

DE DIE IN DIEM

The Newsletter of the Western Montana Bar Association

March 2017



**Don't Miss — WMBA
Monthly Luncheon—
Thursday, March 16!**

**The Tortured
History of Joint
and Several
Liability in
Montana
With Randy Bishop**

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, 3/14 at 5:00 p.m.

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Guest Message from Kim Towe:

On February 19th, with the passing of the Honorable Karla M. Gray, we lost a dedicated and tireless public servant, great legal mind, incredible mentor, and a giving and kind-hearted woman.

Chief Justice Karla Gray began her legal career as a law clerk for the Honorable W.D. Murray, United States District Judge in Butte. Karla practiced law in Butte prior to being appointed to the Montana Supreme Court by Governor Stan Stephens in 1991. She became the second woman to serve on Montana's highest court. She had to run for election in 1992 and was re-elected in 1998. In 2000, Karla was the first and, to date, the only woman elected as the Chief Justice of the Montana Supreme Court.

I had the privilege of clerking for Karla for two years. At that time, Karla was the only woman Justice serving on the Montana Supreme Court. As a young woman just beginning my legal career, I felt fortunate to learn from a woman who had already accomplished so much.

Karla was probably the most meticulous and detail-oriented person I have known. She had high standards for any Opinion which she authored, and worked closely with her clerks. I can recall her dealing with a couple health issues while I was at the Court, but nothing slowed her down. She put in long hours and worked hard to meet the case load of the Court. Even when she took breaks to walk, she was still working. Anyone who worked with Karla most likely recalls seeing her briskly walking on the trails outside the Court complex, usually with her face buried in a brief.

Karla was a great mentor. Despite being extremely busy, she found many teaching moments. It was not unusual for her to point out effective versus ineffective writing styles in briefs. She really sought to give her clerks the tools to succeed as young lawyers. I always felt that, in addition to issuing thorough and well-written Opinions, her goal was to ensure that her law clerks left the Court as better lawyers with an appreciation for how important effective legal writing is in the practice of law.

Karla was also very generous and a lot of fun. When my husband and I got engaged, Karla and her husband, Myron Currie, had an engagement party for us.

(continued on page 2)

It was such a fun night and is one of my fondest memories. Karla had a really great sense of humor. We laughed a lot throughout the night listening to Karla and Myron's stories and the good-hearted banter between the two of them.

Karla was the type of person who, when asked a favor, went above and beyond to help. She was giving and supportive and did more for me than she probably realized.

Karla not only impacted those, like me, who had the privilege to know and work with her. Her generous and tireless efforts also impacted countless other Montanans who never had the opportunity to meet her or know all that she did to help improve their experiences in the judicial system. Karla was dedicated to equal access to justice. She worked to make Montana courts more efficient for the parties appearing before them. She was dedicated to improving services affecting dependent and neglected children. She was a vocal opponent of the death penalty. She gave freely of her time to promote these causes and to improve legal and judicial services for all Montanans. Her efforts to improve justice in Montana and the lasting impact she has had on our judicial system should serve as an inspiration to all. She will be missed.

Kimberly Towe graduated from the University of Montana School of Law in 1995. She clerked for the Honorable Karla M. Gray for two years before entering private practice. Kim joined her husband at Towe Law Office in 2003 and currently practices with Towe & Fitzpatrick, PLLC, specializing in plaintiff's personal injury litigation.

Hesburgh Lecture Series: Being Atticus Finch

Presented by Fr. David Link, J.D., LL.D., D.Lit., D.Sc.

Hosted by Dr. Kevin Miltko, the Notre Dame Club of Western Montana, and the UM Law School Student Section of the MTLA

Thursday, March 30, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

University Center Theatre

All are welcome! Free and open to the public.

For more information please contact Kevin Miltko at miltko5@msn.com

February Pro Bono Report

Placements:

- Mediation: 0
- Full Rep: 3

Clients Served in February Clinics:

Clients Waiting to be Served: 7

Attorneys with Active Cases: 68

Attorneys available to take cases: 627

Closed Pro Bono Cases: 35

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:**

February 15, 2017

March 1, 2017

March 17, 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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New Lawyers Section Presents:
ANNUAL TOOLKIT CLE

April 7, 2017

1:00pm to 5:00pm

4 CLE Credits, Including 1 Ethics Credit (Pending)

Client Control and Difficult Situations • Cross Examination Tips • Pro Bono Opportunities • Benefits of ABA Participation • Internet Sleuthing Tips • Practicing Law in Indian Country • Courtroom Professionalism



Location: *University of Montana, Gallagher Business Building, Room L14*

Cost: *\$35 NLS Members/\$40 Nonmembers at www.montanabar.org
\$40 NLS Members/\$45 Nonmembers at the Door
FREE Law Clerks and Students*

Montana members can join ABA at a Special Rate!

Good news! As a member of the State Bar of Montana, you're eligible for a discount on your ABA membership dues. The ABA and Montana are partnering to save you up to \$260 on your ABA dues for the upcoming membership year.

Here are your new ABA rates:

- New Bar Admittee (within your first year of bar admission) --- \$0
- 1 - 9 years since admitted to Bar --- \$125
- 10+ years since admitted to Bar --- \$200
- Judge --- \$95
- Military --- \$95
- Senior lawyer --- \$125
- Inactive --- \$125

To take advantage of this special offer, simply pay your 2017-2018 ABA dues when you receive your State Bar of Montana membership invoice in March. Just add the discounted rate to your Montana total and pay online, or with your mailed invoice.

Your ABA Section membership dues remain unchanged, and you will be invoiced for those in May by the ABA.

Enjoy your full ABA benefits at a special Montana State Bar Member dues rate. Now, that's a Big Sky Bargain!



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