

September 2016

# DE DIE IN DIEM

The Newsletter of the Western Montana Bar Association



## President's Message from Hannah Stone:

It was one of those negotiations I knew wasn't going to end well. Things had started out alright, but over time communication began to deteriorate. Accusations were made. Concessions were ignored. And before long, threats were on my lips... And all I could think was "how did we get here?"

As lawyers, we have a duty to advocate for our clients, and to do so zealously. Truth be told, I have yet to meet an attorney who doesn't have a little bit of bulldog inside them. This is true whether we do transactions, criminal law or civil litigation. We fight for our client, and sometimes that requires us to take the gloves off. Yet as professionals, who all work and live in this community together, how do we balance our fighting nature with the civility that goes with being a member in our society?

**Don't Miss — WMBA  
Monthly Luncheon—  
Thursday, September 15!**

## Montana Supreme Court Candidate Forum

- Professor Kristen Juras
- State District Court Judge Sandefur

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, 9/13 at 5:00 p.m.

Being part of the Western Montana Bar Association creates comradery amongst our local attorneys. Whether at a luncheon, holiday party, or at the store, there are times you run into someone you have a case against, and no matter how contentious things may be in court, a greeting is always reciprocated. We see each other at Griz games, on the ski slopes, at our children's birthday parties or at the Kettlehouse. This interaction helps us remember that no matter the case, while we are advocates, we are also community members. And while that sharp response to an email may be tempting, for the most part we keep it civil, because who knows who we may sit next to at the next luncheon.

This year the WMBA is being served by an excellent board. Carey Schmidt continues to tackle the lawyers' nemesis, math, as our trusted Treasurer. Beth Hayes wrangles the newsletter amongst other essential feats as Secretary. Philip Shadwick steps into the role of Vice-President. Meri Althaus, Adam Shaw, Randy Tanner and David Steele round out our board of directors, and Katie Ranta remains helpful from afar in updating our website. If you haven't seen our website, take a moment to check it and see our slate of upcoming events: [www.westernmtbar.com](http://www.westernmtbar.com).

We kick-off our 2016-2017 year Thursday, September 15 at noon, with a Montana Supreme Court Candidate forum. Judge Dirk Sandefur and Professor Kristen Juras have graciously agreed to come speak and answer audience questions in their quest to join the court. I hope to see you there!

And about that that mediation... In the end, I had to put my foot down. Threats, coercion and bribes weren't working, so I had to rely on physical manpower: wearing underwear to school is non-negotiable.

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Hannah Stone has been an attorney with the Milodragovich, Dale and Steinbrenner law firm since 2010. Her civil litigation practice includes insurance defense, workers compensation and liquor liability. She and her husband, David Flores, keep busy trying to wear out their kiddos by biking, skiing, hiking and playing.



## Celebrating Judge Molloy's 20 years on the Bench

By guest author Dylan McFarland

For the past twenty years, the honorable Donald W. Molloy has held court in room 300 of the Russell Smith Courthouse. Throughout the duration of that time Judge Molloy has authored thousands of orders and opinions on a variety of complex legal issues and has forever put his mark on Montana law. In his time on the bench he has held the position of mentor and teacher, impressing the importance of the rule of law on attorneys and students alike.



On August 23, 2016, members of the Montana Bar and the extended Molloy family gathered together at the Russell Smith Courthouse to show their appreciation and to recognize Judge Molloy for the work he has performed over his twenty-year stint on the bench. Following remarks from family, friends, attorneys and judges, Chief Judge Dana L. Christensen issued standing Order No. DLC-26, renaming the court room the Donald W. Molloy Courtroom, in Judge Molloy's honor.

## Judge Christensen Awarded Distinguished Eagle Scout Award

The Honorable Dana L. Christensen has been awarded the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award. Judge Christensen received the award on August 11, 2016. The award is awarded to those who have spent 25 years investing their talents and life's work in mentoring others. The award was based on Judge Christensen's life work and his character. The Boy Scouts of America recognized his "living embodiment of the principles of the Scout Oath and Law, treating every individual with unfaltering dignity and respect regardless of their station in life." Those of us who practice in front of Judge Christensen know this truth. Judge Christensen has built a career as a formidable advocate and a fair judge. He is a dedicated conservationist, tireless volunteer and trusted public servant.

This award comes to only a few. Out of 2.4 million Eagle Scouts, less than 1,900 are awarded the Distinguished status.

We should all emulate Judge Christensen's character and public service. The Western Montana Bar Association congratulates Judge Christensen on this momentous achievement.





**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.

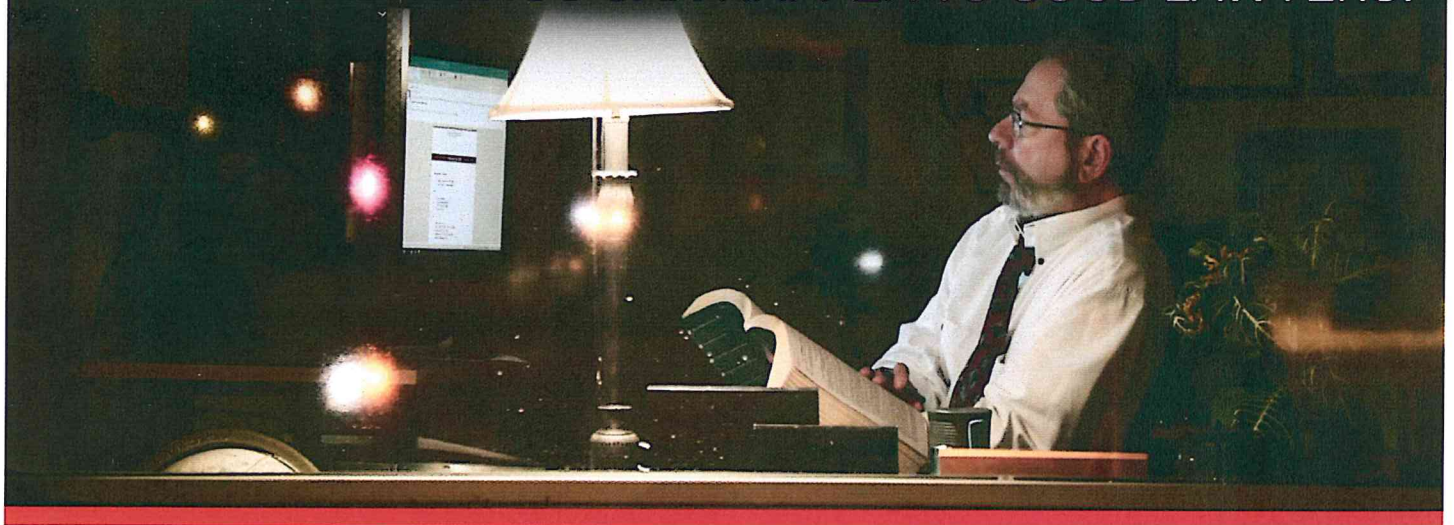
**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- **OCTOBER LUNCHEON, 10/20—LEGISLATIVE PREVIEW WITH NATE MCCONNELL, ELLIE HILL, KIM DUDIK, AND CYNTHIA WOLKEN**
- **NOVEMBER LUNCHEON, THURSDAY 11/17**

**Upcoming WMBA****Family Law Pro****Bono Clinics:****September 21, 2016****October 19, 2016****November 16, 2016**

If you want to volunteer, please contact Xela Warner at [coordinator.wmba.pro.bono@gmail.com](mailto:coordinator.wmba.pro.bono@gmail.com) or 543-8343, ext. 200

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# Western Montana Bar Association

## Membership Registration

### 2016-2017

The WMBA is now accepting applications and payment for the 2016-2017 membership year. The cost is \$25.00 per attorney for full membership in the WMBA from September 1, 2016 to August 31, 2017. Please complete the following form and return it to:

WMBA Treasurer  
P.O. Box 7451  
Missoula, MT 59807-7451

*(Please print or type:)*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$25.00

Firm: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Attorneys: *(for firm use – provide name and email address)*

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Please make your check payable to WMBA in the amount of: TOTAL \$     .00