

January 2017

DE DIE IN DIEM

The Newsletter of the Western Montana Bar Association



President's Message from Hannah Stone:

It's been cold. Not the two or three day cold snap below zero we usually see, but a long steady march of days bookended by hats, gloves, scarves and boots. One of those times when you curse the scarcity of garages in Missoula and daydream about remote starts.

When I moved back to Montana to attend law school, I had a romantic idea of what winter would bring, but was unprepared for the long stretches of icy white that consumes most of the winter months. In the last 10+ years I've witnessed all kinds of crazy (creative?) ways Montanans extend their outdoors time, from fat-tired bikes to cross-country skiing down the side streets at 6 am. Many folks still walk to work, even if the sidewalks have turned from concrete to treacherous skating ramps. I've personally learned that if you have kids (or small dogs) and want to walk to a neighbor's or the store, sleds are a necessity.

One of the winter activities I cherish in Missoula is the local outdoor ice rink at Pineview Park. While I was in law school, my husband would head out at 9 or 10 pm on "ice nights" after getting a text that it was cold enough to spend the next hour or two taking turns spraying water and making a rink for all to enjoy. Back then he may have been avoiding hearing me gripe over another con law essay, but even now it's become part of our winter routine. This may also explain why my son tries to convince me that shorts are "acceptable" attire. . .

Every year a dedicated group rallies to clean, maintain and prep the Pineview rink for a new generation of skaters, with no need for acknowledgment (except a guarantee that they get the ice every once in a while for a game). Some of the folks have been working on this community gem since the mid-1970s, and several are members of our local bar. The rink is free and open to all levels of ice skaters, and is yet another example of our community coming together to support the outdoors and each other, no matter the weather.

The upside of the freezing weather is finding yourself in a nice warm office with plenty of post-Christmas projects to keep you busy. And by "projects" I of course mean "work." The never ending train of briefs, Answers, supplements that were put aside or agreed to be extended until after the flurry of Christmas activity calmed have piled up just as the snow drifts outside have done.

Speaking of work loads, I hope you've been paying attention to the need for an additional judge to help alleviate the burden on our local district court. Even with carrying the load of six, our four judges have penciled in time to come to our luncheon next Thursday, January 19, for a bar-bench discussion. No matter the weather, it will be warm inside, and we hope to see you there!

**Don't Miss — WMBA
Monthly Luncheon—
Thursday, January 19**

Bench-Bar Conference with the Fourth Judicial District Judges

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, 1/17 at 5:00 p.m.

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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.

November and December Pro Bono Report

Placements:

- Mediation: 2
- Full Rep: 10

Clients Waiting to be Served: 6

Attorneys with Active Cases: 61

Attorneys available to take cases: 629

Clients Served in November and December Clinics:

MLSA: 21

Blewett School of Law: 16

Closed Pro Bono Cases: 17

JUDGES NEEDED!

Regional Trial Competition for Region 12 of the National Trial Competition that is sponsored by the American College of Trial Lawyers and the Texas Young Lawyers. 22 law student teams from Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Colorado, Utah, Idaho, and of course Montana will participate. Competition is in the Missoula County Courthouse, the Municipal Court, and the Municipal City Council chambers. Each team gets to participate in three preliminary rounds and then 8 teams go to arm-finals and 4 to the finals with 2 regional champs. Students are judged on trial advocacy skills not merits of case.

At least 30 and preferably 40 judges for the preliminary rounds. So volunteer attorney judges are needed. First round is Thursday, Feb 16 at 4:00, the second is Friday, February 17, at 4:00, and the last preliminary round is Saturday morning the 18th at 9:00. We are currently well staffed for the semis and finals, but are short for the first three rounds. Sign up by contacting Karen Stephan by emailing kstephan@boonekarlberg.com

Please join the WMBA on January 19 for bar-bench conference to discuss the increased case load on our court and its impact on civil litigants. Judges Deschamps Larson, Townsend, and Halligan will discuss their perspective from the bench and answer questions if time allows.

A guest opinion with background on the need for additional judges can be viewed at:

http://billingsgazette.com/news/opinion/editorial/gazette-opinion/gazette-opinion-too-few-montana-judges-justice-denied/article_d22dc848-f2d3-5067-97d2-5cd3a15d2d0f.html?

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.

The Western Montana Bar Association ("WMBA") periodically emails attorneys and other interested parties regarding upcoming events. To balance providing notice of relevant events while at the same time avoiding clogging our members inboxes, effective October 15, 2016, the WMBA will send email announcements to its members for non-WMBA events on the first and third Monday of each month (if requested), and only for events that are not for profit and that promote the mission of the WMBA as approved by the Board. These announcements can also be included in the WMBA's monthly newsletter. For all other events, ad space can be purchased in the WMBA's monthly newsletter. If you are not receiving announcements, please contact: president@westernmtbar.com. If you would like to inquire about purchasing ad space in the WMBA's newsletter, please contact: secretary@westernmtbar.com.

Upcoming WMBA Family Law Pro Bono Clinics:

January 18, 2017

February 1, 2017

February 15, 2017

If you want to volunteer, please contact Xela Warmer at 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)*

_____ x \$25.00

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