May 2018



Don't Miss — WMBA March Luncheon and CLE—Thursday, May 17!

Trial Tips With Judge Dana Christensen

(1 CLE credit pending)

Please RSVP by Tuesday, 5/15 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 nonmembers.

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DE DIE IN DIEM

The Newsletter of the Western Montana Bar Association

Board of Director's Message from Katy Stack:

I attended the Bench Bar CLE in Missoula recently and had the great pleasure of seeing both federal judges I clerked for on the same panel. That got me thinking about how having a good mentor (or two) can impact a young attorney, and how important it is for lawyers to share their experiences with each other.

I was lucky enough to have two superb mentors right out of law school. I clerked for Federal Magistrate Judge Keith Strong and Chief District Court Judge Dana Christensen for my first four years as a lawyer. I learned so much about the practice of law, trial practice, decision making, and how to run a courtroom from my mentors. I couldn't have had a better foundation for becoming a practicing lawyer.

I also learned a ton by observing the lawyers who practiced in federal court. These attorneys were professional, prepared, and able to go to battle for their client in the courtroom but remain collegial and even friendly with opposing counsel outside the courthouse. Since becoming an active member of the Montana bar, I have found this same level of collegiality to be the norm for almost all Montana lawyers.

Although I was fortunate enough to have bosses who mentored me, I think it is very important for all lawyers to mentor upcoming lawyers. Montana seems to be exceedingly good at this skill already; I likely am preaching to the choir for the most part. I have almost never reached out to a fellow lawyer with a question and not received a helpful and thoughtful response, regardless of whether the lawyer helping me was a good friend or someone I had never met. Montana lawyers seem genuinely excited to share their experiences with other lawyers. There seems to be something cathartic about sharing your experiences, good or bad, with other lawyers who are going through the same thing. Apparently, this willingness to share does not exist in every jurisdiction, particularly in larger cities (or so I have heard).

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

So, I just want to take this opportunity to applaud the experienced lawyers who are so helpful and willing to share their valuable time with younger attorneys and encourage my generation of lawyers to follow in their footsteps. As Montana continues to grow, let's keep the small-town practices of collegiality and trust between lawyers rather than adopting the scorched-earth practices of some jurisdictions. Whether that means volunteering at the law school, speaking at a CLE, or just answering the frantic email or phone call from a young lawyer in a tough spot, let's all try to make practicing law a little easier for each other.

I hope to see you all at lunch on next Thursday, May 17 where Judge Christensen will be sharing trial tips with us. Happy spring!

Katy Stack grew up in Missoula, Montana and graduated from the University of Montana School of Law in 2010. Katy is currently a partner at Stack & Kottke, PLLC, with primary areas of practice in criminal defense and child advocacy.



Upcoming WMBA Family Law Pro Bono Clinics:

- . May 16 (@ Montana Legal Services Association)
- . June 6 (@ ABIII School of Law)
- . June 20 (@ Montana Legal Services Association)
- . July 18 (@ Montana Legal Services Association)

The WMBA Family Law Pro Bono Clinics at the Alexander Blewett III School of Law will take a hiatus after the June 6 clinic. Clinics there will resume in early October 2018.

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

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Submittable ^D

Join us for a live case study featuring Submittable. With EU laws on general data protection coming into effect on May 25th, many Montana based firms are in a last minute push to comply with GDPR. Hear from Submittable founder, Michael FitzGerald, about its plan for GDPR as well as targeted feedback from featured TechEx member, Joel Henry, who will weigh in on best practices relating to GDPR.

TECHEX

Thursday, May 24th 12:30-2:00 p.m.

Missoula, MT 59802

Course available for CLE Credit. \$35 Course Fee applies for those taking it for credit. To register call 406.243.6982 or visit

WMBA Pro Bono Update:

Placements since 4/1/18: 3

Clinic clients served: 67

Clients awaiting placement: 2

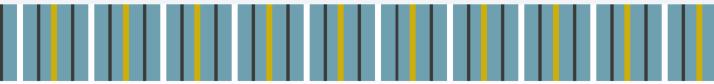
Clinic clients scheduled for 5/16: 3

Cases closed since 4/1/18: 9

Attorneys with active cases: 28

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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.





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