Top community leaders to speak at this year’s WCBA meetings

President Steve Chance and his fellow WCBA officers made a concerted effort to line up top quality speakers for this year’s monthly meetings. Here’s the list so far:
- **February** 7 – Dan Pike, Bellingham Mayor
- **March** - Law Advocates Annual Meeting.
- **April** - TBD
- **May** - Newly appointed State Supreme Court Justice, Debra Stephens
- **June** - TBD
- **July & August** - no meeting
- **September** - former US attorney, John McKay
- **October** - TBD

### 2008 Mock Trial!

The 2008 Whatcom YMCA Mock Trial competition will be held in the morning and afternoon of Saturday, March 1st at the Whatcom County Courthouse. Teams from Lynden, Meridian, Sehome and Windward high schools will compete. Attorneys are needed to score the competition. To volunteer as a scorer, either contact Leon Henley (by email at lhenley@co.whatcom.wa.us or phone at 961-7888) or sign up on the sheet that will be circulated at the February WCBA meeting.”

Dues due:
Funds support many services

All attorneys in the county soon will be receiving from the WCBA officers a letter to renew your bar membership.

Annual dues are again $75.00. However, new for 2008, WCBA is offering a free membership for new attorneys (admitted in 2007) and attorneys with over 50 years practice experience.

The dues support LAW Advocates, the Whatcom County Law Library, Northwest Youth Services (Teen Court) and the local high school mock trial competition.

Funds also go toward general business of WCBA, including the rental fee from Northwood Hall for our local CLEs and the copying and distribution of the Newsletter.

Paid membership in WCBA allows you to stay connected to our local legal community and provides you with a discount on WCBA-sponsored CLE’s. A registration form is enclosed with the letter.

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**Bar Lunch**

The monthly bar lunch and meeting will be at noon, Wednesday, February 6, 2008, at Northwood Hall. The event will feature Guest speaker Bellingham Mayor Dan Pike.
“ELECTING” Our Officers  
When I was in the 8th grade a teacher talked me into running for student body president. The previous year I hit one of my teachers with a water balloon during class. My friends and I thought it was hilarious. The teacher saw much less humor in it and I did suffer some consequences. Among other things, it earned me a spot on the radar of all other teachers in the school.

The next year, one of my 8th grade teachers got the idea that becoming a student body officer would help channel some of my mischievousness to more productive endeavors. I didn’t really see a downside so I ran for office. I lost. I never really forgave that teacher for setting me up for the failure and humiliation of losing a school-wide election.

Naturally, I took the loss as license to continue my mischievous ways and swore I would never run for another elected office. So it is from a background of multiple public school suspensions, that I now have the distinction of serving as your bar president for the next year. Fortunately for me, there was never an actual election.

There was a time when our local bar officers were actually voted on by the membership. Races were sometimes contested and had multiple candidates. Those days are gone. Now a committee of former presidents nominates the officers for the following year. Those nominations are then put to a voice vote at the next monthly bar meeting. Candidates are always unanimously approved by the membership, I expect because everyone is relieved they are not the nominee.

I entered the fold of this process in 2006 when I was called by a member of the Past President’s Committee. I was told they were prepared to nominate me for VP/President Elect and asked if I would be willing to serve. My response was compound: “What? Whose idea was this? Can’t you find someone else?” The nominating process was explained and I was told to think about it for a week.

This well-orchestrated solicitation cleverly prevented me from rejecting the nomination on the spot. After I carefully considered the logistics of a water balloon attack on the committee, a vague sense of professional obligation soon crept over me. When the follow up call came I asked if they had any others they were considering. “No, you are the one the committee wants to nominate”. “O.K.” I said. And that was that.

Were it not for the unconventional manner in which I was “elected” to be your new bar president, I would surely have gone my whole life without holding elected office. It is comforting to know that I at least have the confidence of a few Past President Committee members, but only because they never knew me when I was a teenager.
Late last November, I was sitting in in Daisy Cafe at the corner of commercial and Magnolia speaking with my friend and employment law attorney Jennifer Willner. We were having lunch and I brought up that I was going to be launching my new law practice at the beginning of the new year. If you know Jennifer you can probably imagine her mischievous eyes lighting up an saying, oooh!!! I know, you should takeover the bar newsletter editor position. It will be so much fun!

Things that first ran through my mind were, Uuh, Jennifer, I'm starting a law practice. How will I have the time to do that too? Then I thought, free exposure! And I don't have to carry liability insurance for it!

Then I thought that as an intellectual-property attorney, I have very little interaction with the local bar. Of course I try to attend meetings as regularly as possible, and I even volunteered for Street Law and Law Day a couple times. I'm getting off track. So, even though my gut said, "what the heck are you doing?" I took a deep breath said yyyyy.

What I did not know is that I would be able to see the inter-workings of the local Bar Association. For example, at my old law firm, we used to get one copy of bar news and circulate it.

This always puzzled me considering that there were three of us paying for the Whatcom County Bar Association dues. Instead of fighting the man so to speak, I would just download the darned thing from the WCBA web site at www.Whatcombar.org. Kudos to Virginia Tucker our local law librarian for managing that project. At the website, I would find past issues and a wealth of information on the local Bar Association.

As editor, I’m always looking for content. I’m pleased to see that one of the regular columnists, Scott Railton, is continuing with his "Across the Line" immigration law series. Quite an impressive run. I am sorry to see Adam Kurtz’s "Lex Bestia" column leave, but I may be able to coax him back. He works just down the hall. Also, I would like to get a trifecta of sorts, three regular topical issues in the newsletter.

I myself will likely begin an intellectual-property column updating the local bar on the fascinating world of patents, trademarks, and copyrights. Always an interesting topic.

Virginia Tucker, the local Whatcom County Bar Association law librarian will be providing us with updates to the law library. One nice edition is that we now have wireless Internet access at the library.

Because it seems I am always going to be racing to the press, I have decided to take the tact of, "if it ain't broke, don't fix it". With that in mind, you will likely see similarities between these current issues, and past issues.

Speaking of the past issues, my hat is off to Mike Heatherly, the past bar news association newsletter editor who recently left to become the Washington State Bar newsletter editor. I look forward to working with our executive team, new president Steve Chance, vice president Katti Esp, treasure Simi Jain, and Secretary Marie Gallagher.

The executive team has put together a fantastic series of speakers for this year with a few slots left open. If you have suggestions on quality speakers to speak at the lunch meetings, please contact Steve Chance, his contact information is on the front of the newsletter. Also you will find this years Bar budget for your consideration.

Lastly, and in case you were wondering, the January edition of the bar news did not go out because we did not have a monthly Bar Association meeting. Of course that's the official party line, in reality, I was not able to meet the deadline, so you will find in this edition, information from what was supposed to be in the January edition newsletter as well as current information for the February newsletter.

Now that I'm up and running, I look forward publishing this newsletter for the Bar Association. For the most part, I will be attending the monthly bar meetings. If you have an idea, article topic, announcements, information to be placed in classifieds, or advertisements, please contact me either by e-mail at matt@jellettlaw.com or by phone at 360 527 9400.

Oh, and one last tip, watch out if you take Jennifer-Willner to lunch, you might end up next year’s bar newsletter editor! Just kidding Jennifer.
The Institute of Health Improvements (IHI) estimates 15 million incidents of medical harm at U.S. hospitals each year with 40-50 occurring per 100 hospital admissions. The American Hospital Association recorded 37 million hospital admissions in 2005. This approximates to 15 million incidents of medical harm annually or 40,000 incidents every day.

IHI announced the new 5,000,000 Lives Campaign. This campaign builds on the successful 100,000 Lives Campaign from two years ago. The INI estimates 122,000 lives were saved at the 3,100 participating hospitals in 18 months through overall improvement of care and the six interventions recommended by the initiative.

The 5,000,000 Lives Campaign will ask hospitals to improve their quality of care to protect patients from five million incidents of medical harm over a 24 month period ending December 2008. The initiative has the support of Blue Cross and Blue Shield health plans, the American Hospital Association, the American Nurses Associations, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.

The astonishing amount of medical harm which is estimated to occur each day in U.S. hospitals also has implications for the legal and insurance industries. There are dozens of hospital and ancillary personnel who care for patients before, during, and sometimes after an inpatient hospital stay. If a harmful event should occur and you the attorney are called in to review a case, you must review every aspect of care that person received. Too often medical experts only review their area of expertise. Nursing notes and other allied healthcare such as respiratory therapists, physical therapists, and others are overlooked by medical experts. Has there been tampering with the medical records? Make sure your expert carefully reviews all the records.

What Is “Harm”?

The 5 Million Lives Campaign defines “medical harm” as:

*Unintended physical injury resulting from or contributed to by medical care (including the absence of indicated medical treatment), that requires additional monitoring, treatment or hospitalization, or that results in death. Such injury is considered harm whether or not it is considered preventable, resulted from a medical error, or occurred within a hospital.*

The 5 Million Lives Campaign challenges American hospitals to adopt 12 changes in care that save lives and reduce patient injuries:

*The six interventions from the 100,000 Lives Campaign*

**Deploy Rapid Response Teams**... at the first sign of patient decline

**Deliver Reliable, Evidence-Based Care for Acute Myocardial Infarction**... to prevent deaths from heart attack

**Prevent Adverse Drug Events (ADEs)**... by implementing medication reconciliation

**Prevent Central Line Infections**... by implementing a series of interdependent, scientifically grounded steps

**Prevent Surgical Site Infections**... by reliably delivering the correct perioperative antibiotics at the proper time

**Prevent Ventilator-Associated Pneumonia**... by implementing a series of interdependent, scientifically grounded steps

**New interventions targeted at harm**

**Prevent Harm from High-Alert Medications**... starting with a focus on anticoagulants, sedatives, narcotics, and insulin

**Reduce Surgical Complications**... by reliably implementing all of the changes in care recommended by SCIP, the Surgical Care Improvement Project ([www.medqic.org/scip](http://www.medqic.org/scip))

**Prevent Pressure Ulcers**... by reliably using science-based guidelines for their prevention

**Reduce Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) infection**... by reliably implementing scientifically proven infection control practices

**Deliver Reliable, Evidence-Based Care for Congestive Heart Failure**... to avoid readmissions

**Get Boards on Board** ... by defining and spreading the best-known leveraged processes for hospital Boards of Directors, so that they can become far more effective in accelerating organizational progress toward safe care

Source: [www.ihi.org](http://www.ihi.org)
Changes in Latitudes . . . Changes in Attitudes

Patent Attorney Matthew Jellett has left the Hughes law firm to establish his own practice Jellett Law PS. Mr. Jellett will continue his patent, trademark, and copyright law practice in Bellingham. Without getting into the details of the large courtroom battles and closed-door sessions, they parted as friends, Matt just owes Bob Hughes a beer and Mike Hughes some shooting lessons. (Sorry for the inside joke)

On a more sedate note, Matt advises clients throughout the Pacific Northwest on intellectual property matters. He earned his law degree from Seattle University, his bachelor’s degree in civil engineering and bachelor’s degree in architecture from Texas Tech University. In his previous career, Matt practiced structural engineering in Austin Texas, in fact, he has over 14 years experience in engineering and law.

Matt is admitted to practice before the US Patent and Trademark Office, and in Washington State. Please visit www.jellettlaw.com for more information.

Attorney Joseph P. Bartek has moved his office location. Mr. Bartek’s firm handles personal injury, serious injury and death claims, automobile accidents, products liability, insurance claims. His new location is:

Law Offices Of Joseph P. Bartek
4911 Silver Beach Ave. Bellingham, WA 98226
Phone 671-0609
Fax 671-8075
e-mail joebartek@comcast.net
web site www.barteklaw.com

Friendly reminder from your local Bar Law Library:

Bring your lattes! We now have wireless access in the law library!
Just kidding, about the lattes! Please contact our local Whatcom County Bar Law Librarian, Virginia Tucker, email: vt@virginiatucker.com | phone: 360.961.3964 for more information about access etc...

CLASSIFIED ADS

Office space For Rent - in air conditioned executive building. Corner office close to court house, includes receptionist and conference room usage. $700.00 per mo. All utilities and internet access included except phone. Call (360) 715-3100.

BUSY LOCAL FIRM SEEKS TWO ATTORNEYS
Established Bellingham firm seeking two associates, 2 years experience in family law, 60-100K, salary DOE +benefits. Send resume to Lori @ Tario & Associates, P.S., 119 N. Commercial St. #1000, Bellingham, WA 98225 or fax (360) 733-7092 or email to lori_tariolaw@qwest.net

Will Search
If you wrote a will for Michael Edward O’Connell, please call Tom Stuen at 647-0234

Free to all WCBA members & firms e-mail ad copy as MS Word .doc file to: matt@jellettlaw.com by the 15th of the preceding month Questions? Call 360 527-9400
Dear Steven Chance,

We understand that many are dealing with the aftermath of flooding in your county. We want you and lawyers of Whatcom County to know that the Washington State Bar Association Lawyer Assistance Program (LAP) is available to lawyers who are providing direct services to flood victims or who may be flood victims themselves. LAP can help lawyers to better serve clients who may have been traumatized by flooding and we can help lawyers better manage their own reactions to the difficulty of trying to provide services in an emergency environment. Professional LAP counselors provide counseling by telephone, referrals to clinicians in the local community and in – person appointments in the Seattle office. Call (206) 727 – 8268.

Barbara Harper, MA, LMHC, LMFT
Director
Lawyer Services Department
direct line: 206-727-8265
fax: 206-727-8320
e-mail: barbarah@wsba.org

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New Coordinated Response Protocol for Domestic Violence and Child Abuse for Whatcom County

The Whatcom County Domestic Violence, Children, and Child Maltreatment Coordinated Response Committee has recently published its Coordinated Response Protocol for cases involving domestic violence and child abuse/ maltreatment cases.

This protocol is the product of a committee composed of representatives of the Superior, District and Lummi Tribal Courts, the Department of Social and Health Services, DVSAS, law enforcement, city and county prosecutors, public defenders, the Attorney General's office, service providers, Whatcom Guardian Ad Litem Services, and others. It has been written over the past two years and is intended to serve as a resource for anyone who has a case involving domestic violence and child welfare. The impetus came from a statewide leadership group convened by Washington State Supreme Court Justice Bobbe Bridge on which Whatcom County Superior Court Judge Chuck Snyder served.

The protocol includes information about how such cases are processed by each agency, including investigation, actions taken and application of resources. There is a checklist for attorneys and courts to insure that the necessary information is provided for decision making at all stages of a case. There are appendices providing specific information on domestic violence, resources and assessment information. Those practicing in such cases can find information in the protocol on how each agency works and what their role in the case is.

The protocol can be accessed through a link on the Whatcom County Superior Court website and will soon be available on other websites as well. If you have questions about the protocol, please call Karen Burke at DVSAS or Judge Chuck Snyder in Whatcom County Superior Court.
Washington State Legislature Update

With our State Legislature set to meet in January, it’s a safe bet that several legislators will introduce various forms of “get tough” immigration legislation. This is happening everywhere, and I expect certain bills will make the news. There’s simply a lot of political hay to be made in immigration, many believe “getting tough” is the “right thing” to do, and then there’s rightfully a great deal of frustration with Congress’s inability to address immigration.

As Washington State is one of only nine states that still issues driver’s licenses to undocumented persons, this is almost certainly going to be a hot button issue, as it recently was in New York. It is also possible that “restrictionists” will try to repeal in-state tuition allowances for undocumented students, as has been seen in some states. Employer sanctions type bills are also likely, in the wake of Congress’s failure to address immigration.

Arizona has an interesting new law that goes into effect on January 1st, which will empower the state to revoke business licenses for any business that employs an illegal alien. It is one of the toughest state laws in the country. The law encourages persons to report businesses to authorities, which then can commence a procedure which may end in the revocation of the business license. Legislators and businesses around the country are watching closely to see what happens.

So far, the Wall Street Journal and the New York Times report that many Arizona employers are in fact laying off Hispanic employees who cannot prove their status. The employer cannot afford to lose their business licenses. However, the Journal also says many businesses are “moving operations to Mexico and freezing expansion plans ahead of a new law that cracks down on employers who hire undocumented workers.” One story reports that a franchise owner of 27 Carls Jrs. restaurants has decided to not open any further franchises in Arizona, rather than take a risk with this law.

“It’s crystal-clear that the employer sanctions law will harm the state economy,” says Glenn Hamer, president of the Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry. “It’s simply a question of degree.” (WSJ 12-14-07.)

Enhanced Driver’s License For Border Crossing Coming Soon. The Department of Homeland Security continues to move full steam ahead with its plan to implement document requirements at land and sea ports of entry. The agency now seeks to have full implementation by the summer or fall, but in the meantime has announced that January 31, 2008 is its new deadline for no longer permitting persons to enter solely on the basis of oral declarations of citizenship. Come February, all adult travelers at land and seaports will need to present actual proof of citizenship and identity. Such proof may include birth certificates and driver’s licenses, or as is best, a passport.

The Washington State Department of Licensing hopes to begin issuing an enhanced driver’s license in mid January, to enable persons to comply with the World Hemisphere Travel Initiative requirements. The local office requires that persons call ahead for an appointment, at 676-2097. Persons will then need to apply in person, at 4180 Cordata Parkway, and bring with them proof of citizenship and residency. The fee will be $15 for person’s with a current driver’s license, and the waiting period is predicted to be one to two weeks. The current fee for a passport is $97, without expedited processing, and the advertised processing time is roughly 6 weeks.

Briefly...

• Nearly two-thirds of Hispanics polled say the failure of Congress to enact an immigration reform bill has made life more difficult for all Hispanics, according to the Pew Hispanic Center.
• Surveys of Iowa and New Hampshire voters show that immigration is one of the top issues that they want to hear from candidates from.
• USCIS is considering requiring persons to reapply for green cards if they were issued a green card without an expiration date. The government issued green cards without expiration dates between 1979 and 1989.
• A Conference Board of Canada report says that security crackdowns at the Canada-U.S. border have forced exporters to abandon just-in-time delivery and return to the outdated practice of stockpiling goods.
• Homeland Security has begun collecting ten fingerprints of visitors at airports at time of entry to the United States.
• The Southern Poverty Law Center recently named the Federation for American Immigration Reform (“FAIR”) a hate group, for employing persons from white supremacist groups in key positions, and for accepting substantial donations from white supremacist and eugenics groups. The label is significant, because FAIR representatives are frequently quoted in the media and testify in Congress.
Are you disclosing client confidences?

Come to this CLE to find out if you are and how to avoid common pitfalls with electronic communications

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS: FRIEND OR FOE?

CLE PRESENTED BY DOMINIQUE ZERVAS
LANGABEER & TULL, P.S.

Dominique’s presentation will cover issues that arise in connection with reliance on electronic media for communications, the lawyer’s ethical duty to preserve client confidences and secrets, and the attorney-client privilege. She will discuss the key disciplinary rules and ethical considerations impacting email, disclosure of metadata and other electronic communications.

When: February 28, 2008 from 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm

Where: Whatcom County Courthouse
5th Floor Conference Room 513

Credit: One Ethics Credit Approved

Cost: Free for Washington Women Lawyers members
$20 for non-WWL members

RSVP: Space is limited. To reserve your seat, please RSVP to Kenni B. Merritt at 360.756.6115 or by email to Kenni.Merritt@CroweDunlevy.com

WASHINGTON WOMEN LAWYERS – WHATCOM COUNTY CHAPTER
### 2008 Budget
Whatcom County Bar Association

#### REVENUE:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2005 Budget</th>
<th>2006 Budget</th>
<th>2007 Budget</th>
<th>2008 Budget</th>
<th>Difference (%)</th>
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<td>Prior Year Retained Earnings</td>
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<td>17,475</td>
<td>16,420</td>
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<td>CLE Fees</td>
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<td>13,696</td>
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<td>Copier</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Events/Holiday Parties</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL REVENUE:</strong></td>
<td>$35,600</td>
<td>$36,750</td>
<td>$35,775</td>
<td>$36,375</td>
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#### EXPENSES:

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<tr>
<th>Expense Description</th>
<th>2005 Budget</th>
<th>2006 Budget</th>
<th>2007 Budget</th>
<th>2008 Budget</th>
<th>Difference (%)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Law Library Donation</td>
<td>$6,000</td>
<td>$6,000</td>
<td>$6,000</td>
<td>$6,000</td>
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<td>CLE Expenses</td>
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<td>4,500</td>
<td>4,500</td>
<td>4,200</td>
<td>0%</td>
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<td>Funds to LAW Advocates-(Donation + CLE)</td>
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<td>14,330</td>
<td>14,330</td>
<td>14,330</td>
<td>(10,000 + 4,300)</td>
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<td>Bar Luncheon Meeting Expenses</td>
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<td>500</td>
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<td>Printing (Newsletter, 11 printings)</td>
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<td>4,000</td>
<td>4,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Postage and Supplies</td>
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<td>800</td>
<td>800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corporate Licenses, Taxes</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Honorarium, Plaques, Flowers, etc.</td>
<td>650</td>
<td>650</td>
<td>650</td>
<td>500</td>
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<td>Social Events, Holiday Party, Swearing In</td>
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<td>1,500</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>950</td>
<td>100%</td>
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<td>HS Mock Trial Team Support</td>
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<td>1,500</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bank Fee/Adjustment</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>0%</td>
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<td>Newsletter Stipend</td>
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<td>1,425</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northwest Youth Services (Teen Court)</td>
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<td>2,000</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Historical Committee Project</td>
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<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash Carry Forward</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES:</strong></td>
<td>$35,040</td>
<td>$36,750</td>
<td>$35,775</td>
<td>$36,375</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THE JANUARY 2008 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pro Bono Connection

CAMPAIGN FOR

EQUAL JUSTICE

It’s not justice if it’s not equal.

We would like to thank those attorneys and law firms who contributed in November on behalf of LAW Advocates:

Langabeer & Tull, P.S.
Wyoming McKenzie
Keni Merritt

We appreciate all of your continued support!

Thank you to the following attorneys for agreeing to provide free legal services through LAW Advocates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Street Law</th>
<th>Direct Representation</th>
<th>Clinics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wendy Bohike, Cathy Marshall, Robin Mathews</td>
<td>Katie Betger, Steve Chance, Thomas Fryer</td>
<td>Craig Hayes, Scot Swanson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Champions of Justice

NOVEMBER

Thank you to these attorneys who staffed our pro bono clinics in 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family Law</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nancy Berg, Lynette Koib, Mimi Mawson, Paula McCandless, Penny Henderson, Tom Stuen</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Debtor/Creditor

| Steve Hathaway, Tom Lester, David Vin |

Immigration

| Elizabeth Li, Scott Ralston |

Pro Bono Prize Box

And the November Winner is...

...Tom Fryer

Tom received a gift certificate to Jimmy’s House of Orient! Congratulations Tom!!

Thank you to Roger Ellingson who spent 60 hours assisting a low income client and her special needs children who had been terrorized by a neighbor and his aggressive dog. Roger succeeded in getting the Human Society to issue a second Potentially Dangerous Dog Determination (the first having been dismissed before his involvement due to procedural irregularities) to address the harassment. This vulnerable client family is very grateful.

Thank you to Tom Resick who assisted an elderly tenant who suffered from dementia and who, as a result of his confusion, was not complying with certain paperwork requirements of the landlord. Tom had to file suit to reach a settlement that saved the tenant’s housing.

Be always at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let each new year find you a better man.

~Benjamin Franklin
THE FEBRUARY 2008 ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRO BONO CONNECTION

CAMPAIGN FOR EQUAL JUSTICE
It’s not justice if it’s not equal.

2007 Law Advocates Honor Roll

Allen Law Firm
Andrew Subin
Barry M. Meyers
Brett & Coats PLLC
Britain, Gallery & Vis
Brownlie Evans Wolf & Lee, LLP
Buri Funston Mumford PLLC
Carrie Copinger Carter
Chmelik Sitkin & Davis
Commissioner Pete Smiley
Dan and Debbie Raas
David A. Namba
David B. Anderson
Dominique Y. Zervas
Edwin Simmers
Eric E. Roy
Hon. Charles and Johanna Snyder
Hon. Ira J. Uhrig
Hugh Lewis
Jean Melious
Joe Bartek
Judith K. Bush
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Thank you for your contributions to the Campaign for Equal Justice in 2007!

Thank you for the following community donations in December!
First Congregational Church
David & Lois Bright
Alan Kemble & Sally Albers

CHAMPIONS OF JUSTICE
DECEMBER

Thank You to the following attorneys for agreeing to provide free legal services through LAW Advocates

Street Law
Dean Brett
Tom Lyden
Lisa Wochos

Direct Representation
Rick Dodson
Joe Pemberton

Clinics
Pamela Engleit

The LAW Advocates Board of Directors cordially invites you to attend our Annual Meeting

ϕ Wednesday, March 5, 2008
Northwood Hall
12:30 p.m.
as part of the Bar lunch program
ϕ Installation of new Board Members & Officers
ϕ Farewell to departing Board members
ϕ Recognition of our special Supporters

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Whatcom County Bar Association  
Minutes of Monthly Meeting of December 5, 2007  
Northwood Hall, Bellingham, Washington

I. Call to Order: In President Fryer’s absence, Vice-President Steve Chance called the meeting to order at approximately 12:25 p.m.

II. Recognition of Judicial members: VP Chance recognized and welcomed the judicial members in attendance.

III. Approval of Minutes: Secretary Willner corrected the Minutes of the monthly meeting of November 7, 2007 noting that WCWL member Laura Eckert is not the President, she is the Secretary. With that correction, the Minutes were unanimously approved.

IV. Law Advocates Report: Director Mary Swenson gave the Law Advocates Report. Back by popular demand, Street Law will now be conducted twice a month year round. The prize drawing for Pro Bono service was conducted and Tom Fryer won a gift certificate to Jimmy's House of Orient.

V. Committee Reports and Announcements:
   
   A. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer, Pete Dworkin, delivered the November 2007 Treasurer's Report. As of November 30, 2007, the Association's balance is $16,137.08. Treasurer Dworkin noted that the Association will be writing its final support check to Law Advocates for $5,000 and to Teen Court for $2,000. Secretary's note: Any dues paying WCBA member may obtain a copy of the complete September 2007 Treasurer's Report.
   
   B. Whatcom County Women Lawyers: The 2008 WCWL officers are: Marie Gallagher, President; Ann Vetter-Hansen, Vice President; Kenni Merritt, Treasurer; and Laura Eckert, Secretary. Congratulations new officers!
   
   C. Committee on Law Day in the Schools: Dan Raas provided an update on the work of this Committee. Approximately four dozen members have volunteered to speak at various local schools. The Committee has prepared pre-packaged programs. There is also a YLD symposium on Saturday.
   
   D. CLE Committee: CLE Committee Chair Doug Hyldahl noted that the CLE Committee will meet next week on December 10 at Noon at the Law Advocates office. The Committee will be preparing suggested CLE topics for a membership survey. Following the business meeting, the Ethics CLE will be held. We have a great lineup for this CLE, including Doug Ende from WSBA.
   
   E. By-Laws Revision Committee: VP Chance reported that we had received several comments and suggested revisions to the Association Bylaws. Another draft will be published in the Newsletter for comment by the membership.
   
   F. Newsletter: VP Chance introduced the new Newsletter Editor, Matt Jellett, to thunderous applause. Mr. Jellett has graciously agreed to serve as Newsletter Editor. VP Chance thanked Secretary Willner for her vigilance in securing the future of the Newsletter.
   
   G. Announcement: Rolf Beckhusen discussed a program he is spearheading where a member of our legal community adopts a family in need for the holidays. Please call Rolf to help with this worthwhile endeavor.

VI. New Business: The nominations for 2008 WCBA Officers are: Steve Chance, President; Katti Esp, Vice President/President Elect; Simi Jain, Treasurer; and Marie Gallagher, Secretary. VP Chance conducted the election and the slate of 2008 officers was unanimously approved. Congratulations new officers!

VII. Guest Speaker: VP Chance introduced Dave Finet, Executive Director of the Opportunity Council. Mr. Finet discussed the magnitude of poverty in Whatcom County and the ways the OC is helping as a community action agency. The OC manages a 12 million dollar budget and employs 120 people. At any one time, the OC administers and manages 120 grants and contracts. Wow.

VIII. Adjournment: VP Chance adjourned the meeting at approximately 1:40 p.m. until February 6, 2008.

Minutes Prepared by: Jennifer Willner, WCBA Secretary
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Please contact my office for fee schedule, references & report sample

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The Newsletter wishes you a happy Valentine’s Day and asks that you enjoy it responsibly, since it’s, like, in the middle of the week and everything.
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