

November 2015

DE DIE IN DIEM

The Newsletter of the Western Montana Bar Association



President's Message from Travis Dye:

As I wrote last month's President's Message, I was basking in the early autumn sun wearing shorts and a short-sleeve shirt. Just a month later, winter is in the air, there is snow on the mountain tops, and the holiday season is rapidly approaching. Once we step into November, the days seem to rush by as we steamroll to Thanksgiving and then on to Christmas and the New Year. There are many things to do and, yet, the time to do them flies by. In another context we might say we have a long way to go and a short time to get there.

Since Thanksgiving is the first holiday on the docket, I'd like to reflect on some things for which we can all be thankful. First, we get to live in Western Montana. Whether you're in Missoula, Hamilton, or Superior or anywhere in between, we are fortunate to live in such a beautiful place where the women are strong, the men are good looking, and all the children are above average. Wait, that's somewhere else! But, seriously, we are fortunate to live in a place where commutes are measured in minutes rather than hours, "crowds" are small, and there are abundant opportunities to enjoy the beauty and solitude that Western Montana has to offer. We can also be thankful that we have such a collegial bar, both locally and statewide. Practicing law is a stressful profession on the best days. In many places, that stress is amplified by the gamesmanship, invective, and plain old jackassery that accompanies a win-at-all-costs attitude that comes out when lawyers know there is a good chance they will never see opposing counsel – or the judge – on another case. Here, we tend to recognize that the world is small and round and poor behavior will quickly lead to a poor reputation among fellow attorneys and judges. While there are always exceptions, we know we can pick up the phone and discuss issues rather than yell at one another and we don't have to worry about games of gotcha. Heck, some judges even ask that we call them by their first names – outside of the courtroom, of course!

To round out the gratitude, we on the WMBA Board are thankful for many things. We are thankful to those of you who have joined or renewed your WMBA membership for 2015-2016. If you haven't sent in your dues, there's still time! We are also thankful to everyone, past and present, who has taken time to speak at our monthly luncheons and our spring CLE. Finally, we are thankful for those who attend the luncheons and hope to see many more of you in the future.

Don't Miss — WMBA Monthly Luncheon— Thursday, November 19!

Melissa Hartigan presents:

Upcoming Changes to
the Federal Rules of
Civil Procedure

1 CLE credit approved

Please RSVP (By 11/17
at 5:00 p.m.):

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

(cont.)

And now it's time for what I hope is a one-time pitch. As many before me have said, one of the reasons Montana has such a collegial bar is we know one another. One of the reasons we know one another is we interact with each other outside of the case setting. We had 27 people attend the October luncheon, which is about the number we have averaged over the past several years. But I think we can do better than that. I would really like to at least double that number, which should be easy to do. The monthly luncheons are a great way to meet new attorneys, catch up with ones you've known for a while, and get to know everyone a little better. So I invite you – nay, I challenge you! – to attend the next luncheon, which will be on Thursday, November 19. Melissa Hartigan will speak about some fairly significant changes to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. So, for just \$15.00 (\$20.00 for non-members), you will get a good lunch, a CLE credit, and some good pre-CLE conversation. This might just be the best deal around.

I hope to see you on November 19. Beyond that, whether you are traveling or staying home, have a wonderful and safe Thanksgiving.

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 4 mediation referrals and 2 full rep referrals in the past month.
- There are 16 clients waiting for services, including 2 GAL and 2 mediation referrals.
- There are 79 working and open cases placed with a pro bono attorney.
- At least one case has been closed this month, and we expect more once we have caught up with our attorney updates.

The next Pro Bono Clinic will be on Nov 18, and it is full. We are trying a "test run" where we will have 3Ls interview a client and create a fact sheet, give that to a volunteer attorney, and then observe the advice that the attorney gives based on the fact sheet.

Current client waiting placement with a pro bono attorney:

"The WMBA pro Bono Program is hoping to place a referral for a low income Montanan in Ravalli Co. in a dissolution and parenting plan dispute. "Sally" is a disabled mother trying to make ends meet and do what is best for her children. Sally hopes to move on with her life after an abusive relationship and relocate to where she will be able to enjoy greater family support and go back to school. Professor Cynthia Ford advised Sally at a Free Family Law Advice Clinic and strongly recommends her for a full rep pro bono referral."

WMBA Holiday Party

Please join the Western Montana Bar Association at the Annual Holiday Party.

**THURSDAY,
DECEMBER 3RD!**

5:00 — 8:00 p.m.

Garlington, Lohn & Robinson,
PLLP

Big Sky Room (6th Floor)

Join the WMBA for hor d'oeuvres,
beverages, and celebrate a beautiful
winter night in Missoula with your
colleagues!

Check out the WMBA's
new website:

www.westernmtbar.com

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

November 18, 2015

December 16, 2015

January 20, 2016

If you want to volunteer, please contact Alex Clark at 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**

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. 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.