

January 2016

# DE DIE IN DIEM

The Newsletter of the Western Montana Bar Association



**Don't Miss — WMBA  
Monthly Luncheon—  
Thursday, January 21!**

Christopher Carraway:

Everything you  
need to know  
about IP law  
through football

1 CLE credit approved

**Please RSVP (By 1/19  
at 5:00 p.m.):**

[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.

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## President's Message from Travis Dye:

I was planning to make this month's President's Message about the New Year, resolutions, and all that jazz. But then I got word that John Maynard died unexpectedly at the age of 64. John was not a member of the WMBA. He spent his career practicing in Helena, for the last many years with Crowley Fleck handling mostly medical malpractice defense. I didn't know John nearly as well as any number of other people, but word of his death still hit close to home. John was the lawyer, and person, we should all strive to be - smart, witty, kind, and always a gentleman. Even though our firms regularly represented clients in the same cases, I didn't work directly with John all that often. Nevertheless, he was always kind, thoughtful, and treated me with the utmost respect. Just as he treated everyone else.

A great example of the type of person John was happened the last time I saw him, about two weeks before Christmas. I was returning from depositions in Great Falls that ended later than I would have liked. The weather on this side of the divide was bad and forecast to get worse, so I decided to drive through Helena and stay the night rather than risk the drive through Lincoln. I was standing in an incredibly long line at Taco del Sol waiting to order dinner when I saw John several people ahead of me. We waved to one another and exchanged pleasantries. A few minutes later, after John had ordered and I continued to wait, he came up to me and invited me to sit with him, his wife Marcia, and his son Jackson. I joked that they would probably be done eating long before I got through the line, which turned out to be close to true. After I had finally ordered, I joined John, Marcia, and Jackson and had a wonderful time. Though they were nearly finished eating by the time I sat down, John, Marcia, and Jackson stayed and visited with me while I ate. I am used to eating by myself when I travel, so a table for one doesn't bother me. But it was great on that cold December day to see a familiar face and have a nice visit with a very nice family. And this perfectly embodies the person John was. He easily could have left our interaction at, "Hello. Good to see you. What brings you to town?" He was with his family, after all, and I certainly didn't expect to be asked to join. But he was always gracious, always a gentleman.

Anytime someone we know dies, it leads to reflection. We are all short-timers on this planet. No one knows if this day might be his or her last. And yet, as lawyers, we too often get caught up in the day-to-day grind of work at the expense of family, friends, and free time. We have a brief due, so we skip the kids' concert. We have a deposition, a hearing or a trial to prepare for, so we pass on dinner with

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## President's Message

(cont.)

friends or that ski day we've been talking about. We need to bill more hours, so we stay at the office late and come in on weekends. We'll make sure to do those other things next time.

But what if there is no next time? What if the concert you missed, the dinner you skipped, or the ski day you passed up was the last chance you will get to do those things? If we could see into the future and knew this would be the last chance, no doubt we would prioritize differently. But we don't know, so we assume we will have plenty of other opportunities to do the things we're allowing to fall by the wayside.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not suggesting we all close up shop, sell all our things and travel the world – as appealing as that may sound at times. Nor am I suggesting that we ignore work obligations every time there's something else we'd rather be doing. But there needs to be a healthy balance. Work is important, but so is family. So are friends. And free time. And our health.

Someone who wasn't me once said that nobody sits on their deathbed wishing they had spent more time at work. As this New Year rolls forward, I urge you to do those things you've been putting off. Take that trip you've been talking about. Take time to watch your kids' concerts, recitals and games. Better yet, help coach their teams. Say yes when your friends ask you to dinner. Or invite them over. And if you run into a lawyer at a restaurant who's passing through town, invite him or her to join you. Just like John.

Travis Dye is a partner at Kalkstein, Johnson & Dye. Outside of work, he enjoys playing soccer, hiking, biking and hanging out with his family. He's pictured with his son Ciaran ready to cheer for the Montana Grizzlies.

## Pro Bono Program Update:

### Important Stats:

- WMBA Pro Bono Program placed 2 mediation referrals, 1 GAL referral, and 2 full representation referrals in the past month.
- There are 14 clients waiting for services.
- We served 10 clients at our November Clinic.
- There are 61 working and open cases placed with a pro bono attorney.
- This month, 40 cases were closed.

**The next Pro Bono Clinic will be on January 20, and it is full. Congratulations to Bob Sullivan and Ruth Hammill** who win a special thank you gift from the Pro Bono Committee for closing a pro bono case in October and November.

**Thank you** for your continued support volunteering your time and talents to serve your community. Please call Alex at (406) 240-3548 to volunteer!

**WMBA Pro Bono Program Client Spotlight:**

“Carrie” needs help filing an unlawful eviction complaint against a former landlord.

Carrie rented a room from a studio apartment for about a year and stopped paying rent when the landlord refused to fix a heater that had started on fire. The landlord served Carrie with invalid lease termination notices lacking dates or any notification to fix the lease violation. In November, the landlord locked out Carrie from her residence without a Court Order.

Carrie lives off of Social Security Disability and an award for damages for an unlawful eviction would greatly benefit her well-being.

Please call Alex at (406) 240-3548 to volunteer!

**Upcoming WMBA  
Family Law Pro Bono  
Clinics:**

January 20, 2016

February 17, 2016

March 16, 2016

If you want to volunteer, please contact Alex Clark at [coordinator.wmba.pro.bono@gmail.com](mailto:coordinator.wmba.pro.bono@gmail.com) or 543-8343, ext. 220

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- **JANUARY LUNCHEON:  
CHRISTOPHER CARRAWAY,  
EVERYTHING YOU NEED  
TO KNOW ABOUT IP LAW  
THROUGH FOOTBALL**
- **FEBRUARY LUNCHEON:  
BETH BRENNAN, MONTANA  
SUPREME COURT CASE  
UPDATE**

Check out the WMBA's  
new website:

[www.westernmtbar.com](http://www.westernmtbar.com)

**Announcements, questions, advertising inquiries:**

De Diem In Diem is published monthly by the Western Montana Bar Association. It is designed and edited by the WMBA Secretary, in conjunction with the WMBA Board. For announcements, questions and advertising inquiries, contact Beth Hayes, 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.

