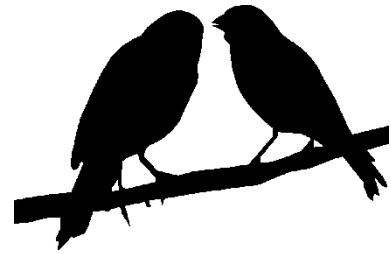


THE INFORMANT



Saint Croix Valley Bar Association Newsletter

May 2014

From the
President's
Desk

By Elizabeth Rohl



Volume 24, No. 2

Mission Statement

Our mission is to promote a legal system whereby the rights and privileges of all persons are asserted and protected. We are dedicated to strengthening public trust in our legal system. We promote high ethical standards, civility, and professionalism amongst all attorneys.

We encourage our members to serve the public. As officers of the court, we have an important role in assisting courts in the administration of justice.

Dear Members,

Happy summer! Now that Memorial Day Weekend is behind us and this winter has finally come to an end, I thank all of our members who braved the miserable conditions this year to continue coming to our events. As we continue the march towards summer we have several events still upcoming, in particular the annual summer boat cruise.

Those of you that attended the Lunch with the St. Croix County Judges were able to see a presentation from two wonderful representatives of CCAP. They gave us the highlights of the new e-filing system which has since gone live in St. Croix County. Following that presentation there was seemingly much interest in another program targeted directly at the e-filing system that would include both attorneys and legal assistants. Accordingly, we held a supplemental event in UW-RF on May 13th.

As always, our Board seeks to make the St. Croix Valley Bar Association a valuable asset to its members. We welcome any feedback that you have about how to make our bar association more useful to you. Please contact an officer if you have any suggestions or a requests!

Sincerely, Liz Rohl

St. Croix Valley Bar Association Treasurer's Report

Checking balance as of 05/28/14: \$1,119.41
CD balance as 05/28/14: \$5,559.52

Obiter dictum

What, sir, would the people of the earth be without woman? They would be scarce, sir, almighty scarce.

- Mark Twain

Congratulations to Rhinelander High School's mock trial team for finishing 8th in the 2014 National Mock Trial Championship on May 10th 2014 in Madison!

Calendar appointment:

May 29th (tomorrow) at Pier 500/the Smiling Moose – a celebration of Christine Rasmussen's sabbatical

OFFICERS

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Jokes to tell your grandmother:

I never wanted to believe that my Dad was stealing from his job as a road worker.

But when I got home, all the signs were there.

A man walking through the Olympic Village sees a man carrying a pole. He says "are you a pole vaulter?"

The other man replies: 'No, I'm a German and how did you know my name was Walter?'

A German man walks up to the immigration desk at Warsaw airport. The immigration officer asks "occupation?"

The German replies: "No, just a holiday"

An American stops an Irishman in Dublin and asks for the quickest way to Cork. The Irishman says "Are you on foot or in a car"? The American says "in a car". The Irishman says "that's the quickest way".

E-FILING

After the resounding success of the representation by representatives from CCAP on the new e-filing system a repeat of that representation was held on Tuesday, May 13th 2014 in the Kinni River Theater Room at the UWRF University Center. This time the event was attended by more support staff than the first presentation but was equally useful and interesting. Saint Croix has each begun e-filing in several case types and this session was very informative on how to familiarize oneself with and navigate the e-filing system.

Special thanks in particular from the Saint Croix Valley Bar Association to the CCAP representatives and Lori Meyer (St. Croix Clerk of Courts) and Peg Feuerhelm (Pierce Clerk of Courts), who presented the event.

STATE BAR OF WISCONSIN FEE ARBITRATION PROGRAM

When a dispute over legal fees arises between an attorney and his or her client, the attorney may feel the only choice seems to be going to court to sue the client. However, there is another option.

The State Bar of Wisconsin Fee Arbitration Program, supported with your dues dollars, provides a valuable service to members and their clients. The program was established so lawyers and clients who have a dispute about legal fees may submit their dispute to binding arbitration through the State Bar.

The program offers a private hearing between the lawyer and his or her client before a panel of arbitrators in an informal setting. Trained volunteers, lawyers and nonlawyers, hear the arguments of both sides before making a decision. The decision made by the arbitrators is final and binding, subject only to the appeal rights under Chapter 788, State Statutes.

In general, all fee disputes between clients and their lawyers may be arbitrated, but there are a few exceptions, such as: there was no lawyer/client relationship; the fees were set by law or statute; or the full amount of the fee was fixed or approved by order of a court, such as guardian ad litem fees.

For more information on the program, or to download an application, please go to Fee Arbitration Program. Contact the program administrator at kwenzel@wisbar.org or by calling 608-250-6185 with all your fee arbitration related questions.

The Law (of the jungle) - Rudyard Kipling (1895)

Now this is the Law of the Jungle -- as old and as true as the sky;

And the Wolf that shall keep it may prosper, but the Wolf that shall break it must die.

As the creeper that girdles the tree-trunk the Law runneth forward and back --

For the strength of the Pack is the Wolf, and the strength of the Wolf is the Pack.