arizona Paralegal Association the evening of the 13th giving us a chance to connect with old friends and make new ones! The NALA Board was hard at work at 7:00 am the next morning holding the final Directors meeting before the Opening Session.

As we were enjoying the continental breakfast, we were inspired by the Opening Session welcoming about 400 participants in-person to the first hybrid NALA Conference ever! We may have been in person, but we were joined by hundreds of paralegals across the nation attending virtually! NALA was able to structure this hybrid conference so that the on-line attendees were able to be as interactive in the sessions as the in-person attendees!

Following the Opening Session, we were treated to a presentation on Police Shootings, Excessive Force and the Constitution where our eyes were opened to how the Courts view deadly force in conjunction with the Constitution. The Annual Membership meeting and awards presentation were next up highlighting how much NALA does for us and recognizing several outstanding members with various awards.

After lunch the Affiliated Associations annual meeting and Exchange took place informing us of the numerous benefits and resources available to us as an affiliate association of NALA. The Affiliated Association awards were also presented at this time. I am very proud to state that Becka Wohl was presented with the Affiliated Association Award this year! CONGRATULATIONS BECKA!!!

NALA 2022 Conference-Phoenix, AZ continued

Our day was by no means over as we were then given a presentation on the Social Media and Paralegals – Ethical Pitfalls. So much of this ethics presentation was so “close to home” it really gave you something to think about while being entertaining at the same time! We had a short break before we got to attend the Affiliated Showcase and reception. This is where various affiliated associations highlight their organizations with booths, giving out lots of fun stuff and chances to win prizes. It is also yet another opportunity to mingle with and get to touch base with old and new friends!

Friday and Saturday were filled from morning until evening with high quality CLE sessions – many offered during various time periods so you could attend the ones you missed because you were attending another one you wanted to see! As a part of the sessions, NALA offers every one of the CP review courses with the opportunity to ask questions of the presenter as opposed to just viewing the courses on-line.

The CLE sessions at this year’s conference ranged widely from litigation to practical tools to Space Law! There was so much to choose from it was hard to decide which sessions to attend!

Friday evening saw the installation of new NALA officers and marked the end of Melissa Hamilton’s reign as President of NALA. Thank you, Melissa, for your years of hard work on the NALA board!

When all was said and done, although it was hard to say goodbye to friends, I came away from this conference – like I have every year I attended – with a renewed enthusiasm for my profession, a rejuvenated determination to do my best work ever, a glowing sense of pride that I am a member of not only NALA but WDALA, and a humble gratitude that WDALA has allowed me to attend this conference on its behalf.

If ever you get an opportunity to attend the NALA Conference, grab it with both hands and hold on tight! You will be amazed, you will make friends for life, and you will never forget the experience!

Thank you WDALA for making this opportunity possible for me on more than one occasion!!!



Get to Know . . . Daniel M. Traynor, Judge of the US District Court, District of ND



What are your job duties?

I serve as a United States District Judge. In that capacity I call balls and strikes from a desk.

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

A disk jockey at a radio station, which is something I am not currently doing.

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

My father suggested I pursue a career in law, commenting that the world will always needs good lawyers. I also considered the instability of the job market in radio.

What is a typical day like at your job?

I typically have a number of criminal hearings and review materials in preparation for those hearings. When criminal hearings are not scheduled, I work on maintaining my administrative docket or matters pending on the civil docket. I will also review the record and research matters in drafting opinions and orders. When I am in trial, that will occupy the entire day and the days leading up to it.

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

Be concise in your writing and back up what you are saying with correct citations to the law and record. If something has been filed on the record, please cite to the record instead of your exhibit number or bates number.

Get to Know . . . Daniel M. Traynor, Judge of the US District Court, District of ND continued

What is the best/worst part of your job?

Best part: interactions with lawyers and parties in court. Worst part: sentencing.

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

That it is lonely or insulating to be a judge. I have not found that to be the case.

What's the best piece of professional advice you've ever received?

"Don't have your life planned out." – Gerald W. VandeWalle.

Do you have any mentors in your professional life?

My father, Jack Traynor, and my brother, Tom Traynor.

If you could meet any historical figure, who would it be?

Theodore Roosevelt

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

Phone, Mail and Messenger (Text).

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

Top Gun (Maverick). Two Thumbs Up.



8 Questions for WDALA Emeritus Member, Carmen Dukeman



When was your retirement effective?

I retired on September 30, 2021 – not quite voluntary. My boss was retiring after 23 years in the law office and since we are about the same age, I had no choice and retired as well. After so many years with just the two of us and being so old, there was no way I was going to look for another job. I have no plans to do anything in my retirement, other than to live as best I can. So far I have been astoundingly busy with all kinds of family events, medical issues and house problems (the roof of my house addition blew away in the recent wind-storm we had).

How many years did you work as a paralegal?

I worked 20 years as a legal secretary and 23 years as a paralegal.

What was your primary practice area?

Throughout my career I was always responsible for probates and estate planning. In addition to that came family law and we did that for all of the time I worked as a paralegal. The last three years of my career was in criminal law, as my boss became a State's Attorney.

What are the biggest changes you had to deal with over the course of your career?

I worked for three different attorneys during the course of my career. I started work in the legal field for a State's Attorney, so that meant I worked in criminal law, as well as doing civil law work. State's Attorneys in our County are only part-time State's Attorneys. After my boss became District Judge, I spent two years as his Court Recorder. After that I returned to work for his one-time partner and went back to civil law practice. When he retired and a new attorney came in, I underwent another change as his specialty was family law and mostly divorces, which was a new experience for me. Family law has undergone many changes in the last 20 years, and not all of them for the better, and it was sometimes a challenge to navigate through these changes. As stated before, after 20 years of working family law, I ended my career as I had started it – working for a State's Attorney.

How did being a member of WDALA impact you in your career?

The fellowship in WDALA was of great value to me in my career. I loved going to the workshops and gathering more knowledge in my field, as well as general knowledge.

8 Questions for WDALA Emeritus Member, Carmen Dukeman continued

What was your favorite thing about being a paralegal?

Well, I loved everything, though I especially loved the courtroom work. It was often inspirational and at the same time thrilling – and I enjoyed working with the people at the Courthouse.

What is one piece of advice you would give to new paralegals?

Be very flexible. Depending on what kind of attorney(s) you work for, no matter how much knowledge you think you have, you need to be able to adapt and be open to the many different interpretations of the law - - and always learn, learn, learn.



What do you plan to do with your time now that you are retired?

I have no specific plans – I really just take it one day at a time.

Carmen previously served WDALA as:

Treasurer: 2008-2013

Nominations Committee: 2007-2008

Valuation in Divorce Cases

By Attorney Heather Krumm and Attorney Kristin Redmann



Attorney Heather Krumm



Attorney Kristin Redmann

The legislature has recently updated N.D.C.C. § 14-05-24(1). This new provision took effect on August 1, 2021. There are two major changes: first, the default date of valuation has changed from the date of service of the summons to sixty days before the initially scheduled trial date; and second, the district court now has more authority to adjust the valuation date as equity demands.

Although apparently a minor provision in the lengthy statutory provisions relating to divorce, the valuation date can have significant effects on the course of litigation and in the overall distribution of assets. The valuation date has far-reaching effects, affecting everything from home value to the date of valuation for a QDRO. Particularly in our current period of economic fluctuation, several months difference in valuation between when an action is commenced and until trial is held can be the difference between a 401(k) valued at \$250,000 and a 401(k) valued at \$150,000.

Under the old version of the statute, the Supreme Court held that a district court had oversight discretion in considering the parties' agreed upon valuation date and no discretion in selecting a valuation date if there is no agreement. In *Berdahl v. Berdahl*, the Supreme Court determined that, absent agreement of the parties, "the

legislative assembly 'has provided a definitive process for determining the date to value the marital estate that limits the district court's discretion to accepting or rejecting an agreed upon valuation date,' and '[t]he statute does not provide the court with discretion to select its own valuation date.'" 2022 ND 136, ¶ 16 (*citing Messmer v. Messmer*, 2020 ND 62, ¶ 19, 940 N.W.2d 622). It is important to note that the legislature has now removed the provision allowing the court discretion in reviewing the parties' mutually agreed upon valuation date. Meaning, if the parties agree on a valuation date, that is the date that should be used for valuation.

Under the updated provision, the date of valuation defaults to sixty days preceding the initially scheduled trial date. This means that all property acquired after separation is included in the valuation of the marital estate. Therefore, income earned during the time of

Valuation in Divorce Cases continued

separation, and any property purchased as a result of that income, becomes part of the marital estate. Similarly, any debt incurred during the time of separation is also considered when calculating the equity in the marital estate.

Although the updated statute took effect on August 1, 2021, there may still be cases pending which were filed before the statutory change took effect. For cases filed before this update, the 2017 version will apply and the district court will have the discretion to accept or reject the parties' agreement regarding a valuation date. If no agreement is reached, or the district court rejects the parties' agreement, the valuation date must be the date the summons is served or the date which the parties last separated, whichever occurs first.

In cases filed on or after August 1, 2021, the district court has now been granted explicit authority to adjust the valuation of the parties' assets or debts if there has been a substantial change in the value of the asset or debt between the date of valuation and the date of trial. This could include economic fluctuations, but could also include consideration of a party's frivolous spending or the incurrence of unnecessary debts. Further, as the valuation date under the updated statute is sixty days prior to the initial trial date, if the trial gets continued and there is a significant change in valuation, the district court could exercise its discretion to determine a different valuation date appropriate. If a district court exercises this authority, it must make specific findings that the adjusted date of valuation is fair and equitable. If proposing a different valuation date to the court, it is important to have the documentation the court will need to support the appropriateness of that argument. As always when dealing with the marital estate, the court should be looking at what is equitable.



Heather is a family law attorney with a diverse background including experience in child support, banking law, civil rights law, HIPAA, and domestic violence. After practicing in Colorado and Washington D.C., she moved to North Dakota. Heather is a family law attorney at Redmann Law, P.C., with a particular focus on the areas of domestic violence and disability.

Kristin is the founder and co-owner of Redmann Law, P.C., located in Mandan. She established Redmann Law, P.C., in 2014, and focuses her practice solely on family law. She is also a guardian ad litem and parenting investigator. Kristin is a member of the Academy of Collaborative Professionals and the North Dakota Collaborative Divorce Group.

The Important Role of the Victim Witness Specialist in the Criminal Justice System: Ensuring Victims' Rights and Encouraging Hope

By Beth Lang



A few months ago, I attended a dinner party. While talking with the guests, one person asked me what I had done that day. Thinking to myself, “Well, you asked the question.” I leaned in and said, “I went to a conference about sexual assault and domestic violence.” A while later, I was watching a morning news show. The story was about the high rate of violent crime against Native American women. When the commentary came back to the hosts of the show, they expressed how shocked they were that one Native American woman in three reports having been raped during her lifetime.

If you weren’t aware that people are victims of crime, it’s okay. Maybe that information has not been part of your life experience. But if we begin the conversation about victims of crime, perhaps by talking about the problem, we can begin to solve the problem.

I don’t know whether many people have thought about crime victims – unless they have been one. Maybe it’s that people think that crime is something that happens to someone else. Maybe it’s the variety of ways a person can be victimized that makes it so shocking when it happens because victims are murdered, assaulted, carjacked, have money stolen, have their mail stolen, and are the victims of fraud. These situations create victims of crime. If you haven’t thought much about crime victims, you probably haven’t thought much about victims’ rights. Crime victims do have rights in the criminal justice system, and I help victims access those rights through my work as a victim witness specialist.

When I studied to become a paralegal, I envisioned I would have a “textbook” job organizing documents, assisting attorneys at trial, doing legal research and writing. When I started working at the courthouse in Burleigh County, across the hall from where I worked, the state’s attorney’s office employed a victim witness person. I liked the interaction I saw between the victim witness person and the public, and I thought it would be an interesting job. When the position opened, I applied, and I have been working in that field ever since. This is my 28th year in the victim witness profession.

The Important Role of the Victim Witness Specialist in the Criminal Justice System: Ensuring Victims' Rights and Encouraging Hope continued

I like being able to put my paralegal education to work in a somewhat unconventional job. Understanding how the court system works is an asset when one tries to explain the criminal justice system to victims and witnesses. If I do any research, it is to understand a law or an issue so I can explain it to victims. When I write, it is to put information into an easy- to-understand format so that victims and witnesses can find the criminal justice system approachable.

Now, while I like talking with people, I like listening to people even more. This was best displayed recently when my husband and I attended a card party. He won the prize for the most wins, while I won the prize for the most losses, because I spent the evening visiting with the people at my table.

I like talking one-on-one with people, helping them feel more at ease with the criminal justice process. I don't ask them questions about their case. That's for the investigators to do. I am interested in how they are coping with their situation and in making suggestions for services, such as obtaining counseling or shelter. I spend a lot of time simply listening to victims.



A typical day will find me making phone calls to victims to let them know charges have been brought in a criminal case; advising victims of upcoming court proceedings and what will happen there; assisting victims who speak at hearings; and helping victims find funds to travel to court proceedings. I also attend court proceedings with victims and witnesses and provide information and support to them. I advise victims of plea negotiations and I like to hear their opinion about what should happen at sentencing; I assist victims with victim impact statements to advise the court of the harm suffered; and I help victims pursue payment for their medical bills and counseling expenses.

Even after years of experience, sometimes things go awry in the victim witness world. Not long ago, I told a victim that a person charged with a crime had been placed at a half-way house which was located near Walmart, and he could get a pass to shop there occasionally. I told her this in the interest of her well-being, knowing that many people like to shop at Walmart. When the victim gave her victim impact statement in court, she told the Judge I had told her NOT to shop there. Looking back, I would tell her again about the subject's location rather than have her unexpectedly run into him while shopping.

The Important Role of the Victim Witness Specialist in the Criminal Justice System: Ensuring Victims' Rights and Encouraging Hope continued

Of course, a criminal case doesn't always turn out the way a victim had hoped. Maybe there is a not guilty verdict, and the court releases a subject, or a victim wishes a certain case would be charged, but the prosecutor determines there is insufficient evidence, or restitution just never gets paid. This job provides the opportunity to be there for victims especially when things don't work out as a victim planned.

If there is one negative aspect about this job, it is seeing people hurt, especially children. I think the only way to continue to carry out this the work is to talk with a co-worker about the unfortunate situation. I always think amid someone's suffering there must be a professional to help them; someone must do the work!

Recently, we went out of town to meet a witness. When we arrived at the meeting place, the witness said to me, "You helped my mom and dad when my brother died." What a privilege to walk with those people through the court system during their darkest days, and what a privilege to still be recognized by this lady as a helper. This reminded me of a Maya Angelou quote, "At the end of the day people won't remember what you said or did, they will remember how you made them feel."

My favorite part of this job is meeting victims again years after they have worked with our office. Recently, I talked with a victim who went on to obtain a social work degree and that victim is now helping other people; another victim joined the Army and is serving our country; and still another victim is getting out of bed in the morning and putting one foot in front of the other. These individuals are taking big and small steps to put their lives back together.



I think this job can be best summarized in my favorite right in the Crime Victims' Right Act, which is the right to be treated with fairness and with respect for the victim's dignity and privacy. I think this was Congress' way of saying, "Be kind." I have a quote from Fred Rogers on my desk. You likely know him best as Mr. Rogers. It says, "There are three ways to ultimate success: The first way is to be kind. The second way is to be kind. The third way is to be kind." I think this quote exemplifies what the victim witness profession was meant to be.

The Important Role of the Victim Witness Specialist in the Criminal Justice System: Ensuring Victims' Rights and Encouraging Hope continued

The Crime Victims' Rights Act gives victims of offenses charged in Federal court the following rights:

- 1) The right to be reasonably protected from the accused;
- 2) The right to reasonable, accurate, and timely notice of any public court proceeding involving the crime or of any release or escape of the accused;
- 3) The right not to be excluded from any such public court proceeding, unless the court, after receiving clear and convincing evidence, determines that testimony by the victim would be materially altered if the victim heard other testimony at that proceeding;
- 4) The right to be reasonably heard at any public proceeding in the district court involving release, plea, sentencing, or any parole proceeding;
- 5) The reasonable right to confer with the attorney for the Government in the case;
- 6) The right to full and timely restitution as provided in the law;
- 7) The right to proceedings free from unreasonable delay;
- 8) The right to be treated with fairness and with respect for the victim's dignity and privacy;
- 9) The right to be informed in a timely manner of any plea bargain or deferred prosecution agreement; and
- 10) The right to be informed of the rights under this section and the services described in section 503(c) of the Victims' Rights and Restitution Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 10607(c)) and provided contact information for the Office of the Victims' Rights Ombudsman of the Department of Justice.

Beth Lang is a Victim Witness Specialist for the United States Attorney's Office in Bismarck. She joined the office in 2003. She received her Bachelor of Science in Paralegal Studies from Minnesota State University Moorhead in 1991.

The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Department of Justice, the United States Attorney's Office for the District of North Dakota, or any agency of the United States government.

Juvenile Court Work

By Attorney Kyle Weinberger



I've been doing court-appointed attorney work in Juvenile Court since July of 2019. In my capacity as a court appointed juvenile attorney, I have had the chance to experience multiple different perspectives of the Juvenile Court system that many other attorneys might never experience. Although North Dakota's Juvenile Court system dates back to the early 1900s, the changes that the system has undertaken over even the last few years has drastically impacted how the system handles juvenile cases and the referrals that are made.

One of the major changes to the Juvenile Court system has been a juvenile's right to counsel as soon as a petition is filed in a delinquency action with the presumption that the child is indigent. The Juvenile Court system has tried to place more of an emphasis on making sure that juveniles have supports throughout their engagement with the Juvenile Court system, however this has been difficult in years past because many of the juveniles that are brought into the system do not have their own resources to understand and communicate with about how the procedure works or even how to understand the documents in a case.

Similar to juvenile delinquency matters, another large portion of the Juvenile Court system is "child in need of protection" cases. Previously, people referred to the agency that would be involved with these families as Social Services, however North Dakota has recently changed the title of these local agencies to be referred to as Human Service Zones. These Human Service Zone agencies become involved with families and minor children when they

Juvenile Court Work continued

receive a report to their agency and they determine what types of services a family will need after an investigation. From a legal perspective, this becomes somewhat of an issue of balancing civil and criminal law that many attorneys have struggled with. This includes legal requirements that a person may have to cooperate with the Human Service Zone while still asserting their criminal right to not be forced to cooperate with law enforcement. This section of juvenile law has not gone through as much overhaul in recent years, but still continues to be an ever evolving type of law.



Juvenile law, in general, is a very specific form of law that I believe more attorneys should take the time to learn and understand the specifics of. It is a growing form of law that requires so much time and effort to help kids and their families, and the more attorneys that learn and understand the assistance that they can bring to those matters, the better the entire Juvenile Court system will be.

Kyle Weinberger grew up in Mandan, North Dakota. He did his undergrad at the University of Mary and graduated from University of North Dakota School of Law in 2018. Kyle has previous work experience as a correctional officer at the North Dakota Youth Correctional Center. He was licensed to practice law in North Dakota in 2019 and he has been practicing Juvenile Law since.

Paralegal Day: June 23, 2022

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

PROCLAMATION

LEGAL ASSISTANT/PARALEGAL DAY JUNE 23, 2022

WHEREAS, legal assistants, also known as paralegals, use their skills and expertise to make vital contributions to the quality of legal services offered to North Dakota's citizens; and

WHEREAS, with a wide variety of roles and responsibilities, legal assistants/paralegals improve the efficiency and capacity of their organizations in both the public and private sectors; and

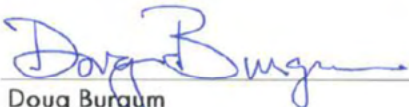
WHEREAS, there are currently two professional legal assistant/paralegal associations in North Dakota: the Western Dakota Association of Legal Assistants and the Red River Valley Paralegal Association; and

WHEREAS, both associations are affiliates of the National Association of Legal Assistants – NALA – the Paralegal Association, which is celebrating 47 years of service to legal assistants/paralegals and the legal community nationwide; and

WHEREAS, legal assistants/paralegals are making important contributions to their profession and workplace, and North Dakotans are encouraged to recognize the significant role they play in the legal process of our state and nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim
June 23, 2022, LEGAL ASSISTANT/PARALEGAL DAY in the State of North Dakota.




Doug Burgum
GOVERNOR

ATTEST: 
Alvin A. Jaeger
SECRETARY OF STATE

Paralegal Day: June 23, 2022 continued



Ashley Miller, CP; Melissa Hamilton, ACP; Alice Johnson, ACP; Lt. Governor Brent Sanford; Anna Heinen; Josie Schaefer; and Melissa Klimpel, ACP



Melissa Klimpel, ACP; Ashley Miller, CP; Josie Schaefer; Attorney General Drew Wrigley; Alice Johnson, ACP; Anna Heinen; and Melissa Hamilton, ACP

We Asked . . . You Answered

If you had 25 hours a day, how would you use your extra time?

Reading

Exercising

Read – I love to read but sometimes there's just never enough time!

I would workout! Can't seem to make it fit into my day lately!

I would use it for family time.

I would love to say "Learn a new hobby, like playing guitar or flying a plane" but in all reality the extra hour would probably be used to walk the dogs!

I would spend that extra ONE HOUR each day getting chores done so I don't have to do them during the regular day!

Sit on my deck with my dogs and enjoy the sights and sounds of country living.

I would use that extra hour with my family. I feel like we are so busy between work, kids' schedules, chores, and just life in general that I would love an extra hour each day to just relax and enjoy the company of my family.

If I had an extra hour in the day

You have to sing karaoke, what song do you pick and why?

“I am Woman” by Helen Reddy. Big song when I was in HS and one of the first to kick off women empowerment. Became a mantra of mine that I sang very loud many times in my car on the way home from work or dealing with my kids! Sing it with me - “I am woman. I am invincible. I am strong. I am woman.”

A song from a Disney movie or a Broadway show. I love show tunes and musicals. Last time I did karaoke my sister and I sang Un Poco Loco.

Paradise by the Dashboard Light by Meatloaf because it’s a fun karaoke song to sing with another person!

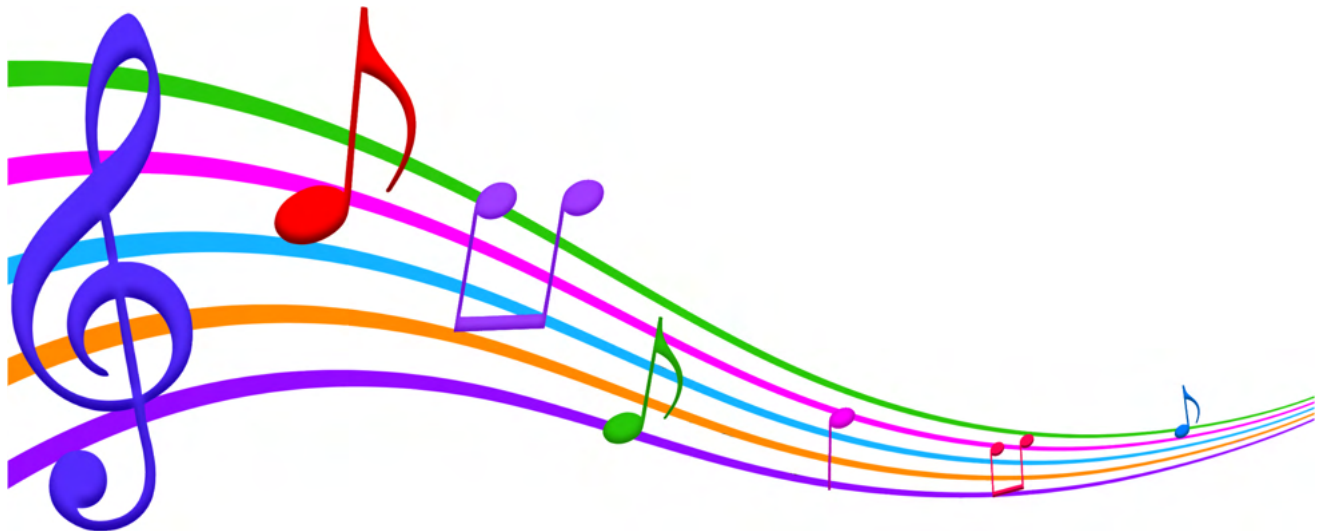
NOBODY wants to hear me sing karaoke but if I absolutely had to it would be Piano Man by Billy Joel. I love the song and usually by half way through the rest of the place is singing along so I would not stand out!

American Soldier. When I was deployed, this was the song that our battalion chose as our theme song. The song still holds a special place in my heart.

Any Shania Twain song! 90’s Country is always a jam.

I would probably pick “Girls Just Want To Have Fun” so that everyone would get the hint that I was just up there having fun and loving life in hopes that they would look past my tone-deaf off-key voice.

Don’t Stop Believin’



If you had to teach a class on one thing, what would you teach and why?

Work ethic - for the obvious reasons (LOL!).

My husband would probably say I think I could teach driving (LOL) but if I had to teach something I like to do, it'd be on how to plan a vacation!

An art class – All things DIY!

I would teach a class on how to be more kind and considerate to people.

Personal Finance. I've read so many books and listened to so many podcasts on the subject. It's a big passion of mine.

Cooking! I'm a great cook and would love to do a cooking class.

The fundamentals of softball. I played for 25 years until my hips made it impossible, but I absolutely love the sport!

History. I feel that too many people have lost sight of our history. However, history is important to avoid repeating mistakes in the future. It is important to know and understand your roots.

I would teach a cake decorating class. I have taught a few private individual lessons but never a class. I think it would be fun. I have been experimenting with cake decorating since 2010 and am 100% self-taught (well I do have to give most of the credit to YouTube. Lol). In 2010, the town I lived in all you could get was a sheet cake from the local grocery store. My 5-year-old son wanted Bowser's castle from Mario. My son had relapsed, and treatment was extremely hard on him this go around. So, by golly was I going to give my son what he wanted for his birthday!!! I took to YouTube and made my first tier cake. From there I became addicted. I found that I had this talent that I didn't even know existed!! I started experimenting and making 3D cakes!!! My husband surprised me with a cake decorating airbrush kit and I started experimenting with "painting" murals on cakes. The funny thing is I cannot draw or paint on paper AT ALL!!! It's so bad – I have tried. But put an airbrush in my hand and I can paint masterpieces. It really doesn't make any sense. Ha ha! I really enjoy it though. It's just a hobby of mine. Every cake is different and a new challenge. I love the feeling of pushing myself to the edge and when I accomplish it – oh man – what a wonderful feeling!!!!



Officers/Board of Directors' Reports

1st Vice President's Report

By Holly A. Radke, ACP



I hope everyone has been enjoying their summer thus far. I feel like it has been flying by! Soon school will be starting and honestly, I am just not ready for my kids to be another “grade” older just yet. My oldest will be a Junior and the thought of him being a Senior next year makes my anxiety go crazy. I am not ready for him to “leave the nest” yet. Ugh. Why can’t our kids stay little forever?

I’m so glad that we were able to hold the 2022 WDALA Spring Seminar this year both in-person and virtually again. We changed it up a little bit this year and held the seminar in Wiliston. Even though things did not pan out the way I was expecting last minute and my son getting life flighted out the night before the seminar, the show went on. I was thankful for the virtual option so I was able to “zoom” in here and there throughout the day as the hospital schedule would allow me. I am forever grateful for all the amazing WDALA members that jumped in with both feet first at the last minute and pulled it all off. I felt awful “abandoning” all of you, but family comes first!

If you were not able to make it to our Spring Seminar but still need some CLE credits you are in luck! The 2022 WDALA Fall Seminar is right around the corner! Mark your calendar for September 12-13. When I say you will not want to miss this seminar you better believe it. The ladies on the education committee have worked hard on securing some amazing speakers and I’m so excited to see their presentations! We have a great line up of professionals of attorneys, clerk of courts, judicial referee, and more. We will be learning about Adult Drug Court, Civil Litigation, Interrogations, Restraining Order Proceedings, Family Law Mediation, E-filing Tips, Bankruptcy, and much more!!! To say I am excited about this seminar might be a total understatement – I am ecstatic and can barely hold my excitement!!! We are offering the seminar both in-person and virtually so if you are unable to attend in-person there is the virtual option. We feel fortunate to be able to continue offering this to our members and just know that we are trying our very best to not only put on an amazing seminar for our members but to give you other options if you are unable to attend in-person so I hope you take advantage of this! Come show some love and support to these amazing ladies that have put in so much work to pull this seminar off for you.

1st Vice President's Report continued

Speaking of seminars – who was able to attend the NALA Conference? Unfortunately, I was not able to attend this year as we were in trial all week. I am sad that I missed it. I have attended the last couple of years and have always really enjoyed the NALA Conferences. I really hope it works with my schedule next year and I can attend the NALA Conference in-person! I would love to hear from some of you that attended and how your experience was.

In this profession, social networking is not only vital to our careers, but it is a good way to try to stay sane in the legal profession. Having a group of amazing legal professionals that you can lean on for support whenever needed is amazing. I am extremely grateful for my mentors! I strongly encourage anyone who hasn't been able to attend a WDALA seminar yet to take the plunge and attend our upcoming Fall Seminar. Do some networking, make some friends, relax, get your CLE's in, learn something new, and have fun!!!



Hoping to see all you amazing paralegals on September 12-13, 2022 at the Heritage Center in Bismarck! Be watching your inbox for information on the 2022 WDALA Fall Seminar and other new and exciting events coming soon from the education committee!

Hope to see everyone next month!



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

**ND Heritage Center
612 East Boulevard Ave.
Bismarck, ND**

Officers/Board of Directors' Reports continued

2nd Vice President's Report

By Kathy Johnson, CP



I hope everyone is enjoying their Summer! The beneficial rains sure did help our garden as we are now pickling cucumbers! I am thankful and grateful that we are not having such a HOT summer as the last two years. As I get older I cannot tolerate the heat like I used to! We will do our annual trip to the Medora Musical and that is about all the vacationing for us. My husband is an avid fishermen so it's hard to get him away from Lake Sakakawea. He has had tremendous success in catching fish so we will have our annual Fish Fry over Labor Day weekend. The family always looks forward to that!

As of this date, our membership stands at 41 members: 34 Active, 2 Associate Members and 5 Emeritus.

We did gain one new member – Bailee Vetter from Bismarck, ND. Welcome Bailee!

Attached to this Summons is the WDALA Renewal Membership form for 2022-2023. Please fill this out and get your membership renewals in by the end of August, 2022. If you have questions regarding the form, you can ask any board member and we can help you out.

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

A yellow rectangular sticky note is shown at an angle, pinned to a surface with three red pushpins. The word 'REMINDER:' is written in bold, black, underlined capital letters at the top of the note.

REMINDER:

WDALA's scholarship applications must be received by ReBecca Wohl, ACP (WDALA's NALA Liaison) no later than September 1, 2022.

Officers/Board of Directors' Reports continued

Treasurer's Report

By Anna Heinen



Hello again!! I hope everyone is enjoying their summer and soaking up the sun... remember, it will be winter before we know it! I recently attended the NALA Conference in Phoenix on behalf of WDALA. I met a lot of new people, networked with vendors, learned a lot from the presenters, experienced all of the NALA meetings, and even though it was HOT, I had some free time to enjoy the Arizona weather while floating on the lazy river!!

We are in full planning mode for the Fall seminar and I am looking forward to the list of presenters. Please mark your calendars for September 12th and 13th to join us in person at the ND Heritage Center in Bismarck. Keep an eye out for the brochure and registration coming soon. I have been with WDALA for over 3 years now and only met about half of the WDALA members so please, please consider attending. It is so nice to put a face to the name!!

Please let me know if you still have not received your WDALA t-shirt so I can get one out to you!

The treasurer balance for the Western Dakota Association of Legal Assistants as of July 20, 2022, is \$13,232.62.



WDALA's Regions

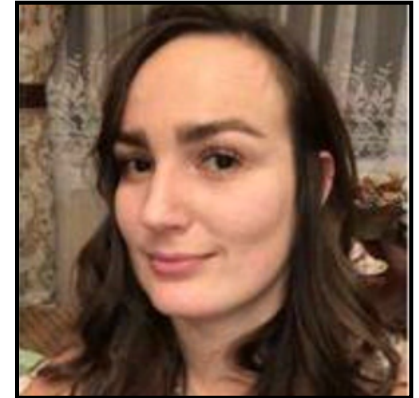
Officers/Board of Directors' Reports continued

Region I Report

By Holly A. Radke, ACP and Anna Oleksik, CP



The recruiting is starting to pay off. We are excited to announce that we have added two more members to Region I. Please help us welcome Angie Dietrich and Shari L. Erdman!! We are very excited for our little region to grow.



We will continue forward with recruiting. We have made goals and plan on crushing them! Region I does have a welcoming lunch in the works for our new members along with a recruiting luncheon to invite non-members to come see what we are all about.

Region III Report

By Ashley Miller, CP



Hello everyone! It has been an exciting few months here in Region III. We held our final luncheon, until the Fall, on May 10th. Region III hosted the annual Drug Court Picnic on June 7th at Sertoma Park. We had great attendance and perfect weather! It was as if the sun came out just for the picnic. Charlene, your pulled pork recipe is now a favorite weekday meal in my home!

The Governor also declared June 23, 2022, as Paralegal/Legal Assistants Day. A few of us met for our annual celebratory luncheon and well... we enjoyed our waters together and went back to work late and a little hangry.

On June 27th we had the awesome opportunity of having our pictures taken with Attorney General Drew Wrigley and Lieutenant Governor Brent Sanford. I appreciated how both of them took the time out of their busy schedules to visit with us and ask questions about our organization. Thank you, Region III, for all your hard work in making these experiences happen!

Region III Volunteer Projects

By Laurie Guenther, ACP and Melissa Klimpel, ACP

Region III hosted its 11th Annual Picnic for Drug Court on June 7th at Sertoma Park in Bismarck. Around 65 people attended the picnic which included the Drug Court participants and their families, the Drug Court staff (including Justice Gerald VandeWalle and Judge Feland), and Region III WDALA members.

Thank you to the following who donated money, food, time, and amusement park bracelets:

- Shannon Barth
- Richard Fleckenstein of Super Slide Amusement Park and Mini-Golf
- Melissa Hamilton, ACP
- Anna Heinen
- Alice Johnson, ACP and Lee Johnson
- Kathy Johnson, CP
- Judge Carol Ronning Kapsner
- Samantha Lachenmeier
- Ashley Miller, CP
- Vicki Kunz, ACP
- Candy Schafer, CP
- Wheeler Wolf Law Firm
- Becka Wohl, ACP



Alice Johnson, ACP; Becka Wohl, ACP; Ashley Miller, CP; Anna Heinen; Candy Schafer, CP; Melissa Klimpel, ACP; and Laurie Guenther, ACP

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



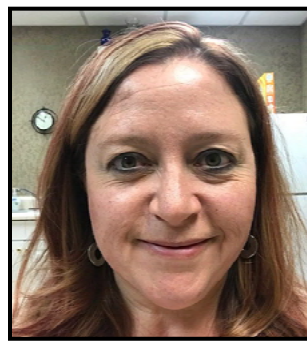
NALA Liaison
ReBecka Wohl, ACP



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

Notice of Annual Meeting and Slate of Officers

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Western Dakota Association of Legal Assistants will be held at the ND Heritage Center in Bismarck, North Dakota, on Tuesday, September 13, 2022 at 11:00 a.m.

The purpose of the meeting is to elect officers, hear reports of officers and committee chairs, adopt a budget for the ensuing year, and hear other business which may come before the membership.

SLATE OF OFFICERS

Pursuant to Article XII of the Bylaws of the Western Dakota Association of Legal Assistants, a slate of officers shall be presented to the membership thirty days prior to election.

The following individuals have consented to have their names placed on the ballot for election of officers at the Annual Meeting of the Western Dakota Association of Legal Assistants on September 13, 2022, at Bismarck, North Dakota.

President	Anna Heinen
1 st Vice President	Holly Radke, ACP
2 nd Vice President	Kathy Johnson, ACP
Secretary	ReBecka Wohl, ACP
Treasurer	unfilled/require floor nominations or volunteer
NALA Liaison	Ashley Miller, CP

Nominations from the floor shall be accepted and election shall be by majority vote of the members present, either in person or by individual proxy. The term of service shall be one year or until their successors have been elected or appointed and qualified.

** WDALA is still in need of a Treasurer. Pleaser consider stepping in, getting involved with your organization, and taking on this position.*

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



FOLLOW WDALA ON FACEBOOK:

WDALA (Western Dakota
Association of Legal Assistants)

AUGUST 2022


SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 Homemade Pie Day	2 National Night Out	3 National Watermelon Day	4 National Chocolate Chip Cookie Day	5 Blogger Day	6 National Root Beer Float Day
7 National Sisters Day	8 National Pickleball Day	9 Dianne Taix, ACP 	10 National S'mores Day	11 Hip Hop Day	12 National Middle Child Day	13 Garage Sale Day
14 Melon Day	15 National Jean Day	16 National Tell a Joke Day	17 National Nonprofit Day	18 National Ice Cream Pie Day	19 Darcy Ackerman, CP 	20 National Chocolate Pecan Pie Day
21 National Senior Citizens Day	22 National Heroes' Day	23 National Sponge Cake Day	24 National Waffle Day	25 National Burger Day	26 National Dog Day	27 Tami Hulm, ACP 
28 National Bow Tie Day	29 National Sports Day	30 National Beach Day	31 Eat Outside Day			

SEPTEMBER 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 Deadline to apply for WDALA's Scholarship	2 National Food Bank Day	3 International Bacon Day
4 Candy Schafer, CP 	5 Labor Day	6 National Read a Book Day	7 Buy a Book Day	8 Are You Okay Day	9 National 401 (k) Day	10 Farmers' Consumer Awareness Day
11 Grandparents Day	12 WDALA's Fall Seminar	13 WDALA's Fall Seminar and Annual Meeting	14 National Coloring Day	15 National Cheese Toast Day	16 National Guacamole Day	17 International Country Music Day
18 National Cheeseburger Day	19 National Butterscotch Pudding Day	20 Jen Defoe, ACP 	21 Miniature Golf Day	22 American Business Women's Day	23 National Baker Day	24 National Hunting and Fishing Day
25 National Daughters Day	26 Family and Community Day	27 National No Excuses Day	28 National Women's Health and Fitness Day	29 Mary Sue Knutson, CP 	30 National Chewing Gum Day	

OCTOBER 2022

[OCTOBER 2022]

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 International Coffee Day
2 National Name Your Car Day	3 National Child Health Day	4 Kindness to Animal Day	5 National Be Nice Day	6 National Coaches Day	7 National Frappe Day	8 National Chess Day
9 National Beer and Pizza Day	10 Columbus Day	11 National Face Your Fears Day	12 Farmers Day	13 National M&M Day	14 National Dessert Day	15 National Motorcycle Ride Day
16 National Boss's Day	17 National Pasta Day	18 National Chocolate Cupcake Day	19 National New Friends Day	20 Conflict Resolution Day	21 Loud Shirt Day	22 Make a Difference Day
23 National Croc Day	24 National Food Day	25 National Mother-in-Law Day	26 National Day of the Deployed	27 Cranky Co-Workers Day	28 National Chocolate Day	29 Muddy Dog Day
30 National Checklist Day	31 					

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL AND DIRECTORY INFORMATION

September 2022 to September 2023

NAME: _____ HOME PHONE: _____

HOME ADDRESS: _____

FIRM NAME _____

FIRM ADDRESS: _____

OFFICE PHONE: _____ FAX NO: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____ DOB: Month _____ Day _____

AREAS OF EXPERTISE: _____

CLA ____ CP ____ ACP ____ Area of ACP _____

NALA Member: ____ Y ____ N

Current WDALA Membership Status: ____ Active ____ Associate ____ Sustaining ____ Student
____ Emeritus Status – Request Form attached

I will volunteer for the following Committees:

- ☐ Audit
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Ethics/Professional Development
- ☐ Historian
- ☐ Legal Assistant Day
- ☐ Library
- ☐ Nominations & Elections
- ☐ State Bar/NDTLA Liaison
- ☐ Student Liaison
- ☐ Public Relations

Please return this form with your check for annual dues made payable to WESTERN DAKOTA ASSOCIATION OF LEGAL ASSISTANTS. Renewals are due and payable by *September 1, 2022*. (Any dues not received by October 1st will require a \$10.00 reinstatement fee).

Active Member	--	\$50.00 (includes WDALA Directory)
Associate Member	--	\$45.00
Sustaining Member	--	\$45.00
Student Member	--	\$25.00

Send to: WDALA
PO Box 371
Bismarck, ND 58502-0371

All listings in the WDALA Directory will be with your office address unless otherwise specified.

****Students – Please Note****

If you are a student changing your membership status to Active, please submit either of the following along with your dues: 1) a transcript from your school; or 2) your attorney's signature on the attestation portion of the Membership Application.

WDALA EMERITUS STATUS REQUEST

For at least ten (10) years and within the last twelve (12) years prior to this request for “Emeritus” status, I was an active member of the Western Dakota Association of Legal Assistants. I no longer work as a paralegal/legal assistant and request “Emeritus” status based on the following circumstance:

_____ I am 55 years of age or older and am no longer employed as a paralegal/legal assistant.

_____ I am permanently disabled and no longer am employed as a paralegal/legal assistant.
I have attached medical proof of my disability for approval by the Board.

_____ I have submitted and been granted Emeritus status with the National Association of Legal Assistants (NALA). Proof is attached.

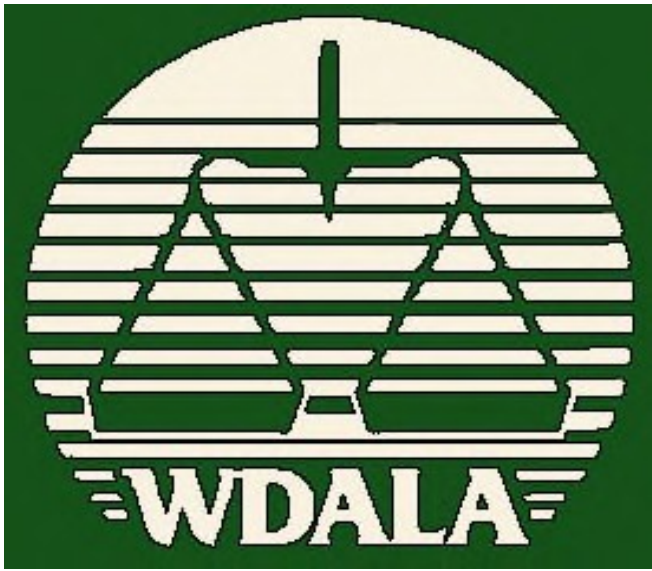
I understand if I return to employment as a paralegal/legal assistant I will no longer retain Emeritus status and will be required to meet the same requirements as all other active members by satisfying the requirements and submitting the current active membership application.

I understand I am not eligible to vote or hold office. I understand I am not required to pay dues as an Emeritus member. I understand I may participate in committee work, continue to receive the association newsletter and attend educational seminars at the same cost as an active member.

Dated: _____

(Signature)

(Printed Name)



Western Dakota Association of Legal Assistants

P.O. Box 371,
Bismarck, ND 58502-0371

Fall Seminar

September 12 & 13, 2022

North Dakota Heritage Center, 612 East Boulevard Avenue, Bismarck, ND 58505
Lecture Rooms A & B

About Us: The Western Dakota Association of Legal Assistants (WDALA) is a non-profit corporation formed in western North Dakota in 1984 in response to a need for educational programs for legal assistants/paralegals in the area. The Association encourages legal assistants/paralegals to commit themselves to professional development and continuing education through membership in WDALA. The primary goals of WDALA are continuing education, networking and recognition in the legal field. WDALA membership consists of legal assistants/paralegals and students from 29 counties in the western half of North Dakota.



WDALA affiliated with the National Association of Legal Assistants, Inc. (NALA), in June 1985. The national organization offers its affiliates resources and experience and assists them in their efforts to enhance the professional development of their members. While some states have approved guidelines for legal assistants/paralegals, NALA has developed a certification program on the basis of a comprehensive substantive examination. Those who succeed in passing this examination are designated as Certified Legal Assistants and Certified Paralegals.

Monday, Sept. 12

9:00 – 9:20	Registration Breakfast / Refreshments
9:20 – 9:30	Welcome Opening Remarks
9:30 – 11:30	CLE – Adult Drug Court - Natasha Nagel
11:30 – 12:30	Lunch (on your own)
12:30 – 2:00	CLE – The Nuts and Bolts of Civil Litigation - Attorney Brian Schmidt
2:00 – 2:15	Break / Refreshments
2:15 – 3:45	CLE – Interrogations: The dos and Dont's - Attorney Lloyd Suhr
3:45 – 4:45	CLE – Protection Orders from a Judicial Perspective – Judicial Referee Jason Hammes
5:00	Closing Announcements

This seminar meets the requirements of the NALA Certifying Board for Paralegals for continuing legal education (CLE) credit required to maintain the CP (Certified Paralegal) credential and application has been made for **9.5 total hours of CLE credit** (7.0 Substantive, 1.0 Ethics, and 1.5 Non Substantive).

SBAND has approved **10.0 ND CLE credits**. Event #20200912WDALA.

Tuesday, Sept. 13

9:00 – 9:15	Registration Breakfast / Refreshments
9:15 – 10:45	CLE – Family Law Mediation 101 –Attorney Stacy Moldenhauer
10:45 – 11:00	Break
11:00 – 12:30	2022 WDALA Annual Meeting
12:30 – 1:30	Lunch (provided) CLE – Taking Over as Attorney General - Attorney General Drew Wrigley
1:30 – 2:30	CLE – E-filing Tips - Clerks of Court Jackie Keller & Lois Scharnhorst
2:30 - 2:45	Break / Refreshments
2:45 – 3:45	CLE – Bankruptcy Basics – Attorney Chad Anderson
4:00	Closing Remarks Transfer Office Information

Location & Registration Information:

North Dakota Heritage Center
Lecture Rooms A and B
612 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505
(See attached map)

Parking

Parking is available in the parking lot on the east side of the building. Bus/RV parking is available on the south side of the lot. Enter the ND Heritage Center through the Northern Lights Atrium.

Registration

Please complete the attached registration form and send with your registration fee.

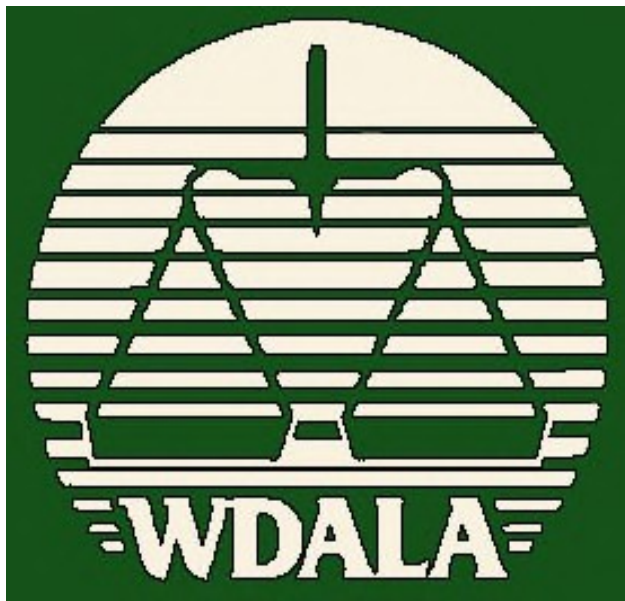
***Please note registration fees increase on the first day of the seminar.**

Cancellations must be received by September 1, 2022 to receive a full refund of the registration fee.

Contact Us:

Anna Heinen
WDALA Treasurer
P.O. Box 371
Bismarck, ND 58502-0371
aheinen@smithporsborg.com

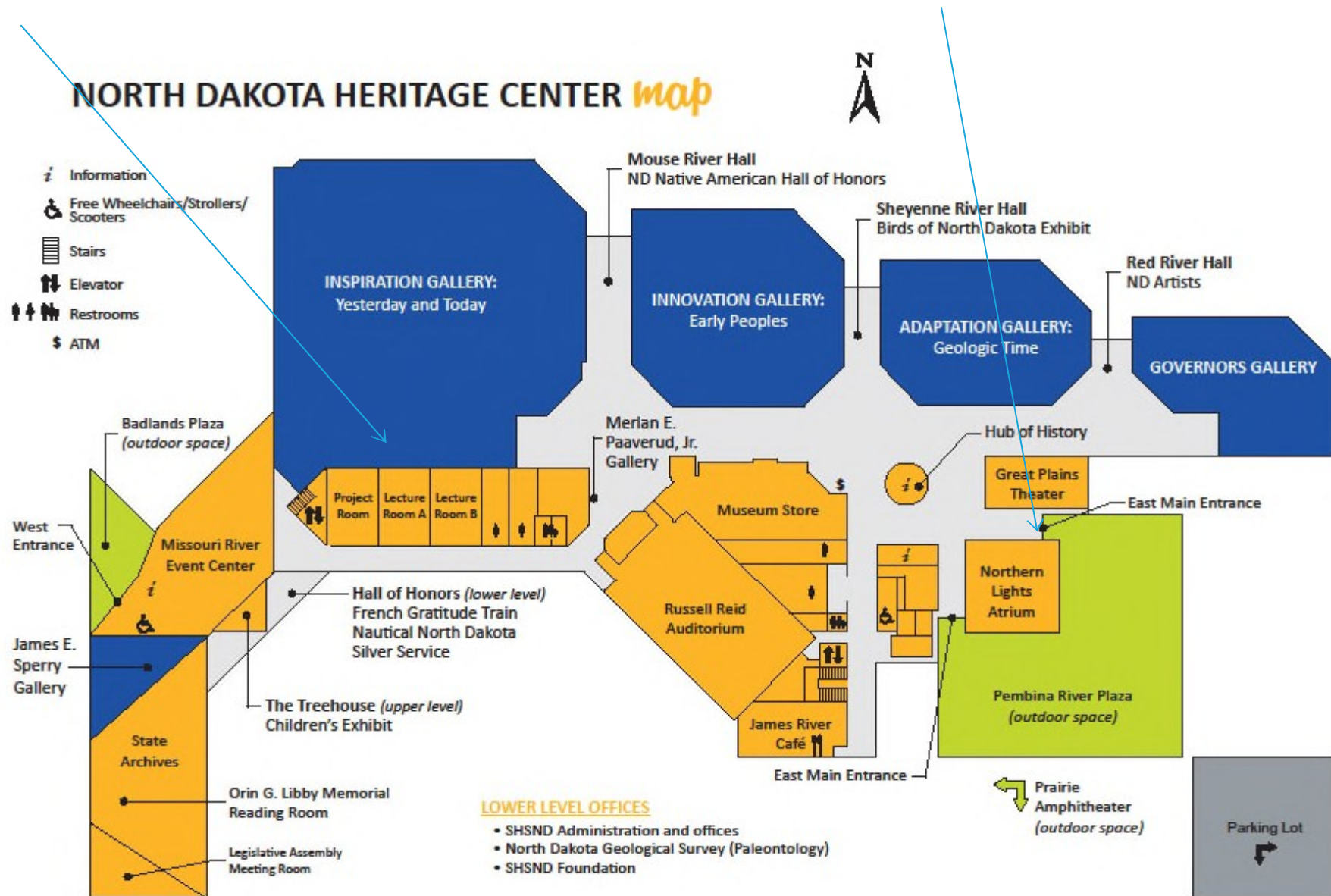
Visit us on the Web: www.wdala.org



HAS BEEN



WDLA will be meeting in Lecture Room A and Lecture Room B (The rooms will be opened into one room).



REGISTRATION FORM

WDALA FALL SEMINAR
September 12 & 13, 2022

North Dakota Heritage Center
612 East Boulevard Ave.
Bismarck, ND 58503

NALA CLE: This seminar meets the requirements of the NALA Certifying Board for Paralegals for continuing legal education (CLE) credit required to maintain the CP (Certified Paralegal) credential and has been applied for **9.5 hours of CLE credits** (7.0 Substantive, 1.0 Ethics, and 1.5 Non Substantive).

SBAND CLE: SBAND has approved **10.0 ND CLE credits** – Event #20220912WDALA.

ROOMS: We did not reserve a block of rooms and do not have a reserved rate. Close hotels: Hampton Inn & Suites 701.751.5656; Ramada 701.258.7000; La Quinta Inn & Suites 701.751.3313.

REGISTRATION

Name: _____ Firm/School/Other: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email Address (required): _____

Check one: Attending in Person _____ or Attending Virtually _____

Contact Telephone Number: _____ NALA-Affiliated Association: _____

Registration Fees, if registered BEFORE 9/1/2022:	Registration Fees, if registered ON OR AFTER 9/1/2022:
<u>STUDENTS:</u> _____ \$50.00 – Full Seminar	<u>STUDENTS:</u> _____ \$60.00 – Full Seminar
<u>NALA MEMBER/NALA AFFILIATE:</u> _____ \$115.00 – Full Seminar	<u>NALA MEMBER/NALA AFFILIATE:</u> _____ \$125.00 – Full Seminar
<u>WDALA/RRVPA MEMBERS:</u> _____ \$110.00 – Full Seminar	<u>WDALA/RRVPA MEMBERS:</u> _____ \$120.00 – Full Seminar
<u>NON-MEMBERS:</u> _____ \$140.00 – Full Seminar	<u>NON-MEMBERS:</u> _____ \$150.00 – Full Seminar
<u>1 ATTORNEY/1 SUPPORT STAFF TEAM:</u> _____ \$165.00 – Full Seminar	<u>1 ATTORNEY/1 SUPPORT STAFF TEAM:</u> _____ \$175.00 – Full Seminar
<u>ATTORNEY:</u> _____ \$140.00 – Full Seminar	<u>ATTORNEY:</u> _____ \$150.00 – Full Seminar
I AM NOT ABLE TO ATTEND THE SEMINAR, BUT WILL BE THERE FOR LUNCH ON 9/13/2022: _____ \$ 15.00	I AM NOT ABLE TO ATTEND THE SEMINAR, BUT WILL BE THERE FOR LUNCH ON 9/13/2022: _____ \$ 20.00

9/13/2022 Lunch is included in your registration fee, but we would still like to know if you will be attending. We encourage everyone to attend.

Will attend _____

Will not attend _____

Return Registration to:

Anna Heinen, WDALA Treasurer, P.O. Box 371, Bismarck, ND 58502-0371

If you have any questions about registering, please feel free to contact Holly at holly@kalillawfirm.com or 701.572.0395.

Powerpoints and Handouts for all sessions will be emailed to attendees.

Please register for the seminar as soon as possible to ensure availability of course materials. Your registration fee includes the seminar refreshments and Tuesday's lunch.

VIRTUAL ATTENDEES: The Seminar will be held via Zoom. The Zoom link will be sent out the week before the seminar to the email address provided on the registration form. Any handouts received from the speakers will be sent to the same email address.

Cancellations must be received before
September 1, 2022 to receive a
full refund of the registration fee.