

# DE DIE IN DIEM

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTERN MONTANA BAR ASSOCIATION

MAY 2015

*President's Message by David Steele:*

## ***So Long and Thanks for All the Fish***

**W**ell, I've safely arrived at the end of my presidency, and not really any worse for wear. As I mentioned in my first President's Message, I've been surrounded by wonderful colleagues over the past year. And as I predicted, it was difficult to screw up, despite myself. Together we made some great gains this past year. Among other accomplishments, this year the WMBA developed a new website, and we are closer to becoming a paperless organization. Members can now electronically RSVP for the monthly luncheons and other CLE's, and are able to directly email specific WMBA officers. In the coming months and years, we hope to provide a method allowing members to pay annual dues, and to provide other useful information links and portals.

On the topic of our monthly luncheons, I would encourage you all to attend. A large portion of our monthly luncheons qualified for CLE credit this year, and remain by far the most inexpensive CLE credits available. Aside from excellent speakers and cheap CLE credit, the WMBA's luncheons draw a good turnout, and provide an exceptional opportunity to get to know your colleagues. After serving in this position over the last year, and having had the opportunity to meet a great many local attorneys at the WMBA's events, I remain con-

vinced our local bar may be the most professional and collegial legal community in the state.

This year I also discovered, while attending a local bar leadership conference in Helena, that the WMBA has

one of the most effective and well-run pro bono programs in the state. The WMBA's pro bono committee continues to do exemplary and much-needed work for our local bar, and for the citizens of Western Montana.

Overall, it was a productive and entertaining year. I have greatly enjoyed the honor and opportunity to serve as the WMBA's president, and I thank each of you for your trust and support. Your local Bar Association will



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be in good hands as incoming president Travis Dye (Kalkstein, Johnson & Dye, P.C.) takes the helm. I wish him the best of luck and look forward to his leadership. And although my term has ended, I still look forward to joining you at the next WMBA event. Until then,

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## EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**Join the WMBA on  
Thursday, May 21, 2015, for the last  
luncheon of the 2014-2015 year.**

**Paul Kirgis, the Incoming Dean of the University of Montana School of Law, will speak on the status of legal education in 2015, including a discussion about admissions, employment opportunities, and the challenges facing law schools in the present economic climate.**

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

**WMBA luncheons are the Third Thursday of each month at 12:00 noon in the Florence Building. \$15 for WMBA members; \$20 for non-members.**

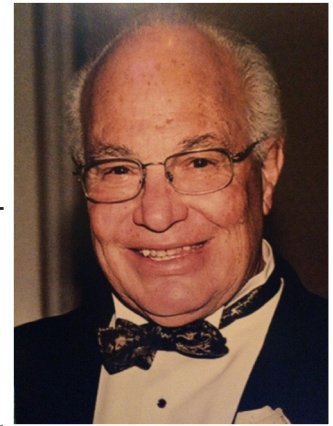
### **ANNOUNCEMENTS, QUESTIONS, ADVERTISING INQUIRIES:**

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

# ANNOUNCEMENTS CONT'D

## *Remembering Jerry Ramsey by Greg Munro*

Los Angeles trial lawyer, Jerry Ramsey recently died at his home in LA from complications of Alzheimer's Disease. Jerry was a well-known figure in the Montana trial bar and at UM School of Law where, for almost a decade, he voluntarily appeared in Professor Greg Munro's Insurance classes and Trial Advocacy classes on Fridays. During that period, Jerry and his family maintained a home in Missoula while Jerry continued to handle trials, take part in mediations, and serve as an insurance expert in California. Jerry also taught Product Liability for a period at UMSL. Jerry received his JD from the School of Law at UCLA and was a career civil trial lawyer credited with over 200 jury trials. He was Past President of the Los Angeles Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocacy, the largest ABOTA Chapter in the world. Jerry, who was an exceptionally congenial and charismatic personality, acted as an insurance expert in many cases in Montana and counseled with Montana lawyers about their claims and litigation. He was a partner in the LA firm of Engstrom, Lipscomb & Lack which specializes in complex and class action claims against insurance companies. Jerry was close friends with a large circle of nationally renowned trial lawyers in LA and was instrumental in bringing Walter Lack, Tom Girardi, Ned Good and Donna Melby (Past President of AAJ) to the UM Law School and to the MTLA Convention as speakers.



*The Self-Help Law Center in Missoula is now offering an opportunity for attorneys to advertise their services by displaying their business cards at the Center. Advertising Attorneys may only use the display to advertise for the following types of legal services: sliding scale/modest means rates; limited scope representation; and/or, pro bono representation. This is a great opportunity for you to help our local citizens who need legal representation, but who cannot afford to pay the full amount charged by most attorneys. This is also a great opportunity for you to advertise your services for free. Please email the Missoula Self-Help Law Center with questions or for more information. missoulaselfhelp@gmail.com. Thank you for your service.*

### **Worden Thane P.C. Welcomes Ross Keogh to the Team**

The firm of Worden Thane P.C. is pleased to announce that Ross Keogh has joined the firm as a new associate.

Ross' practice focuses on issues of corporate formation, natural resources, business planning and succession, and tax law.



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