

May 2016

# DE DIE IN DIEM

The Newsletter of the Western Montana Bar Association



**Don't Miss — Monthly Luncheon—Thursday, May 19!**

## Perspective from the Federal Bench

With the Honorable Dana Christensen

1 CLE credit approved

WMBA Luncheons are the Third Thursday of each month at 12:00 p.m. in the Florence Building. \$15 for WMBA members, \$20 for non-members.

Please RSVP by Tuesday, 5/17 at 5:00 p.m.

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## President's Message from Travis Dye:

It's May, which means my term as President of the WMBA is rapidly winding down. Since this is the last newsletter before we go on hiatus for the summer – and my last President's Message - it's a good time to reflect on the past year and let you know where things are heading. One of the goals of the WMBA is to foster camaraderie and collegiality in our profession. The primary way we try to accomplish this is by hosting monthly luncheons which give attorneys a chance to get to know their colleagues outside an office setting. Over the last several years, we have averaged around 25 attendees per luncheon. Considering there are upwards of 800 active and inactive members of the State Bar in our membership area, we, as a board, decided we could do better. To do this, we tried to make sure we had interesting speakers and that all luncheons included CLE credit. There was also a little badgering involved! But it seems to have worked, as our attendance steadily increased from around 35 people at our first luncheon in October to nearly 70 people in March. We'll have one more chance to continue the trend with our last luncheon of this term, which is Thursday, May 19. Our speaker will be Judge Dana Christensen, the Chief Judge of the District of Montana.

For those who have attended all of our luncheons (including the one this week), you're out 90 bucks, but you have 5.75 CLE credits in your pocket and six lunches in your belly. A fair trade, if you ask me.

Unfortunately, there were many things that I was hoping to accomplish that are still in the works. We are a nine-member, volunteer board who all have busy practices and busy lives, so it takes longer to go from idea to implementation to completion. I felt this every month when it was time to write the President's Message, which, I'll admit, was often delayed. The idea was always there, but getting it done, well, that was more difficult. I was also hoping to work with our local judges on ideas for more out-of-the-courtroom interaction between judges and attorneys, an idea that came out of a lunch in September with Shane Vannatta. I was also hoping to work on improving interaction with our attorney-members in Ravalli County. But then there were luncheons, speakers, President's Messages, work, family.....and now it's May. The positive side of this is there will be plenty of work for the board to accomplish during the next term!

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**President's Message****(cont.)**

Speaking of the board, with the last luncheon comes our annual election. On the ballot will be two director's positions, Treasurer, Secretary, and Vice President/President-Elect. The board has nominated David Steele and Meri Althaus for the two director's positions. David, our Immediate Past President, was nominated for the position currently held by Katie Ranta. Katie moved to Great Falls in August, but continued to do great work for the WMBA during the remainder of her term. Meri was appointed last summer to complete Beth Hayes' term after Beth was elected Secretary. David and Meri have both indicated they would like to continue their work on the board. Phil "Shad" Shadwick, Beth Hayes, and Carey Schmidt have been nominated for the positions of Vice President/President-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer, respectively. Ballots will be available at the luncheon and, following our bylaws, write-in candidates will be accepted.

In closing, I want to thank the board members for all of their hard work over the past year, as well as everyone who has attended our luncheons or dropped me a line to comment about a speaker or one of my messages. I have truly enjoyed my time as President. I have had the opportunity to meet many new people and reconnect with others. And rest assured, the WMBA will be in great hands next year with incoming president Hannah Stone. She is already working on an excellent slate of programs for next term's luncheons. But I don't want to steal her thunder, so I'll leave it to her to fill you in on the details when she takes over the pen. And with that, Travis Dye, over and out.....

Travis Dye is a partner at Kalkstein, Johnson & Dye. Outside of work, he enjoys playing soccer, hiking, biking and hanging out with his family.

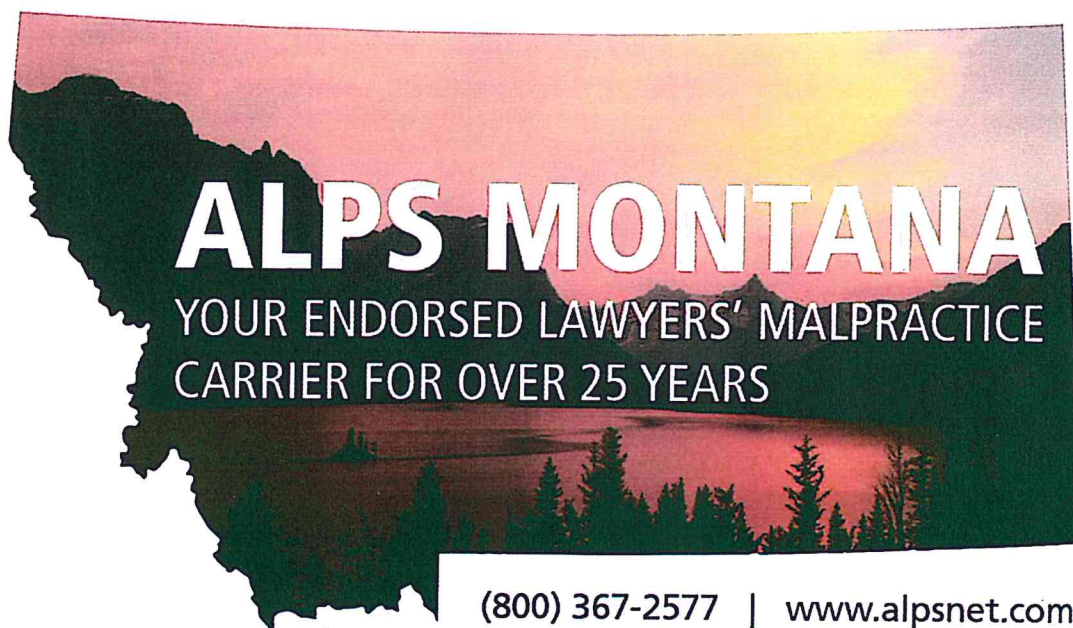
**Pro Bono Program Update:**

The WMBA Pro Bono Program is now accepting applications for officer positions on the committee. Please send a statement of interest to the coordinator at [coordinator.wmba.pro.bono@gmail.com](mailto:coordinator.wmba.pro.bono@gmail.com) if you are interested in serving.

We would like to thank the departing members for the time and energy they volunteered on the committee, and wish them the best of luck.

**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.



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