The Clark County Bar Association is pleased to announce its

**sixth Nuts and Bolts Lecture:**

~ How to Handle a Personal Injury Claim: ~

~ Motor Vehicle Accident ~

*by Attorney Jane Clark and Paralegal Mickey Thompson*

Wednesday, February 9, 3:00 – 5:00 PM, at the Red Lion at the Quay

This series is designed for those new to the practice of law and more senior practitioners interested in trying out something new. Our speakers will guide you step by step, from initial client contact through litigation or arbitration.

The cost is $50.00, which will get you 2 CLE credits and Jane and Mickey’s prepared materials to download. There is an extra fee if you want to pick up the materials at the door. **Call Diane Wheeler, (360) 695-5975, or email: diane@ccbawashington.org, at the CCBA to register.**

Unique snacks and beverages of outstanding quality and are provided during the talk. The Red Lion’s bar is a good place for a drink afterward, and if you sneak a beer into the talk, don’t think you have to justify yourself to anyone. Outlines of the talks follow the speakers’ biographies. We hope to see you there.

**Jane Clark** is a partner in the law firm of Baumgartner, Nelson & Price. She has 20 years of experience handling personal injury and Medical Malpractice actions. She is licensed in Washington, Oregon, England and Wales. She is an adjunct professor at Portland State University where she teaches a class on Psychology and the Law. She is on the board of trustees for the Clark County Bar Association and chair of the CCBA Continuing Legal Education Committee.

The focus of Jane’s current practice is representing plaintiffs in medical malpractice cases and personal injury cases. She has also had considerable prior experience working on the defense side. Jane is a mediator in the area of Personal Injury and Medical Malpractice, and is a member of the USA&M mediation panel.

**Mickey Thompson** entered the legal profession in 1977, and has been a personal injury and medical malpractice paralegal with the law firm of Baumgartner, Nelson & Price, PLLC, Vancouver, WA, for the past 15 years, working with William F. Nelson and Jane E. Clark.

Since 1998, she has been an adjunct professor at Clark College, teaching paralegal courses, and served as the Chairperson of the Paralegal Advisory Committee for Clark College for two years. She was also the Vice Chairperson of that committee as well as Vice Chairperson of the Paralegal Faculty Committee for Clark College. She continues to serve both committees.

Mickey recently concluded a two year term as co-chair of Washington State Association of Justice’s Legal Staff Section. She has also participated in coordinating and participating in phone banks for several Washington State initiatives and referendums.
Handling a Personal Injury Claim - Motor Vehicle Accident

INITIAL CLIENT CONTACT AND INVESTIGATION

Initial client contact - Checking conflicts
Information & documents required from client
Initial client interview & signing CFA
Photographing Client’s injuries or obtaining Photographs
Obtaining police /accident report, photographs, and 911 tapes
Initial communication with third party insurers
Initial communications with PIP/UIM insurers
Obtaining and reviewing client’s insurance policy and declaration sheet
Interviewing liability witnesses
Visiting and photographing accident scene and involved vehicles
Obtaining vehicle repair estimates
Background check on your client and adverse
Keeping insurers updated

PIP & LIENS

Obtaining PIP benefits
Stacking PIP benefits
Denial of PIP benefits
Reviewing PIP ledger
Protecting PIP insurer’s subrogated interest
Obtaining and negotiating medical liens with/health insurers
Medical providers’ liens
DSHS liens
Medicare Recovery Act & liens

HANDLING PROPERTY DAMAGE CLAIMS

The Law - The Unfair Claims Settlement Practices Regulation
Definitions
Investigation
Which Insurer Settles the Property Damage Claim
Choice of Repair Shops
Repairs
Rental cars and/or Loss of Use
Towing & Storage
Fair Market Value
Lienholder
Salvage
Diminished Value
Personal Property/Items Damaged

MEDICAL EVIDENCE

Obtaining and evaluating medical records
Obtaining and evaluating prior medical records
Working with treating healthcare providers
Permanent injuries and/or disfigurement
Life expectancy
Evaluating maximum recovery

PROVING SPECIAL DAMAGES

Medical expenses
Future Medical expenses
Cost of services
Lost wages
Miscellaneous Expenses

EVALUATING VALUE OF CLAIM, DEMANDS & NEGOTIATION

Evaluating Claim
Preparing demand letter
Negotiating a settlement
When to mediate

LITIGATING A CASE

Arbitration or lawsuit? Trial De Novo
Drafting, filing and serving a summons and complaint
Discovery
Trial preparation
Trial strategies

UIM

When to involve UIM carrier
Hamilton buyout letters
Arbitrations