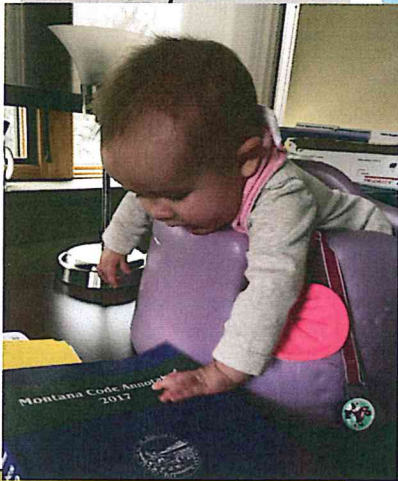


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The Newsletter of the Western Montana Bar Association

February 2018



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

**Judge Karen
Townsend:**

**Tips on
Professionalism**
(1 CLE credit pending)

Please RSVP by Tuesday, 2/13 at 5:00 p.m.:
rsvp@westernmtbar.com

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.

Inside:

President's Message 1-2
Announcements/Ads 2-3
Membership Form-4

Board of Director's Message from Beth Hayes:

Snowy February greetings!

If you've been a diligent reader of this newsletter, you already know that the WMBA Board is rotating the traditional President's Message, and I'm happy to take my turn. For those of you who don't know me, I'm Beth Hayes, the secretary of the WMBA. I'm the staff attorney at Montana Legal Services Association's Consumer Protection Project.

I had my daughter Francis in August, returning to work in November after three months of maternity leave. I've been lucky to have Francis at work with me for the past three months, and as you can see from the picture accompanying this message, she is VERY helpful.

Taking twelve weeks away from work, and making the transition back into the office with an infant in tow, I'm forced to really think about my roles as an attorney and a mom, and the constant struggle of finding balance between the two.

First of all, I was fortunate to have paid time off to bond with my daughter. I had helpful co-workers who covered my cases in my absence. I had a supportive partner at home. I disconnected my work email from my phone the day before my daughter was born, and never looked back (well, mostly). I recognize that most working moms don't have it so easy. But as much as I enjoyed being at home with Francis, I was also eager to return to work.

Striking the balance of managing my job as a mom and an attorney with her in the office has been challenging. I am certainly grateful to my colleagues at MLSA who have been supportive, helpful, and understanding with our youngest staffer. My clients have been very accommodating while I stand across a table from them bouncing Francis in her Baby Bjorn while we discuss their legal issues.

Cont. on page 2

Board of Director's message (Cont. from page 1):

When I tell people I bring Francis to work with me, most respond with something like—"how wonderful", or "that must be so great". I finally had the courage to tell someone recently that I basically feel like a failure in both roles all day, every day. So while I'm grateful to have her with me (and honestly, her presence here is somewhat out of necessity, as it's REALLY hard to find daycare in this town), it's hard to feel successful while trying to be a good lawyer and a good mom.

We all have multiple roles that we play, in addition to that of lawyer. Even if we don't have a baby in the office with us, our minds are often juggling multiple roles—from our fun hobbies and fun activities, to serving on boards, helping kids with homework, to the home projects we are always planning to get to next.

Whether or not I'm successful in this balancing act of my roles is anyone's guess. Measuring success takes a lot of different forms. It helps to hear how much better my clients feel after learning they can't be jailed for their unpaid medical bills, or to return wrongfully garnished money to them. It helps to see my daughter happily playing on the floor of my office while I'm typing away. It also helps to take a break in the middle of the day for a game of peek-a-boo.

As Francis and I prepare for the next transition—daycare, I encourage all of us to think about the various roles we all play in addition to that of lawyer. While most of us probably get a great sense of identity from our role as lawyers, we are all so much more than just that. And we're all trying to find that balance. So when you come to our monthly luncheon next Thursday, ask the lawyer sitting next to you about one of their other roles.

Beth graduated from the University of Montana School of Law in 2009. She practices at Montana Legal Services Association in the Consumer Protection Project.



SAVE THE DATE!

WMBA Spring CLE—Thursday, March 15

Lunch at 12 p.m.; CLE 1:00-5:00

4 CLE credits! More details soon!



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.

Pro Bono Update:

Placements since 1/1/18: 0

Clinic clients served:

- 1/17/18: 21
- 2/7/18: 22

Clinic clients scheduled for 2/21: 12

Attorneys with active cases: 33

Cases closed since 1/1/18: 2

Clients awaiting placement: 1

Upcoming WMBA Family Law Pro Bono Clinics:

February 21, 2018

March 7, 2018

March 21, 2018

If you want to volunteer, please contact Gina Zobenica at coordinator.wmba.pro.bono@gmail.com or 543-8343, ext. 207

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WESTERN MONTANA BAR ASSOCIATION



MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION

2017-2018

The WMBA is now accepting applications and payment for the 2017-2018 membership year. The cost is \$25.00 per attorney for full membership in the WMBA from September 1, 2017 to August 31, 2018. 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