

### THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

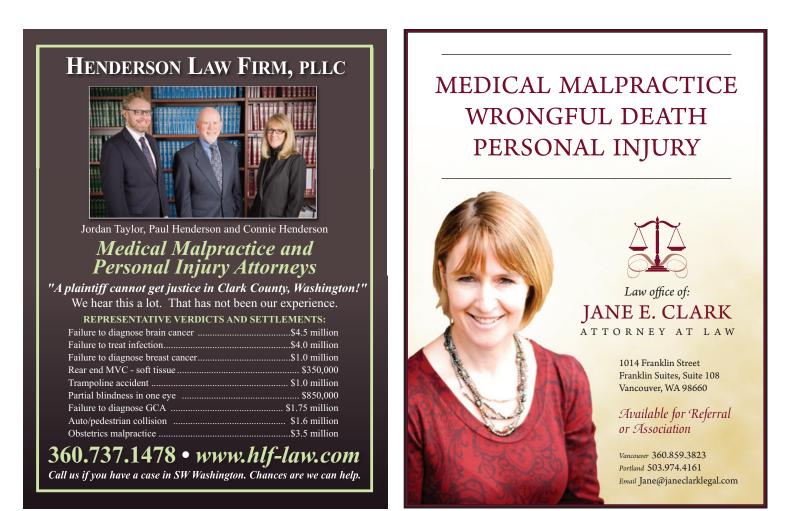
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#### HEARSAY is published 12 times per year and is design edited by: GOUGH CREATIVE GROUP JEFF GOUGH, Creative Director <a href="https://doi.org/10.1016/journal.com">doi:1016/journal.com</a> JEFF GOUGH, Creative Director <a href="https://doi.org/10.1016/journal.com">doi:1016/journal.com</a>

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CCBA OFFICE HOURS: Monday through Friday, 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## Weird Tales of the New Year



RICK Mc LEOD CCBA President

#### "Extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence."

– Carl Sagan

All was quiet on New Year's Day. That said, two items floated through my inbox that brought Carl Sagan to mind.

The first was a YouTube video that allegedly debunked Neil deGrasse Tyson,[1] specifically asserting that had made statements demonstrating that the Earth was flat.[2]

The second was a news report asserting that a woman had beaten a DUI charge by claiming that her body produced its own alcohol.[3]

At first blush, I suspected that these might be jokes or satire. To be sure, both involved extraordinary claims: that the Earth really is flat, and that a human can produce alcohol internally. So, naturally, I expected extraordinary evidence.

The DUI story had all the makings of a poor excuse that one might hear in traffic court. The background seems straightforward enough. Police were alerted to a person driving with a flat tire. I have observed someone do this right down to the rim, and indeed, quite a few Florida country roads bear the scars of rim drivers. Although relatively coherent, the driver blows .40 on a breathalyzer, enough that the average person would be unconscious and high enough to be taken to the hospital for potential alcohol poisoning. Hospital staff could not explain her alcohol level, but given the lack of symptoms of alcohol impairment suggested that the driver should be released.

That would seem to be an open-and-shut case, except the driver did not drink very much before leaving for home. Based on common experience, most people would presume that the driver was lying. Except, she was not. An Internet search identified a rare condition called "auto-brewery syndrome" a/k/a "gut fermentation."

As a winemaker, my curiosity was rightly piqued by this point. Fermentation is a very straightforward process: yeast converts sugar into alcohol. Brewing beer may be bronze age tech, but it's an exploitation of a natural process. In auto-brewery syndrome, a brewer's yeast colonizes the small intestine. There, the yeast ferments incoming carbohydrates into alcohol, which are quickly absorbed into the bloodstream. While it may sound like a way to avoid paying the liquor control board, it usually makes life miserable.

In this case, the judge let the driver off on the DUI. But, it raised an interesting point, if a driver came to your office asking for help with a .30+ DUI, would you believe that the driver "only had two drinks?"

Here, the claim was very unusual to say the least, but there was good medical evidence supporting it.

My second tale does not end as well. The tagline for the video was "Teach the Controversy." This itself seemed a joke because this phrase appears most often where no scientific controversy truly exists.

The narrator's core argument asserts that the following points are inconsistent.:

*Tyson states that the Earth is oblate, due to it' rotation.* 

Elsewhere, Tyson states that the Earth is pear-shaped.

NASA illustrates the other planets as perfect spheres.

While over-exaggerating these statements, the narrator makes a spectacular statement: "We know for a fact that the Earth does not spin." (Unsurprisingly, no proof is offered.) Then, came his challenge, if the Earth is an "oblate spheroid" because it is spinning, then why are all the other planets perfect spheres (as illustrated by NASA).

The logical disconnect should be apparent. None



of the planets are perfect spheres. However, at astronomical scales, they may be modeled as spheres for most purposes. When I teach.my adaptation of Big History, I introduce the concept of scale using a cue ball to represent the Earth. Pretty much everyone thinks of cue ball as a perfect sphere, but under a microscope it is not.

Now, the Earth is definitely not a mathematically perfect sphere. We know this: there are hills and valleys plainly visible around us. But, how meaningful is this variation? Mt. Everest rises about seven miles above sea level. The ocean's surface is characterized by tidal action: a cycle between high and low tides due to gravitational effects from the Moon. But, we have also observed that the Earth has an equatorial bulge. The distance from the (mean) center of mass to the poles is ~3,949.9 miles.[4] At the equator, the average radius is ~3,963.2 miles. That's a 13.3 mile difference. Thus, in mathematical terms, the Earth is (ever so slightly) an oblate solid. The mean radius is 3958.8 miles. So, for grins, the equatorial variation is barely 2/10 of a percent. The diameter of a cue ball is 2.25 inches. The same scale variation applied to a cue ball is approximately 3/1000 of an inch, a virtually imperceptible difference. Indeed, if you held a perfect sphere in one hand, and an oblate solid with a 3/1000th of an inch variance in the other, you would be hard pressed to tell the difference.

Now, I did not seriously think that this video needed debunking. Rather, I consider it a lesson in free speech. [5]

As lawyers, we are likely to encounter misinformation and outlandish claims, possibly from our own clients. Yes, extraordinary claims demand extraordinary proof. Some claims are worth exploring; others, not so much. Think about that the next time you see an email involving a vast fortune (or contract dispute) that requires a "lawyer in your jurisdiction" to move money from one country to another.

In local news, another survey went out to the membership in January. We'd love to get your feedback on the Southwest Lawyer Referral service, social events, and community service opportunities. The Survey Monkey list is sent you your correspondence email address, and the survey can only be completed from that address.

[1] http://www.haydenplanetarium.org/tyson/. Sagan encouraged Tyson to study astrophysics during a high school recruiting trip, and Tyson ultimately hosted the re-boot of Cosmos.

[2] Having witnessed more than a few rocket launches (including five in one day), Earthrise came to mind. See http://www.nasa.gov/multimedia/imagegallery/image feature 1249.html.

[3] http://www.cnn.com/2015/12/31/health/auto-brewery-syndrome-dui-womans-body-brews-own-alcohol/

[4] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Earth

[5] I note here that there is no shortage of similar flat earth "proofs" just on YouTube.



#### **Representing Injured Workers on Their Washington Claims**

**Busick Hamrick Palmer, PLLC** 

Steven L. Busick Frances R. Hamrick Douglas M. Palmer David Johansen

## Purchase your tickets today!

Clark County Bar Association's 2016

## Barristers Ball

February 27, 2016 The Heathman Lodge Vancouver, Washington 5:30 pm—11:00pm \$75.00 for CCBA Members \$50.00 for Young Lawyers (In practice 3 years or less) \$85.00 for Non Members Price includes Dinner and \$20.00 of Scrip for Casino Style Gaming Additional Scrip will be available to purchase at the event. All proceeds will benefit the Clark County Volunteer Lawyer Program.

Please RSVP with payment to the CCBA Office no later than February 10, 2016

# **CCBA** Reviews Holiday Parties!

CHRISTINA PHELAN, JESSE JACOBS & COLIN MCHUGH Hearsay Holiday Correspondents

The holidays bring some of the best times of the year—family get-togethers, an unlimited supply of cookies and eggnog, a few days away from the office, and, of course, good old-fashioned holiday parties. The three of us decided to attend some of the holiday parties that were being thrown by local firms and legal groups. And because we are party experts, we also decided to rate them.

#### YOUNG LAWYERS SECTION (YLS) PARTY: 4 OUT OF 5 STARS



The annual YLS holiday party was held, as it always is, at Shanahan's. You will rarely hear a bad word about Shany's come out of my mouth (expect a praising account of their Bloody Mary bar in next month's Hearsay). The food is great, the drinks are strong, and the staff is friendly. However, the bar has recently bolted the tables in the back room down which made the logistics of the party

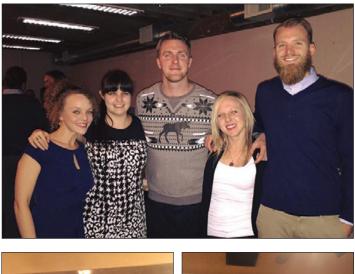
someone complicated. You were basically only able to interact with the three other people at your table unless you got up and walked to the other side of the room, and we all know how lazy today's youth are...

YLS graciously provided appetizers, which included Shany fries, hummus platters, and some kind of delicious cheesy spinach dip. I am pretty sure I ate an entire Shany Fries to myself and instantly regretted it.

The white elephant gift exchange was the main event. Gifts were unwrapped, a seemingly unlimited amount of steals were allowed (thanks to the Rules Czar, Ben Melnick), and good times were had by all. My personal favorite white elephant gift was the Velociraptor pen (scary AND functional!) won by Colin McHugh.

#### VANCOUVER DEFENDERS HOLIDAY PARTY: 4 ½ OUT OF 5 STARS

The Van Def party was a festive event, complete with a white elephant in the conference room and complimentary Esoteric barbeque from the food truck outside (the Mac Attack is a must). However, the main attraction was the karaoke competition. Many sang their favorite Taylor Swift and Justin Beiber tunes. You may think that the Van Def version of "It's Raining Men," sang by all of the male attendees would have been the highlight, but surprisingly, Tim Murphy's rendition of Keane's "Somewhere Only We Know" was the crowd favorite











by a long shot. As it's reputation proceeds it, the holiday cheer emanating from the Van Def personnel was just as strong as it's zealous criminal advocacy. The Van Def holiday party was among one of this year's best to attend in Clark County.

This was the very first holiday party for the newly formed CDACC organization and, unlike many

of the motions we criminal defense attorneys file, it was a great success.

**PROS:** 1) Free food! Who Song and Larry's had a buffet set up just for the party, that was filled with chips and dips, quesadillas, and wings.

2) Free drinks! CDACC picked up the entire drink tab for the whole party

3) Free raffle prizes! The CDACC board picked up some fantastic raffle prizes which ranged from Moonstruck chocolate bars (yum) to bottles of liquor (yum).

4) An impromptu stand-up comedy routine by Steven Thayer.

**CONS:** 1) Location. The last time I was at Who Song and Larry's was in high school, and from the looks of it, not much has changed since then ... However, the river view was lovely as always, and the staff was great.

2) 6:30pm. This is the time that almost everyone in attendance had left the event. Where is that notorious lawyer party spirit, CDACC??

THE HEARSAY HOLIDAY HAPPY HOUR: 5 OUT OF 5 STARS (we may be a little bias...)



Without a CCBA Holiday party and us bar members left as disheveled nomadic herdspeople wandering the frozen north in search of a friendly publican and cold pint to huddle near--the Hearsay sprung to the rescue. Enter the Hearsay Holiday Happy Hour Party at Heathen. Generously paid for by those handsome devils at NW Injury Law Center.

The evening started off brilliantly as one of the herdspeople accidentally wandered into the Landerholm Law property-ish law (I'm assuming) holiday party. I'm told that there was a bit of eating and drinking before someone said, "Hey! Who are you?" Clearly we can only put the blame squarely on Jean McCoy.

The good looking (all attorneys are good looking) holiday partiers proceeded to sample Heathen's holiday brews and share war stories under the warming glow of mass produced illumination. We were even graced by the presence of the CCBA's Rising Star. Eventually our wits dimmed (quite a feat) and the evening came to a close with us nomads returning back to our cold journeys.

Will the CCBA Holiday Party be revived? Who knows, but the Hearsay will always be there. Special thanks again to the irresponsibly handsome devils at NW Injury Law Center who so bravely footed the bill.

## **Conference Room available to rent**

The CCBA's office conference room is available for meetings and depositions at reasonable rates.



## **CCBA Board Meeting Minutes**



LE ANN LARSON CCBA Secretary

#### Minutes for the CCBA Board of Trustees Meeting December 2, 2015

**Called to order 12:03** - Caron Larson, Mc Leod, Sampath, Sleight, Norton, Dunn, Spratt, Lisa Darco present

November 4, 2015 Minutes: motion to approve (SPRATT/SLEIGHT) Approved

**Treasurer's Report (SAMPATH)** Cash position remains strong. Reviewed the financial reports Sampath prepared. Darco and Sampath met last week to start work on the budget. Forecasting a bit lower revenues than last year and some increased expenses. Should consider a dues increase.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

- a) Office Lease Update (DUNN) Reviewed lease draft.
- **b)** Family Law Section Admin (DARCO) Lisa will continue to monitor the time she spends. This issue will be discussed at the January board meeting.

#### c) Van Vista Assisted Living Service Project (DARCO)

11 names left. Montgomery Wheeler Sleight and Boyd law firm took half of the list.

d) Membership Update (DARCO) Presently at 439 members. Last year 494.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

a) Potential Locations for Our General Meeting Discussed the Red Cross building. Discussed Hamilton Hall at Clark College. Decision will be made at January b oard meeting.

Motion to pursue detailed changes to draft lease and sign lease if terms remain unchanged (SAMPATH/SPRATT) Approved

**b)** Key Bank - Sleight is now a signator on the bank account. Dunn is off.

Adjourned 12:58

## MOCK TRIAL TOURNAMENT

**The Annual Southwest Regional Mock Trial Tournament** is just around the corner with Judge Lewis presiding. Eight teams will compete for the chance to go to the state level competition. With six rounds scheduled over February 17 and 18, we will be looking for quite a few attorneys watch the teams go head to head, rate their presentations, and provide feedback.

If you can take out the time for a round, the kids would greatly appreciate it.

### TO VOLUNTEER CONTACT JILL SASSER

JILL.SASSER@LANDERHOLM.COM



## **CCBA CLE Calendar**

Register now for any of our upcoming CLEs

N&B – FMLA, WFLA, WFCA, WMFLA, PDL, OFLA, OMFLA, OCVL, OVCCLA, ADA, ADAAA and More! The Alphabet Soup of Employee Leave Laws for Washington and Oregon Employers Dan Grinfas and Matt Scherer February 10, 2016 3:00pm – 5:00pm Heathen Brewing Feral Public House \$50.00 for Members \$70.00 for Non-Members \$25.00 for Non-Attorneys

N&B – Bankruptcy 101 Russell Garrett & Doug Cushing March 9, 2016 3:00pm – 5:00pm Heathen Brewing Feral Public House \$50.00 for Members \$70.00 for Non-Members \$25.00 for Non-Attorneys N&B – The Care and Feeding of a Soft Tissue Case part 3: Trial Greg Price & Don Jacobs April 13, 2016 3:00pm – 5:00pm Heathen Brewing Feral Public House \$50.00 for Members \$70.00 for Non-Members

\$25.00 for Non-Attorneys

N&B – Trusts and Estates Alicia Lowe May 11, 2016 3:00pm – 5:00pm Heathen Brewing Feral Public House \$50.00 for Members \$70.00 for Non-Members \$25.00 for Non-Attorneys

## To Register, Call 360.695.5975

### NICHOLS MEDIATION, LLC

Judge John F. Nichols (Ret.)

### (360) 513-8159

4001 Main Street #300 • Vancouver, WA 98663 NicholsMediation@gmail.com

MEDIATION & ARBITRATION

### WANTED!!!

The Hearsay is in search of new and exciting material and new and exciting contributors!

Please join us on the third Tuesday of every month at noon at the CCBA office! If you have a great idea to share please don't hesitate to contact us.

Call Lisa in the CCBA office at 695-5975

## SUPERIOR COURT BENCH/BAR COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

January 12, 2016



KAREN CAMPBELL Bench Bar Committee Chair

The meeting began shortly after noon. Persons present were Judge Suzan Clark, Judge David Gregerson, Ann Christian, Curtis Welch, Louis Byrd, Clayton Spencer, Karen Campbell, Jolene Sell, Richard Mc Leod, and (briefly) Mark Muenster.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**1. Local Competency Evaluations:** Ann notified the Committee that the Western State Hospital (WSH) psychologist, dedicated to Clark County in-custody competency evaluations, will be here this month. Ann is planning a "meet and greet" on January 28th with Barry Ward, head of WSH's forensics unit; Simone Viljoen, the new evaluator; Ela Selga, District Court Administrator; Jeff Amram, Superior Court Administrator; PA's office; Ric Bishop, Jail Commander; and Judges who might want to attend.

2. New Local Rules: Judge Gregerson informed the Committee that ideas are coming into sharper focus regarding civil trial scheduling orders with established trial dates. Judge Gregerson hopes to have a set of draft rules available for review and comment by the spring with an eye towards adoption of a local rule in accordance with the Court's timeline for implementing local rules. Attorneys are encouraged to contact Judge Gregerson at the following email address to comment: David.Gregerson@clark.wa.gov.

**3. Driver's Re-licensing Program:** Karen provided an update on the Northwest Justice Project's work on the implementation of a statewide driver's license reinstatement program. Karen reported that a stakeholders group met in late December 2015, and eventually settled on legislation requiring the Administrative Office of the Courts to study the issue and make recommendations to the Legislature within a year regarding implementation.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. State Planning/Legal Needs Study: Karen informed the Committee that the Access to Justice Board is seeking to involve local community organizations in the state planning process addressing the allocation of legal aid resources. Karen explained that the legal needs study was completed in 2015 and showed increasing need for legal services amongst low-income individuals. This included an increase in the number of legal problems individuals are experiencing. The legal needs studies are conducted every ten years. Karen let the Judges know they were welcome to participate in the planning process and agreed to provide further information. Judge Clark agreed to share the information with the members of the bench at the next Judges' meeting.

2. Arraignment Calendar: Mark Muenster appeared briefly to discuss a letter he sent to Presiding Judge Rulli, expressing concern about the lack of uniformity among the bench when establishing conditions of release in criminal cases. The Committee decided this issue should be addressed at the next judge/defense/prosecution bar meeting to be held this Friday.

**3. Topics Needed for Attorney General Presentation:** Richard informed the Committee that Bob Ferguson is scheduled to speak at the Clark County Bar Association's General Meeting towards the end of March. Richard said they are looking for ideas/topics about which the Attorney General could speak. Please contact Richard with ideas/comments.

**4.** Next Meeting: The next Bench/Bar meeting will be held on February 9, 2016 at 12:00 p.m. in the Department 8 jury deliberation room.

Respectfully submitted, Karen Campbell

#### **Advertise Next Month's Hearsay** For rates and space availability, Call Lisa @ 360.695.5975

### **YOUNG LAWYER SECTION**



**ELIZABETH ARWOOD** *Hearsay Special Correspondent* 

Twas' the week before Christmas, the Young Lawyers' Section gathered at Shannihan's for their annual holiday party and white elephant gift exchange. The group enjoyed Shanni's fries and other snacks, sponsored by the Young Lawyer Section. Ben Melnick, the Section's Secretary, coordinated the white elephant gift exchange, with his own twist on the traditional rules. Anyone who wanted to participate brought a wrapped gift, with a value of \$10 or less. Participants selected numbers and then chose their gifts in the order of their numbers. The twist was that a subsequent participant could either trade their gift with a prior participant immediately, or wait until everyone selected their gift, and trade at the end. The catch is that you only got one trade, so if you traded early, you were not allowed to trade at the end.

Elizabeth Arwood got lucky number one. She selected a long, elegant looking gift wrapped in white and gold foil gift wrap. To her surprise, it was a toilet plunger! She waited until the end, when everyone had selected their gifts, and traded with Kristen Samwel, for coffee provisions.

Two attorneys opted to use their trades early on in the game, instead of waiting until the end. Paige Spratt immediately upgraded for a gift of expired 2013 and 2014 Chuck Norris



Calendars, the 2015 Arwood-Blum Christmas Card, and a gift card to a bottle shop. Nick Alexander also made a trade early, but his prized gift, was ultimately stolen by folks who waited to trade at the end. Other popular gift items during the gift exchange were microbrews, and a survival kit. The white elephant gift exchange at Shannihan's is an annual December tradition, and fun was had by all.

The next Young Lawyer Section event will be a Winterhawks Hockey Game on January 22, 2016.

Our next meeting and Happy Hour will occur on February 25th at 5:00 p.m. The location is to be determined. Check our facebook page or look for an email for details of the location. At the February meeting Young Lawyers Section members will vote on proposed changes to the Young Lawyers Section bylaws.

Jim Holland (formerly of Perkins Coie and the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office) and Jim Holland, Sr. continue a 100-year tradition of serving Washingtonians. The attorneys at Holland Law Group are committed to bringing truth and accountability to the injured, victims of negligence, and those seeking solutions to complex legal disputes. We welcome and appreciate every referral, and enjoy associating as co-counsel on civil cases nearing trial.

#### **RECENT RESULTS**

- \$10,000,000 wrongful death of a child
- \$2,400,000 verdict in partnership dispute
- \$2,000,000 school district sports injury settlement
- \$1,300,000 over-service of alcohol settlement
- \$1,000,000 professional negligence settlement
- \$500,000 verdict for injury causing neck surgery
- \$480,000 verdict for injury causing neck surgery

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W G R D U P DRIVEN BY RESULTS.

HOLLAND

А

## Clark County Bar Association's 2016 Barristers Ball February 27, 2016

What's more fun than the Barrister's Ball and Silent Auction? How about the Barrister's Ball and Casino Night?! We are excited to be hosting a Casino Night again this year and that means we need prizes. We're not talking gift cards, gift baskets or trinkets. We're talking vacations and electronics and one-of-akind experiences. Think BIG and then think even bigger than that! All proceeds from the Casino Night will be going to our friends at the CCVLP.

#### Now here's where you come in.

In order to make this year's ball a success, we need your help. We are in need of donations. Please consider making a cash donation to the CCBA Barristers' Ball fund. We'll combine your donation with other generous contributors to build amazing prize packages! All contributors will be recognized at the ball and all donations are tax deductible.

Remember, proceeds from the evening will be donated to the Clark County Volunteer Lawyers Program. This program helps low income individuals who simply cannot afford an attorney get the legal help they need. So in addition to having a great time at the Ball, you'll also have a really warm feeling inside, knowing you've done some good.

Contact the CCBA Office to make donations (360) 695-5975 or ccbamanager@ccbawashington.org

## Inns of Court - In Brief



RICK Mc LEOD

The January meeting was an exercise in communication as we learned some of the finer points of using interpreters in court. In our diverse population, interpreters are critical to providing due process and in many cases, just basic access to the courts. Special thanks to the Interpreter Coordinator Cindy Nosko and her guests for their presentation.

We are also pleased to announce that two of our long time members (and now retired judges) have been given emeritus membership in our Inns chapter. Congratulations to Judges Barbara Johnson and John Nichols. We hope that they will continue to share their wisdom and experience for many years to come.

Finally, remember that our next meeting is pushed back to Feb. 24th to accommodate the Mock Trial competition. See you then.

## **Changes to the Medical Lien Law**



**JESSE JACOBS** *Hearsay Special Correspondent* 

When insurance coverage is not available and there is a third party at fault for an injury, Washington State law allows physicians to place a lien on the third party tort-feasor and the tort-feasor's insurer. The purpose of the law is to encourage physicians to treat patients without a method of payment and to provide a measure of protection for the physician.

Effective July 24, 2015, changes to the medical lien law mean that certain physician liens may not be enforceable and enforcement of such liens could result in a violation of the Consumer Protection Act. There are three major issues to keep an eye out for.

#### DISCLOSURE OF THE USE OF MEDICAL LIENS NOW REQUIRED

Physicians must disclose the use of medical liens if they want the lien to be enforceable. RCW 60.44.020 (2). This means it is best practice for a physician to conspicuously note their intended use of such liens on their intake forms and include a citation to the chapter. It may even be a good idea to include a place for patients to initial.

#### PHYSICIANS MUST PROMPTLY RELEASE THE LIEN

No later than thirty days after the satisfaction of the lien,

physicians must execute and deliver a release of lien to the patient. RCW 60.44. 060 (2). Failure to follow this step could result in a physician paying attorney's fees required to release the lien and any damages incurred.

### VENDORS USED TO COLLECT THE LIEN MUST BE REGISTERED COLLECTION AGENCIES

If anyone but physicians or their staff attempt to collect on the lien, they must be registered with the State of Washington as a collection agency pursuant to chapter 19.16 RCW. RCW 60.44.020 (1). This means that any third party collecting on a physician's behalf must comply with the state's list of rules for collection agencies. Violation of this requirement may result in a violation of the Consumer Protection Act.

Remember that these liens are not on a patient or a patient's property, but on that of the person that injured the patient and his/her insurer—and all such liens (including any other clinics with a lien) are limited an aggregate of 25% of the settlement or judgment. RCW 60.44.010.



The Clark County Bar Association Presents a Nuts & Bolts CLE

FMLA, WFLA, WFCA, WMFLA, PDL, OFLA, OMFLA, OCVL, OVCCLA, ADA, ADAAA and More! The Alphabet Soup of Employee Leave Laws for Washington and Oregon Employers

> Presented by: Dan Grinfas and Matt Scherer

#### February 10, 2016 – 3:00 pm to 5:00pm Heathen Brewing Feral Public House 1109 Washington Street - Vancouver, WA 98660

2 General CLE Credits

CCBA members: \$50.00 Non-members: \$70.00 Non-attorneys: \$25.00

Washington and Oregon employers are faced with an increasingly complex "alphabet soup" of protected and often overlapping leave laws. Employees can prevail in litigation by proving that even a single protected absence was used as a "negative factor" in an adverse employment decision, so it's critical for employers to understand the leave laws and to properly track and distinguish between protected and unprotected employee absences.

In this fast-paced session, our presenters provide an overview of the federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), the Washington Family Leave Act (WFLA), the Oregon Family Leave Act (OFLA), and numerous other protected leave laws, including the brand new Oregon statewide mandatory sick time law effective January 1, 2016. This session also covers the "Bermuda Triangle of Leave Laws" – the interaction between the state and federal family and medical leave laws, the state and federal disability laws, and the state workers' compensation laws.

Name:	Bar Number:	
Email Address:		
	Mail registration with payment to:	
	ССВА	
	500 W. 8th Street, Suite 65   Vancouver, WA 98660	
	Credit card payment can be made at:	
	Phone: 360.695.5975	
	Pre-payment is preferred.	



**Dan Grinfas** counsels employers and conducts management and employee training in a variety of employment-related areas, including workplace harassment, civil rights laws, wage and hour laws, OFLA and FMLA, disability laws and reasonable accommodation, injured worker laws, legal hiring practices, policy writing and employer record-keeping requirements. He also represents employers before administrative agencies including BOLI and the EEOC.

Dan is certified as a Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR) by the Human Resources Certification Institute. He has also been selected

for inclusion in the Employment Law category of Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business, in Best Lawyers in America and in Oregon Super Lawyers.

Dan previously served as Lead Program Coordinator with the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries' Technical Assistance for Employers Program. He is a frequent speaker on employment law issues and has presented seminars to thousands of managers, supervisors and human resources professionals at public agencies and private organizations throughout Oregon. He has given numerous presentations for organizations including the Oregon State Bar, the Society for Human Resource Management, the Northwest Human Resources Management Association, the Oregon Employer Council, BOLI, the EEOC, the Oregon Law Institute, and the Labor Education Research Center.



**Matt Scherer** joined Buchanan Angeli Altschul & Sullivan LLP as an associate in 2015. He previously completed judicial clerkships for Justice Charles K. Wiggins of the Washington Supreme Court, Judge Deborah L. Cook of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, and Judge Gregory M. Sleet of the U.S. District Court for the District of Delaware. Matt also has more than two years of experience as an assistant prosecuting attorney in Pontiac, Michigan where he handled multiple jury and bench trials. Matt graduated magna cum laude from the Georgetown University Law Center, where he served as Editor-in-Chief of The Georgetown Journal of Legal Ethics. He also holds a Master's in Educational Policy from the University of Pennsylvania's Graduate School of Education.

Matt received his bachelor of arts magna cum laude from the University of Pennsylvania in May 2005. He is the author of Regulating Artificial Intelligence Systems: Risks, Challenges, Competencies, and Strategies, which is being published in the Spring 2016 issue of the Harvard Journal of Law and Technology.

#### Mail registration with payment to:

CCBA 500 W. 8th Street, Suite 65 | Vancouver, WA 98660 **Credit card payment can be made at:** Phone: 360.695.5975

Pre-payment is preferred.

## Part II: Mything Memories



RICK Mc LEOD CCBA President

#### "I'm a gut player." - President George W. Bush

In this installment, I want to address some other cognitive issues that have an interplay with memory, specifically, perception bias and intuition.

Keep in mind some points from part one. First, perception is subject to unconscious filters. Second, memory is not "photographic" or even fixed, rather it is malleable.

Perceptions can be altered by beliefs, priming, emotions, and other factors. In fact, both perception and recall can be affected by beliefs or even prior reasoning.[1]

An excellent demonstration of perception bias appeared in Penn & Teller's series, Bullsh#\$!. In the episode involving organic food, shoppers at a farmer's market were asked whether organic or non-organic fruits tasted better. In the banana test, a single banana was cut in half. One half was labeled organic and the other non-organic. Despite being given two pieces of the same banana, ninety percent of tasters favored the "organic" banana, for example, stating that it had better texture and flavor. In this example, both belief and priming played a factor. While the show was more focused on entertainment, experiments performed under rigorous conditions produce similar findings.

Confirmation bias occurs when a person credits data that favors a pre-existing belief and discounts (or discards) data that is contrary to that belief. Confirmation bias can be a trial lawyer's best friend or worst enemy. Jurors are cautioned not to pre-judge a case precisely because once an opinion begins to form, there is a tendency to ignore testimony and evidence inconsistent with that opinion. Indeed, a key goal of voir dire is to identify and exclude potential jurors that have pre-conceived decisions that might improperly influence the trial.

Most "psychics" use a technique called "cold reading" that capitalize on confirmation bias.[2] When a psychic offers a vague suggestion that someone named "J" is trying "break through," the audience focuses on the hits, and ignores the misses. In fact, the practiced performer can turn a miss into a hit, just by negating. In the end, many audience member leave with a genuine belief that someone has received a communication from a dead relative. FYI, Penn & Teller cracked this one in their very first episode of the series.[3]

Intuition is a quick, but unreliable, mode of thinking. Intuition can easily be wrong, and thus we have the word: counterintuitive. The Monty Hall Problem is a well-studied example of false reliance on intuition.

Monty Hall was the long running host of the television game show, Let's Make a Deal. In the final deal of each show, the contestant is presented with three doors. Behind one of these doors is a major prize, like a new car. The other doors hide prank prizes, such as a goat, or a photo of a beach in Fiji, rather than a trip to Fiji. The contestant picks one door. Next, Monty might try to buy them out with an offer of cash or some smaller, but guaranteed prize. Ultimately, Hall would reveal a "prank prize" behind one of the remaining doors. Then would come the fateful offer: the contestant could keep their original selection or switch to the remaining door. So, which is better? Should the contestant switch or stick?

Intuition leads many people to believe that it does not matter. They erroneously conclude that the odds of winning are 50-50. However, statistically, the contestant should always switch. While this will be the wrong choice in some cases, this choice maximizes the number of winning contestants in the long run.[4]

Some psychological factors may explain the bias, such as the "endowment effect," in which a person places a higher value on something that they already have (first door) versus something that they do not (remaining door). But, the primary point remains, intuition leads to the wrong conclusion.

As a survival mechanism, intuition has its place. If you were in the wilderness, a rustling in the brush could be a predator or the wind. Intuitively, one might conclude that the rustling is only the wind, but the penalty for being wrong could be fatal. Conversely, one might decide that the rustling is a predator and take action. Here, the penalty for being wrong is probably far less severe.

In legal reasoning, intuition can be dangerous. Indeed, when intuition meets false memories and confirmation bias, the result can be radioactive.

<sup>[1]</sup> https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Confirmation\_bias

<sup>[2]</sup> https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cold\_reading

<sup>[3]</sup> http://www.amazon.com/Penn-Teller-BS-Season-1/dp/B00EC8015K/

<sup>[4]</sup> Mythbusters did a show on this, and their small scale, statistical test bore out the result. If you want to understand why switching is better without a lot of math, apply the same technique to Powerball.

## Hearsay Profile Christie Martin



**Home**: I'm originally from Miami Florida. I proudly entered military service for the United States Air Force at age 17, which took me around the world and helped to enhance my commitment to public service. After a little more moving around, including San Diego, California, we now make our home in Southwest Portland where we intend to stay.

**Age**: 53

#### Profession: Attorney

**Hobby**: Anything with my dogs outdoors, travel overseas and hanging out with friends.

Last Book Read: Chrissy Hyde's autobiography, "Reckless."

**Legal Philosophy**: to provide a unique approach to enhancing the quality of our client's lives. I make house calls, which is pretty unique. Clients LOVE that. They are most comfortable talking about their legal documents and finances as well and life and death issues in the comfort of their homes. We counsel family members in every stage of their lives while preserving harmony in their families, lives and relationships. We counsel them regarding the difficult navigation of the legal process for the mentally ill, incapacitated and disabled. We help people maintain their dignity, independence and quality of life.

Latest Accomplishment: Growing my practice with my partner.

**Why I Do What I Do**: I love kids and seniors. I was a foster child so I have a unique perspective when it comes to representing them in dependency matters. I also believe that our seniors deserve the utmost dignity and respect while they age.

**Profile**: We are a civil law firm that offers a broad range of services in Oregon and Washington. We handle all facets of civil litigation and elder law, including guardianships and estate planning. We provide smart, flexible and client-focused legal services. We are sensitive to the needs of our clients and appreciate that every case brings unique challenges and opportunities. We are committed to delivering exceptional service.

Beverage of Choice: Hard Cider!

## The Privilege to Lawfully Drive

**BRANDON CAMPBELL** 

Hearsay Special Correspondent

Take a moment to consider the last time you worried about your driver's license. Likely, if you are reading this article and have had any previous cause to worry over your license, it's almost certainly because you somehow misplaced or damaged this ubiquitous document. It is probably a fair guess, should you have had previous cause to drive to the Department of Motor Vehicles ("DMV") to replace your lost I.D., the last thing on your mind was the fear of being pulled over by law enforcement. You doubtless did not consider receiving a criminal charge or traffic infraction for simply driving to the DMV, without your license, to replace your lost license. [1] If you failed to bring required identification for reissuance of a license on your trip to the DMV, and had to go back home to get your passport, you likely drove criminally by the way. Your foremost concern was presumably how much time out of your day the DMV would take to get you back a document you take substantially for granted.

For some, attaining or re-attaining a valid license may seem to be a glorified "pipe dream." For individuals of "limited means" a simple traffic ticket, irritating to all, but dangerous to the mobility of some, can lead to a spiraling out-of-control inability to attain lawful access to the privilege to drive. A person's license can be suspended for many reasons, either administratively (think minimum suspension of a year for refusal to provide a breath test sample) or as a result of a criminal conviction (minimum 30 day suspension for a reckless driving conviction).

Many individuals lose their license to suspension for nonpayment of traffic tickets. This suspension is generally termed to be in the "third degree.[2]" To this writer's knowledge, there is no express statutory authority allowing suspension of a person's license for simply failing to pay a fine. RCW 46.20.289 states, "[t]he department [of licensing ("DOL")] shall suspend all driving privileges of a person when the [DOL] receives notice from a court [...] that the person has [failed to respond/appear under certain enumerated circumstances], or has failed to comply with the terms of a notice of traffic infraction or citation for a moving violation [...]." (emphasis added).

Now apparently this language can be read to mean that if a person is adjudicated to have committed a traffic infraction, and failed to pay on that adjudicated finding, they have "failed to comply with the terms of a notice of traffic infraction or citation for a moving violation." In fact, this is exactly what the Washington State Supreme Court recently found in State v. Johnson. State v. Johnson, 179 Wn. 2d 534, 315 P.3d 1090 (Wash. 2014) (Wiggins dissenting).

Mr. Johnson argued that the above referenced "failed to comply" language did not expressly authorize the state to suspend his license for failure to pay fines and fees. Mr. Johnson had otherwise appeared and complied with the directions on his notice of infraction. Mr. Johnson's driving while suspended in the third degree ("DWS III") conviction was upheld on the basis of suspension for failure to pay a traffic ticket. This is true even where his inability to pay was due to his indigent state.[3]

What happens logistically when a person is found to have committed a traffic infraction and cannot pay that ticket? In Clark County, and presumably in many other counties and municipalities, those fines and fees are turned over to collections. The person's outstanding fines and fees collect interest, and their license is suspended by the DOL. Take an individual that gets a ticket and does not pay that ticket off because of: 1) a lack of maturity; 2) financial irresponsibility; 3) incarceration; or 4) financial inability to pay. Now, let's move forward a decade in this hypothetical "driver's" life. It would not be unheard of for this individual to pick up a driving while suspended charge, on average, three times a year. By the time the decade has passed this individual could have tens of thousands of dollars in outstanding fines and fees, and associated interest charges. Not to mention a growing number of "all expenses covered" stays at public expense in their local jail.

Many of these individuals may not have known at the time their license was first suspended, when they only had a few hundred dollars in fees, they could have likely entered payment plans with the courts they owed fines to and had the DOL "holds" on their licenses released. These individuals could also possibly obtain an occupational license from DOL, even with their current suspension. Instead, this hypothetical chronic DWS client continues to drive without a license, and continues to get caught. Officers seem to have an uncanny ability to search out these chronic unlawful drivers. In fact, in many smaller jurisdictions like Clark County, officers and the courts may come to know these drivers on a first name basis.

Counties in Oregon and Washington have sought to address the issue of chronic DWS drivers. Cowlitz has a DWS program, Multnomah has a "Clean Slate" DWS program, and Clark County has long had the "Drivers Restoration" program. The Drivers Restoration program generally costs \$75.00 and provides clients with the knowledge necessary to understand how to get back to a lawful licensure status. The restoration program could not really address indigent clienteles' inability to pay hundreds of dollars a month towards payment plans on outstanding fines and fees.

Clark County has worked to address these "Tier 2" chronic indigent DWS drivers in a possibly novel fashion. Looking

to service individuals who have had a history of suspended driving, and whose DOL holds are strictly Clark County based, Lisa Biffle (Mabry Corrections Facility Program Manager) may be able to help these previously helpless persons obtain lawful driving status. Success stories from this lightly publicized program include a chronic DWS driver with over \$70,000 in outstanding fines or fees, who had not had a lawful ability to drive in decades, who was able to get his license back. Ms. Biffle indicates this individual now has a job and broke down in tears upon obtaining his driver's license.

The Tier 2 program participants must still go through the DWS restoration class. (Pro tip, if your chronic client is going into custody on their next DWS charge, make sure to let them know to "kite" the corrections "Reentry" team and they can engage in the DWS Restoration class in custody for no cost. There are generally two in-custody classes a month and they do fill up. Coordinating sentencing or a client's turn self in date, so the client is in custody during an open class, can be important in giving them the best opportunity to engage in the DWS class while in custody.)

The Tier 2 participants then provide Ms. Biffle with a completed packet of information showing a current and future inability to pay (think Blazina), which Ms. Biffle reviews to determine if any of the individual's fines and fees still in collections are older than 10 years and are therefore no longer enforceable judgments. These Tier 2 clients file a motion in district court requesting their fines and fees be reviewed by the court to consider removing their debt from collections.

Generally these motions are reviewed by Comm. Kristen Parcher. Comm. Parcher does an individualized analysis of the person's ability to pay. Comm. Parcher may then order the individuals fines and fees be pulled from collections, waive certain fines and fees, or convert them to work crew/community service. By pulling the fines and fees from collections the court can set attainable payment plans specific to a person's individual ability to pay. Anecdotal evidence indicates these outstanding debts, pulled from collections, are generally reduced by about two-thirds. At this point the individual's DOL holds are released and the person must comply with the court's directions or risk a future suspension.

Washington's system for payment of fees is not structured for consolidated payments, as is Oregon's. In Oregon, an individual with multiple outstanding debts to multiple counties can enter into a payment plan with a single state entity. This is not the case in Washington, where a client needs to address their debts with each specific jurisdiction. So if an individual has outstanding fines or fees in two county district courts and three municipal courts, each one of these individual entities must be coordinated with to initiate five separate payment plans if the client wants to release their DOL hold. This is the only significant limit to a person's eligibility for the Clark County Tier 2 program, as Clark County District Court cannot release another jurisdiction's DOL hold.

Washington State and the NW Justice Project are in the research and development phase for potentially streamlining a statewide payment system, to address this complicating issue. This could be a big help to suspended and revoked persons who are not extremely mobile (or should not be) in re-attaining lawful driving status.

It may not be something a person relatively secure in their ability to drive generally contemplates, but the privilege to drive is an extremely important aspect of being a productive citizen. The ease of transportation allows for enhanced opportunities for upward societal movement and personal improvement. The recovery rates from indigent clients and collections mechanisms have to be abysmal. Working to relicense the chronically indigent that are suspended or revoked is a worthwhile cause. It seems natural this cause has the opportunity for benefiting not only individual seeking their license, but the community as a whole. Licensed drivers should generally be more productive citizens. If you would like to learn more about this process, or know of some intern level volunteers who would like to help Lisa Biffle with client intakes, feel free to reach out to Ms. Biffle or this writer.

[1] See R.C.W. 46.20.005 Driving Without a License--Misdemeanor, when, but more likely an infraction; see also R.C.W. 46.20.015 Driving Without a License--Traffic infraction, when.

[2] See R.C.W. 46.20.342(1)(c)(iv).

[3] Mr. Johnson was found statutorily but not constitutionally indigent, so his equal protection claim was not heard based on a lack of standing. Johnson, at 552, 315 P.3d at

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## **OREGON INVADES!** Multnomah County Practice Straight from the Multnomah County Presiding Judge



JESSE JACOBS Hearsay Special Correspondent

For those of you that missed it (or any of the other excellent CCBA CLE's, which are conveniently listed on the CCBA website), the Honorable Nan G. Waller, presiding judge in Multnomah County Circuit Court, and her clerk, Lee Ann Donaldson, took us on an advanced tour of just about everything that you'd need to know for Multnomah County Practice.

Mandatory e filing was served with a side of tasty pulled pork sandwiches. Not only were we reminded that Oregon now eschews the practices of us barbaric paper wasters, but we were updated that the court sticks notices on a separate portal. Like to pretend you didn't get a court notice? Judge Waller gave us the heads-up that Oregon courts can now see if you opened it!

Multnomah County Courts just really like judicial networking. Down in Stumpville, you get one judge signed up for your motions and whoever happens to be available when it's time for trial. Like the "set it and forget it" approach to filing civil cases? Not down in Multnomah County. Trial readiness conferences are 240 days out where a "date certain" is set for trial and there better be a pretty good reason to get out of it.

Over coffee and cake, Ms. Donaldson politely reminded us that Oregon requires complaints to note whether or not a claim is subject to mandatory arbitration right up there on the upper right. As court staff doesn't tend to read the complaint to catch the error, your big jury trial could very well be assigned on over to arbitration.

There is simply far too much info to squeeze into the time that I allotted for this article, but there really are few excuses for those who practice at all in Oregon to miss the Multnomah court updates. Plus, they come with tasty snacks.

## **BOOKKEEPING TIPS** WSBA & MBA Dues, Employee Holiday Parties & 2016 Mileage



EMANUELA SANDRI Attorney Bookkeeping Services, Inc.

## WSBA & MBA Dues, Employee Holiday Parties & 2016 Mileage

For 2016 license fee/dues, the non-deductible portion for the WSBA (Washington State Bar Association) and MBA (Multnomah Bar Association) are as follows. Tip: Record the non-deductible portion under a separate category to easily identify.

- WSBA ~~~ \$7.87
- MBA ~~~ \$5.00

If meals and entertainment are provided for the benefit of your employees, you can write off 100% of the cost as a business

expense. This is an exception to the usual 50% limit rule for meals and entertainment. Common examples of expenses that are deductible at 100% include:

- Food, beverage, tax and tip for a company event, such as a picnic or holiday party (note: a deduction is generally not allowed for the cost of renting or owning an entertainment facility)
- Free coffee, bottled water, donuts, snacks, etc. provided to employees at the place of business
- Meals provided at the place of business for working overtime
- Lunch ordered in for staff meeting
- Meals billed to a client

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

#### MEETING

February 3, 2016 CCBA Board Meeting CCBA Office Noon - 1:00pm

#### MEETING

February 9, 2016 Superior Court Bench/Bar Meeting Clark County Courthouse - Noon

#### CLE

February 10, 2016 Nuts & Bolts CLE - The Alphabet Soup of Family Leave Laws for WA and OR Employers Presented by: Dan Grinfas & Matt Scherer Heathen Brewing Feral Public House 3:00pm - 5:00pm

#### MEETING CLE

February 11, 2016 Family Law Section Lunch & CLE Vancouver Hilton 11:30am - 1:00pm

#### February 15, 2016

President's Day CCBA Office Closed

#### MEETING

February 16, 2016 Hearsay Committee Meeting CCBA office - Noon

#### SOCIAL

February 17 & 18, 2016 Clark County Mock Trial Clark County Courthouse

#### CLE

February 24, 2016 Inns of Court Heathen Brewing Feral Public House 5:00pm - 6:30pm

#### SOCIAL

February 27, 2016 **CCBA Barristers Ball** Heathman Lodge 5:30pm



### SW WASHINGTON LAWYER **REFERRAL SERVICE**

The CCBA's Lawyer Referral Service is a program designed to help the general public find attorneys appropriate for their needs, while at the same time providing a source of new client business exclusively to our members.

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#### THE SWLRS REFERRED 187 CLIENTS IN THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

Administrative Law	10
Bankruptcy	1
Business & Corporate	3
Consumer	18
Criminal	7
Debtor/Creditor	8
FamilyLa w	23
GeneralLi tigation	51
Labor & Employment	14
Real P roperty	41
Wills & Trusts	7
Worker's Comp	4
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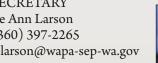


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