

Legal Assistants of
WYOMING
NEWSLETTER Est. 1990

JUNE

2020

JULY

CONGRATULATIONS!

Please Join Us in Welcoming the
2020-2021 LAW Board!

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Amanda Nelson, ACP

PRESIDENT ELECT:

Shannon Rezanina, ACP

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Tammy Wuertley, ACP

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Jayme Bjorklund, ACP

SECRETARY:

Brooke Brown, CP

NALA LIAISON:

Barbara Heisner, CP

REGION 3 DIRECTOR:

Kapri Scoffield

REGION 4 DIRECTOR:

Taylor Roybal



AMANDA NELSON, ACP

2020-2021 PRESIDENT

So far, 2020 has been a year of many surprises and has rarely turned out to be what we have anticipated. I'm hopeful that as we move forward with the new terms on the LAW board, life levels out around us. I am excited to be serving again as President for Legal Assistants of Wyoming. I have served on a position on the board for more than a decade, although not consecutively. Throughout those terms, I have served as a Regional Director, 1st VP, 2nd VP, President-Elect, President, Secretary and NALA Liaison (many for more than one term). I love this organization and the services they provide to the profession around the state! I am so hopeful that we can all soon be together at our Fall Seminar, and other regional events!



I am currently employed as the Program Director and Paralegal Instructor for the Casper College Paralegal Program in Casper. Prior to this position, I have worked as a contract paralegal for various attorneys in Casper and Cheyenne, mostly in the domestic relations area but have some experience in probate, estate planning, criminal law, personal injury and contracts. Additionally, I have provided bookkeeping and billing services to attorneys and an oil and gas landman. I graduated with an AA in Paralegal Studies from the Casper College Paralegal Program in May 2006 and received my CP in July 2007. I obtained my ACP with a specialization in Discovery in 2010. I also hold a BS degree in History from Oregon State University. I am currently a graduate student through the University of Wyoming obtaining an MS in Education.

Aside from working, I am blessed with a wonderful family. I've been married to my best friend for over 14 years and we have 4 active children together: Nick (13), Luke (12), Oliver (9) and Norah (4). We love doing things as a family, spends lots of time exploring the outdoors and are highly active in Scouting of America and 4-H. I look forward to a wonderful year on the LAW Board!

SHANNON REZANINA, ACP

2020-2021 PRESIDENT-ELECT



Hello everyone! I took a little break, and now I am happy to be back to serve as your President-Elect with LAW. For those of you that don't know me. My name is Shannon Rezanina. I am married and have three adult children and a son-in-law. I also have two miniature schnauzers named Colby & Jack.

I work at Williams, Porter, Day & Neville, and have worked here for 14 years. I graduated from the Casper College Paralegal Program in 2005 and obtained my certification in 2006. I am a 2014 graduate of the LEAP program through NALA. I have received several advanced certifications with NALA as well. I am happy to say I am a 2020 graduate from Colorado Christian University with a bachelor's degree in Psychology.

I currently serve on NALA's Continuing Education Counsel.

I look forward to this year getting to know you and also reconnecting with old friends. Please feel free to contact me any time! My email is srezanina@wpdn.net and my cell number is 307-259-0151.

TAMMY WUERTLEY, ACP

2020-2021 1ST VICE PRESIDENT

After an unexpected 2019, and then the COVID-19 pandemic, I am excited to be on the Board as the First-Vice President this year with LAW! I am a paralegal for Jason Neville at The Spence Law Firm. Jason and I have worked together since January of 2018, and we are in the Casper office. In 2011, I earned my CP, and my ACP specializing in personal injury a year later. Originally from Michigan, I earned my Associates Degree in Paralegal Studies, and my Bachelors in Business Administration several years ago, but I continue learning more and more every day, and am looking forward to attending the NALA convention this year!



I have served on the LAW Board in various positions since 2010 as the NALA Liaison, Region Three Director, First-Vice President, and President. Serving as the First Vice President this year will make it the fourth time I've held this position. LAW is a wonderful organization, and I am so excited about our upcoming seminars in Sheridan and in Casper. I am eager to meet many members who are new to me, as well as seeing our original members again.

Personally, I am married to Adam and we celebrated our 10th wedding anniversary last November. We live northeast of Casper on our 80-acre ranch with our four dogs (Jed, Sadie, Riley and Lola), 34 hens (who are also all named), and our cat, Olivia. In addition to my wonderful paralegal life, I am pretty outdoorsy and enjoy gardening, walking, yoga, bicycling, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, four-wheeling, camping, traveling, raising my animals, and enjoying time with family and friends.

SAVANNAH HERNANDEZ

2020-2021 2ND VICE PRESIDENT



Hello LAW members! I am so excited to be on the board again and I am looking forward to meeting all the new members as well as working alongside a great board.

I am a full time paralegal at Reece Law, LLP where I primarily work on family law matters. I graduated from Casper College with my degree in paralegal studies in 2017 and I have been working in the legal field for approximately four years. I began at Legal Aid of Wyoming, I then worked for Kathleen & Pat Dixon at Dixon & Dixon, LLP, and I worked for the Clerk of District Court briefly before returning to Dixon & Dixon, LLP.

JAYME BJORKLUND, ACP

2020-2021 TREASURER

Jayne is a Commercial Lines Account Manager with USI Insurance Services as well as a free-lance paralegal, JRB Integrity Services. She earned her paralegal certification from the Casper College ABA program in 2009 as well as her CP designation, and earned her ACP designation in Discovery in 2011. Jayme has worked in the legal field for more than 20 years, beginning as a 911 dispatcher at the age of 19. From there she worked for the Natrona County Circuit Court for five years before she was approached by Stacy Casper to join her team. At Casper Law Office, LLC she went back to school and earned her AA in Paralegal Studies as well as her CP designation. Jayme loved working for Ms. Casper and loved the family law realm.

She continued working full time for Ms. Casper until she and her family moved to Oklahoma in 2011. Oklahoma was a very different dynamic for Jayme as a paralegal, as she struggled to find a law firm that would utilize her skills. With no luck, she took on a data entry job with Special Metals, Inc. and rose to Receiving Coordinator. She also did remote work for Casper Law Office, LLC periodically throughout the 8 years she was in Oklahoma. After four years out of the legal field and missing the law realm, she went to work at Angela Ailles and Associates, an insurance defense firm and corporate litigation counsel for State Farm Insurance.

After two years and a wealth of new knowledge, she returned with her family to Casper, Wyoming. As you know, finding a law firm that will provide benefits is pretty scarce in these parts and it's something she had to have. Until she found USI, she worked for Michael Shickich, but plaintiff's personal injury litigation was just not her cup of tea. USI Insurance is her home for now.

Jayne also has a free-lance paralegal business, JRB Integrity Services, where she focuses her work on family law. Currently she has three attorneys that take up the majority of her free time with free-lance work.

Jayne is married with two children, ages 28 and 15, and a grandmother to a beautiful little boy who will be one in just a few short weeks. Jayme enjoys spending time with her family as well as hiking and camping, something she missed doing in Oklahoma.

Jayne has been a member of LAW off and on since 2009 and has served one previous term as LAW Treasurer in 2011, prior to moving to Oklahoma. She is very excited to be involved with the organization and looks forward to the fun and activities LAW has to afford.



BROOKE BROWN, CP

2020-2021 SECRETARY

I was born and raised in Colorado, and attended school at Fort Lewis College in Durango. I graduated in December of 2017 with a Bachelor’s Degree in Criminology and a minor in Psychology. After graduation, I worked as a fly-fishing guide for a dude ranch in Wolf, Wyoming. I met my husband there, and we both fell in love with Sheridan and decided to move here permanently. I then reached out to Mary Kubichek inquiring about the paralegal program at Casper College, and after one phone conversation she had convinced to pursue a career as a paralegal. I went on to obtain my Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Paralegal Studies from Casper College, and graduated in 2019. I am very excited to have recently received my Certification, and hope to obtain advanced certifications in the future.



I currently enjoy work as a litigation paralegal for Jay Gilbertz at Yonkee & Toner, LLP. I just celebrated my one year anniversary with the firm, and am very excited to continue to work with Jay in a variety of specialties including medical malpractice and insurance defense. In my free time, I love to backpack, hike, fish and explore the Bighorn Mountains with my husband and our Bernese Mountain Dog. I am very excited to be a part of LAW, and look forward to working with all of the wonderful paralegals that are a part of this organization.

BARBARA HEISNER, CP

2020-2021 NALA LIAISON



After graduating from Casper College with my Associate of Arts degree in Paralegal Studies in May 2015, I became a NALA Certified Paralegal in March 2016.

I am a currently a paralegal at the law firm of Chapman Valdez & Lansing in Casper, where I work on primarily personal injury and civil litigation cases. My past legal work experience includes working as a legal assistant for Craig Silva and Kyle Ridgeway at Williams, Porter, Day & Neville, P.C. in Casper for four and a half years and as a legal assistant for Ann Rochelle at Rochelle Law Offices, P.C. in Casper.

While attending Casper College I participated in the Casper College Legal Services program, assisting in *pro bono* work. I was also a member of the Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Society. In 2016, I became a member of the first Casper College chapter of Lambda Epsilon Chi, the National Honor Society for Paralegal/Legal Assistant studies.

I was born in Casper and have lived in Wyoming my whole life. I’m currently working on my bachelor’s degree in Communication at the University of Wyoming. I am passionate about the fine and performing arts. I love traveling, the beach, reading, dogs, terrible reality TV, and spending time with my friends and family, including my longtime boyfriend Jared, my 11-year old bonus son, Kannon, and my six-month old black lab puppy, Ember. I am an avid, die-hard St. Louis Cardinals’ fan!

Thank you for allowing me to serve LAW again this term. I look forward to it!



KAPRI SCOFFIELD

2020-2021 REGION III DIRECTOR

Hello LAW Members, my name is Kapri Scoffield! I was born and raised here in Casper. I am excited to serve on the Legal Assistants of Wyoming board for another year. I have served as the Casper College Student Liaison and the Secretary. I am excited to serve as the Region 3 Director. I have made many wonderful connections with other paralegals thanks to my time that I have served on the board.

I am employed as a paralegal at Engelhart Law and Brown Law Office. I have also been blessed with two of the very best bosses. I love that our office handles so many different areas of law. I graduated with an AA in Paralegal Studies from the Casper College Paralegal Program in May 2019. I am currently going for my bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice through the University of Wyoming. Once I have completed my bachelor's degree, I plan on going for my master's degree in social work. My end goal is to work as a forensic social worker and possibly become an expert witness for court on child abuse and neglect.

I also have three wonderful children: Taylen, Maci, and Trevyn. They tend to keep me pretty busy. They are all very active in activities at school as well as activities in the community.

TAYLOR ROYBAL

2020-2021 REGION IV DIRECTOR

I currently work at Woodhouse Roden Nethercott, LCC, as a paralegal. I absolutely love it here. It's not often you enjoy working with your "work family" eight hours (or more) a day, but I do. The atmosphere is healthy, my co-workers all have their own quirks and spunk, which makes for some hilarious days. I work under three attorneys; their caseloads vary from criminal, family, probate/estates and everything in between. I think my favorite type of work are adoptions. Being able to work one on one with the families, seeing them get excited about name changes and making a kiddo part of their forever home brings me so much joy.

Prior to working at WRN, I worked for the Laramie County District Attorney's office as a legal assistant overseeing the neglect, CHINS and delinquency docket. I worked closely with the courts, the Department of Family Services, and some other really great community based resources.

I was born and raised in Cheyenne. I met my husband, Phillip, in high school and we are about to celebrate 13 years together. We have two dogs; Ellie is my grumpy Shi tzu and Marty is the most loving pit-bull mix you will ever meet. Phillip works full time for the Wyoming Air National Guard. Most weekends you can find us at the gym, doing yard work or hanging out with our closest friends.

I appreciate the vote to be LAW's Region IV Director and hope to bring some new and fun ideas to the table!



CONGRATULATIONS to Our
2020 Award Winners

FUTURE CP ATTAINMENT AWARD

Stephanie Barth

**MEMBER MAKING A DIFFERENCE
AWARD**

Annette Fredrickson

HENRY'S HAND-UP

An assistance fund established in honor of

HENRY CUARTAS

1964-2020

*with our sincere condolences
and appreciation to
our friend, paralegal colleague
and longtime member
GINGER CUARTAS*

DID YOU KNOW?

On February 20th, the American Bar Association's policy-making body, the House of Delegates, changed its definition of a paralegal. The change **eliminated the words "legal assistant"** from the definition. The recommendation to remove the words "legal assistant or" was made by the ABA's Standing Committee on Paralegals. See the ABA's entire revised definition below.

WHAT IS A PARALEGAL?

"A [legal assistant or] paralegal is a person, qualified by education, training or work experience who is employed or retained by a lawyer, law office, corporation, governmental agency or other entity and who performs specifically delegated substantive legal work for which a lawyer is responsible."

(Excerpted from
reddit.com)

[user1] Public Records of Vital Statistics: "A record of a birth, death, or marriage, if reported to a public office in accordance with a legal duty, is a valid hearsay exception."

I know it's a joke but I can't help myself...

[user2] But when I put you on the stand and ask your name, I'm not proffering the vital statistics record into evidence; you're using your personal knowledge to enter your name into evidence. How did you gain your knowledge?

Your mother told you your name, not the public record. ;)





Join your fellow paralegals and other legal professionals July 9-11 for this unique online educational event. Develop new skills and techniques to help advance your career, all from the comfort of your own home or office.

Type	Member	Non-Member
Virtual Conference Registration (includes complimentary sessions below)	\$99	\$149
Complimentary Sessions Only (Board Meetings, Annual Meetings)	Free	Free

Register: <https://www.nala.org/conferences/nala-conference-expo>

***Cancellation Policy:** Any refund requests from June 22 until the time of the event will be subject to a \$50 cancellation fee.



FUTURE NALA CONFERENCES

Save the Dates!

2021 - July 22-24, at [Louisville Marriott Downtown](#) - KY

2022 - July 14-16, at [JW Marriott Desert Ridge Resort & Spa](#) - Phoenix, AZ

2023 - July 12-14, at [The Westin Copley Place](#) - Boston, MA

2025 - July 10-12, at [Harrah's Resort](#) - Atlantic City, NJ

LAW is very much in need of committee members! Are you social media savvy? Have excellent event planning skills? Have a passion for finance? Do you want to be a part of what makes LAW great, but don't have the time for a board position? LAW's Committees are the answer. Spend as much or as little time as you want in helping to make Wyoming's paralegal scene the best it can be. Please get ahold of any board member to find out how you can help. Thank you!

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