

NALS OF GREATER SEATTLE

THE INFORMER



Begin Today

By Kathy Cusack, Certified PLS, President



Hello Members of NALS of Greater. Anyone that knows me understands how I really don't like having my picture taken but I thought I would introduce my self so those of you that don't know me, now will. I would like to tell you a bit about what my thoughts are for all of you. "Begin

Today" is my theme for this year. There is so much we can accomplish by using these two words. I want to repeat a bit of my speech here so that those of you who couldn't make it to our installation can understand what I am trying to say.

Begin Today:

To think about self (you are the most important person even though you have family, friends, co-workers) you are the one that matters the most.

To think about whatever it is you do in the work force, whether it be a Legal Secretary, Legal Assistant, Paralegal, Administrative position, records, receptionist, to think of it as a career not a job.

To think about what NALS can do for you: Education, Networking, Friends. (We make such good friends in NALS and remember it always pays to be nice to everyone, you never know when they will turn out to be your "boss") ☺

To think about what you can do for NALS: be on a committee, be on the board, helping out when needed.

To remember the little things. For example, remembering a person's name after you meet them for the first time. This is hard challenge for me and one I will work on this year.

To start something new whether it is in your personal life (working out, walking at lunch, taking the stairs) or at work (learning a new software, take on new responsibilities) You all know you are capable of so much. *(Continued on next page)*

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

- ❖ May 7, 2009 – NALS of Greater Seattle, Board Meeting, Perkins Coie
- ❖ May 14, 2009 – Noontime Seminar, "Mediation vs. Arbitration", Riddell Williams, P.S.
- ❖ May 30, 2009 – NALS of Greater Seattle, Planning Meeting, Perkins Coie
- ❖ June 11-13 – Region 7 and 8 Meeting, Las Vegas, Nevada

(Continued from previous page)

To use all resources available to you (i.e. NALS websites including national, state and chapter), seminars, networking.

Begin today because it is never too late.

Begin today to learn, tomorrow you teach.

Begin today to never be too big to ask questions, never think you know too much to learn something new. (i.e., go to seminars even if they are not in your field).

Begin today to start by doing what's necessary, then what's possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible. (i.e., as in becoming president of NALS of Greater Seattle)

Begin today to set goals: (i.e., being on the board of Greater Seattle or at the State level, going to a State seminar, exploring a new job) To do something you always wanted to do and then do it.

Begin today to live for tomorrow.

Below is a quote that I found that puts this in perspective.

The Reassurance of Sunrise

"If you did the math and you lived to be eighty,
You will have been inspired by 28,160 sunrises."

All of you have thousands of sunrises to *Begin Today* to do anything you want to do. Think of all the possibilities in those sunrises.

Beginning today, we on the new Board will be here for you and please let any of us know if you would like us to do something for you or if you have new ideas to share.



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Your Membership, Your Way

By Jessica Smith, Certified PLS, President Elect and Membership Chair

I am very excited to be serving as your President-Elect & Membership Chair this “season”. Thank you all for believing in me!

During my recent review of the membership roster, I realize that there are many faces I have yet to meet and I hope to put faces with the names in the coming years. In order for us all to get to know one another, I ask each of you to attend a few Local, State, or National meetings this year and while at these meetings introduce yourself to someone new. A simple introduction will help create a link and can possibly lead to networking opportunities and friendships! Don't be shy, reach out to a NALS Pal!

One exciting project for the year is the *THINK BIG!* project. This *THINK BIG!* project is a contest of sorts –

we have been challenged to increase our region's membership. That means we need to retain members, as well as bring in new members. I ask all members to strive to recruit one new member and/or bring back a member; remind them of the importance of NALS and the wonderful opportunities the association has to offer! We are competing with the other 7 regions to achieve a net gain of at least 10% and if we win, NALS will host a reception at our 2010 region meeting. Super exciting!

This is your organization and the Board is here to take in your ideas and help you achieve your goals. If you have any comments or ideas to share, or if you'd like to serve on a committee, please feel free to email me at jsmith@karrtuttle.com, or give me a call at (206) 224-8296.

Begin today to encourage yourself!

By Meghan J. Allen, Corporate Secretary and Publication Chair

Hello NALS of Greater Seattle Members. My name is Meghan Allen, and I am your Corporate Secretary for 2009-2010. This will also be my second year as Publication Chair for NALS of Greater Seattle as well. I would like to thank you all of your support and that it is a pleasure and honor to be able to serve on this years NALS of Greater Seattle Board of Directors.

I am a Legal Secretary at LeSourd & Patten, P.S. I work in the Tax Controversy and Collection practice group, and I also assist on projects for the Pension/ERISA, corporate, and estate planning practice groups as well.

I just wanted to take a moment to let you all know how “fired up” I am about this upcoming year! We have a wonderful group of leaders this year who have wonderful new ideas while continuing the excellent education that you expect from NALS. If you have any suggestions, don't be afraid to share them with us, because we'd love to hear your suggestions!

This year's theme is “Begin Today”. When I first heard that that was going to be the theme this year, it got me thinking about what I could do that I always thought about doing, but for whatever reason, didn't do. The biggest “thoughts/goal” I have been thinking about for awhile is that I should take the ALS exam. However, my fear of failure kept me from doing that, so my ‘begin today’ was that I was going to get over my fear of failure

and just take the ALS exam. So, I've made it my personal goal to get my ALS certification this year.

My challenge for all of you this year is to wake up everyday and think to yourself “Beginning Today I will _____”. By saying this to yourself, I think you'll be surprised how you can find the encourage yourself to not only be a better Legal Professional by getting certified, but you will encourage yourself to be better in life.

I look forward to meeting all of you and working with you this coming year!



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It's Your Membership, Make the Most of it!

By Amylyn Reidling, Education Director

For those of you I have not had the pleasure to meet yet, my name is Amylyn Riedling. I am the 2009-2010 Education Director for NALS of Greater Seattle. It is my job to work with the Board and the members to provide the educational seminars. The 2009-2010 Board is meeting on May 30th for its Planning Meeting to discuss the educational topics we should offer this year.

As a litigation paralegal, I love learning and teaching about all sorts of aspects regarding litigation, but there are some members who are never going to see a trial matter in their entire career. What we are striving for is a balance for all members between learning about litigation matters and non-litigation matters.

What I would like to know from the members is, do you have any areas where you feel we need to either offer education or offer more in-depth education?

Please call or email me and let me know if you have any suggestions. I look forward to working with each and every one of you in the coming year!

Amylyn Riedling, Paralegal & Office Manager

Cutler Nylander & Hayton, P.S.

206.340.4600 and Amylyn@cnhlaw.com

Introduction to the Certification Director

By Christine S. Reynolds, Certified PP, PLS, Certification Director

Hello everyone. My name is Christie Reynolds and I am your Certification Director for the coming year. I work for the Curran Law Firm in Kent, Washington as a paralegal and hold two NALS certifications—the PLS and PP. My goals for the year is to promote the benefits of certification, assist current study groups, form new groups as necessary, and keep the chapter's study materials current.

NALS offers three levels of certification, signifying proficiency in the following subject areas:

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- Written communications
- Office procedures/legal knowledge
- Ethics, human relations, and judgment

Professional Legal Secretary (PLS)—advanced certification for legal professionals

- Written communications
- Office procedures/technology
- Ethics and judgment
- Legal knowledge and skills
-

Professional Paralegal (PP)—certification for paralegals

- Written communications
- Legal knowledge and skills
- Ethics and judgment
- Substantive law

Certification has been a rewarding career achievement for me that has enhanced the quality of my work and my value as a member of the legal team. I encourage anyone who is not familiar with the process or who is considering the challenge to contact me for more information. My e-mail address is creynolds@curranfirm.com.



Introduction to the Marketing Director

By Natalie Stephenson, Marketing Director

Happy Spring, NALS of GS members! Despite the pollen, *sneeze*, isn't it great to have the sun make an appearance again?

My name is Natalie Stephenson. I'm a legal assistant at Keller Rohrback L.L.P., working in complex litigation, and I have been working in the legal field for almost four years. I am also planning on taking the P.L.S. certification exam this year.

As the new Marketing Director for the 2009-2010 year, I am responsible for spreading the word about NALS to both members and non-members; both about the events that will take place during the year and about the other benefits that NALS has to offer (networking, certification

programs, etc.) I will also be looking for sponsors for our events. I will be taking special care to make sure that our marketing materials look professional and convey complete and accurate information to the audiences they reach.

If you have any feedback or ideas to offer about how NALS can be more successfully marketed to your colleagues (and to you!) please email me at nstephenson@kellerrohrback.com. If you would be interested in being on the marketing committee, that's great, but you don't have to join a committee for your voice to be heard. Good ideas are always welcome.

Report from the Immediate Past President

By Brynne Williamson, Certified PP, PLS, Immediate Past President

In addition to NALS of Greater Seattle's Installation of Officers and Awards Banquet, last month I had the opportunity to attend two other great NALS events.

NALS of Washington Annual Conference.

The NALS of Washington Annual Conference was held at the La Quinta Inn in Tacoma, Washington on April 3-4, 2009. After Friday's Board Meeting, the conference began with two concurrent criminal law panels: Domestic Violence and DUI. Each panel consisted of a police officer, prosecuting attorney, defense attorney, judge and victim's advocate. Both sounded interesting, but I chose to attend the domestic violence panel. The panel was given a fact pattern and used it to work their way through a typical domestic violence case. It was a very interesting seminar, and I really enjoyed the speakers.

During the Town Meeting, I spoke about various NALS issues, including the Think Big campaign, the Joint Regions 7 & 8 Conference in Las Vegas, the NALS Education Conference and National Forum in Irvine and the Foundation's Purple Carpet Gala. I raffled off a R7 Think Big tee-shirt and gave away freebies from the Golden Nugget.

Washington is trying some new things this year. They are looking at alternatives to hotels for their state meetings and have been working towards paperless conferences. Rather than passing out binders containing the seminar's materials and flyers, each attendee was given a CD. We are definitely on our way

to becoming a true "green" state!

The remainder of the education seminars was focused on current issues in real estate. The seminars began with the purchase and sale of a property and ended with foreclosure and/or condemnation. The speakers were knowledgeable and entertaining and the topics extremely applicable to our current economy.

Sam Schmit, PP, PLS, and her board were installed by Lorraine Larsen, PLS during lunch. Awards and recognition gifts were passed out during Saturday evening's banquet, including the Award of Excellence, which was given to Amy Jean Doran of NALS of Pierce County.

NALS of Pierce County Installation of Officers.

On April 8, 2009, NALS of Washington President Sam Schmit, PP, PLS, and President-Elect, Kathy Cusack, PLS, and I attended Pierce County's Installation of Officers and Awards Banquet. Lissa Flannigan, PLS, and her board were installed by Lissa's older brother, Pierce County Executive, John Ladenburg, who was quite funny. It was a lovely evening and a great opportunity for me to meet members of the Pierce County chapter.

One of the many wonderful things about our organization is that there are countless opportunities for education and networking. I encourage you to *begin today* and take advantage of them!

Where's Eula Mae?

By The Two Traveling Eulas



Happy (belated) Administrative Professionals Day!

Do you know where Eula Mae was last month?
Be the first to identify her location and win a
fabulous NALS of Greater Seattle logo prize!

Email us at: whereseulamae@gmail.com

Don't know who Eula Mae Jett is? Check out our
organization's history:

<http://www.nals.org/aboutnals/index.html>

Last month Agnes Lukyamuzi, of Riddell Williams
P.C., spied Eula Mae at our favorite NALS of Greater
Seattle meeting place: the Rock Bottom.

Congratulations!



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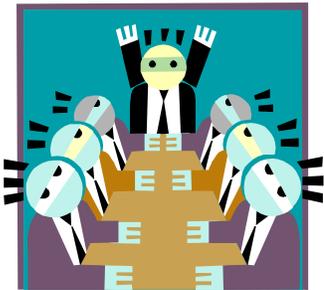
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NALS...the association for legal professionals offers easy ways to network with peers both locally and nationally to give you the opportunity to develop professional relationships with others in the legal community. NALS does not restrict membership to only one segment of the legal services profession, we are open to everyone so JOIN TODAY and begin to take advantage of over 75 years of experience in serving the legal professional.

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NALS ... the association for legal professionals

Do You Know Your Board of Directors?



Here is a quiz for you to take and see if you know your new 2009-2010 NALS of Greater Seattle Board. Match the board member, column 1, with column 2. First one to guess them all correctly (or the most correct) wins a prize. Please email me your answers at kcusack@perkinscoie.com.

- | | | |
|----|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. | President, Kathy Cusack, PLS | Addicted to Jiff peanut butter |
| 2. | President Elect, Jessica Smith, PLS | Grew up with horses and participated in showing and gymkhana (barrel racing) events |
| 3. | Secretary, Meghan Allen | Walked on the Great Wall of China |
| 4. | Treasurer, Alecia Rivas | In 2002, I worked for the IRS processing tax returns from all over the country |
| 5. | Marketing Director, Natalie Stephenson | Every year I go on a canoeing/camping adventure with some of my family members |
| 6. | Education Director, Amylyn Riedling | First girl to be born in the family in 75 years |
| 7. | Certification Director, Christie Reynolds, PP, PLS | Born in South Carolina and have very "southern" roots. |
| 8. | Past President, Brynne Williamson, PP, PLS | Ran into Harry Connick, Jr., buying groceries in a Safeway store. |



*Thank you to
Washington Legal
Messengers and
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for sponsoring the
2009 NALS of Greater
Seattle Installation of
Officers and Awards
Banquet!*



NALS of Greater Seattle Awards Ceremony Recap

By Amylyn Reidling, Education Director

This year it was my pleasure to be the Awards Chairperson for NALS of Greater Seattle. My job was to receive all nominations, find judges who are not NALS members, and then present the winners with their awards at the Installation and Awards Ceremony.

This year NALS of Greater Seattle had an increase in the number of nominees, as well as Boss of the Year and Firm of the Year for a couple days looked like they were going to require another round of voting to get to a decision. It was a very exciting thing to see happen. For me, the increase in nominations, as well as the caliber of the nominations, really showed how the members of Greater Seattle strive for perfection and have dedication to our profession!

For those of you who were not present, the winners of this year's awards are:

2009 Boss of the Year – Kati Dunn

2009 Firm of the Year – Riddell Williams

2009 Legal Professional of the Year – Janine Fader

2009 Volunteer of the Year – Celine Straub

If you would like to see the winning nominations for any of these members, please let me know and I will forward them on to you via email!

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NALS also offers Online Study Groups for those studying for NALS exams. We want to help you...that is why we are here. Check out the study group, it is a great way to learn and gain valuable knowledge.

www.nals.org



NALS of Greater Seattle Member Spotlight

By Celine Straub, Certified PLS

Your name: Jennifer Endres

Your firm: Stoel Rives, LLP

Your title: Legal Secretary

NALS Member since: Can't remember exactly, but I think February 2007. Then, I was a member for a few years sometime between 2001-2003.

Current and previous NALS positions held: 2008-2009 Corporate Secretary for NALS of Greater Seattle and 2009-2010 Membership Director for NALS of Washington

Education/Certifications: Legal Secretary Certificate from Renton Technical College received in 2000. Wow! I can't believe it has already been almost nine years!!!

My favorite thing about NALS is: The friends that I have met. I mean, the education is great too, but I have really met some wonderful people. I believe I have made some friendships that will last a very long time.

My co-workers don't know that I: Am a huge tennis fan. I love to watch tennis. When there is a grand slam on I will watch tennis from morning until night. I hate missing any part of a grand slam.

What do you like to do for recreation? I really enjoy jogging. I love to jog long distances. It is so relaxing and exhilarating. I also like to do it with no music because it gives me time to think about things peacefully.

What you like most about your job? I work in Labor and Employment Litigation. I like all aspects of this area of law. I do everything from helping employers revamp their employee handbook to defending against employment lawsuits and well as Union Grievances. It is very interesting.

What are your career goals? At this point I just really am trying to learn more about the area of law I work in. I strive to be the best secretary I can and I think being knowledgeable about Labor & Employment law will help me do that.

If I hadn't selected my current career, I would: A Forensic Psychologist! Hey, maybe I still have time.

How did you hear about NALS? I first heard about NALS from Glenda Hanson, my instructor at Renton Technical College. She talked about how great NALS is and what it has to offer. She was entirely correct.

Where would you most like to live? I would love to live somewhere that had all four seasons. Not just 2 months of summer and 10 months of fall, like Seattle! I was thinking the Virginia area might offer that luxury.

Where is your favorite place to vacation? In this lifetime, I haven't really been on too many vacations. I did however spend some time in New York and I really



enjoyed it there. I was only there for a few days, so I would love to go back some day. Especially when the U.S. Open Tennis Grand Slam is there. That would be the best vacation ever!

You were Secretary for NALS of Greater Seattle last year. Can you tell us about your experience and share some insight for those who might be considering getting more involved?

I really enjoyed being Secretary of NALS of Greater Seattle. It was the first position I held on the Board and it was great to get involved. I enjoyed going to all of the meetings, learning lots of new and interesting things and meeting lots of great people. I think all people should be involved in NALS in one way or another. It is a fantastic organization that is truly there for members and guests alike.

Congratulations on your new position as Membership Director for NALS of Washington this year. What exciting things do you have planned?

Ahhh....you want me to give away all of my ideas? I have some great things planned for next year and I'm extremely excited to get them underway. Going to Tulsa for the Leadership Conference in March was the best thing I could have done. I learned lots of great things that I would like to incorporate this year. Stay tuned.

We know that you are a mother of two and a full-time legal secretary as well as being active in NALS. How do you do it?

Well, with having a new baby in September 2008, I truly do have my hands full. Sometimes I wonder myself how I do it. I don't really have very much "me time," that's for sure. Most nights I don't even turn the TV on when I get home. I just really try to focus on the children and make sure they have quality time with their mommy. Also, the Board has been really great this year with letting me "slide" when it came to some of the deadlines and also with covering for me when I had to be out. They have been really great and supportive and I thank every single one of them for that!

Do you have any suggestions regarding whom to "spotlight" in the future? Alecia Weaver. She is a new member of NALS of Greater Seattle and having a baby soon. She works here at Stoel with me. ☺

NALS of Washington – State News

NALS of Washington Annual Meeting

By Kathy Cusack, Certified PLS, President

The NALS of Washington Annual Meeting was a huge success. The speakers were outstanding and the topics very relevant in these economic times of ours. On Friday I attended the panel on DUI. All aspects of the law dealing with DUI's were represented. There was a policeman (first to the scene), a prosecutor (who gets the paperwork next and decides how to proceed), defense attorney (representing the defendant) a judge (who hands down the sentence or recommendations) and a representative from the Victim's Panel (where most offenders are sent). This was very interesting to see how the whole process works. The policeman went over all his tests, excluding the breathalyzer, and most of us decided that we would have a hard time passing any of the tests when sober. The prosecutor said that they settled most cases, about 90%, before they go to court; either fines, jail time (depending on how many times this person has been arrested, etc.) or deferred prosecution which a person can only have once. All in all the panel was very knowledgeable and informative and I think the person from the Victim's Panel was very sad.

Defendant's are required to attend this panel and it costs them \$40. She said that most really hate paying this money and fight being there but after they hear what is being said, almost all defendants are very moved and contrite.

Friday night was the Town Meeting, Business Meeting and Welcome Party. This is always enjoyable time to meet up with old friends and connect with new ones. Greater Seattle had 4 "First Timers" at the Town Meeting. They were Jennifer Endres, Amylyn Riedling, Liz Fuhrman and Tabitha Lawson. This was so much fun to have new people come the Friday night meetings. There were 9 new attendees at the conference which in itself makes the conference a huge success. On Saturday, Ausra Gaigalaite, PLS attended as well. We were very proud of Ausra because she just found out that she passed the PLS exam. The State Certification Director, Marina Anna Baker, gave Ausra her PLS pin at our luncheon. Congratulations!!!



I know we have other members that passed too and they will be awarded their PLS pins at the next State Meeting.

On Saturday we had a whole day of Real Estate seminars dealing with foreclosures, Purchase and Sale Agreements, credit reports and how to fix them, short sales and the real estate market in general. It was everything one would want to know regarding real estate today. I always learn something new and the credit report information was really interesting. He kept saying that we can get free credit reports by going to Fair Trade Commission (FTC) website: <http://www.ftc.gov/>. Never pay for a credit report. We can have one free credit report per year.

Installation of 2009-2010 State Officers was held at lunch. Congratulations to all the new board members. At the banquet, awards were presented and Amy Jean Doran, NALS of Pierce County received the Award of Excellence and Jan Manberg, NALS of Thurston County was the Officer of the Year. Congratulations to both of you.

If you have never come to a State Meeting, the Annual Conference is a good one to try. Next year it will be in Seattle and hopefully lots of Greater Seattle members will attend. I'll see you there.



NALS of Washington Meeting Report: DUI Victim Panel

By Jennifer L. Endres

Wow, what a great conference! If you were not able to attend the NALS of Washington Annual Education Conference in Tacoma on April 3-4, 2009, you really missed out. Hopefully you will attend the next conference.

The conference was kicked off on April 3 with the option of either attending a Domestic Violence or DUI Panel. I attended the DUI panel, and boy was it interesting. The panel consisted of a Pierce County Sheriff's Office Police Officer, Prosecuting Attorney, Defense Attorney, Judge and a DUI Victims Panel Coordinator. They took us from beginning to end of a pretend scenario starting with a person that was driving recklessly, who, once pulled over by the officer, was determined to have been driving under the influence.

I learned lots of new and interesting things during this panel. From the Police Officer, I learned that when doing the horizontal gaze nystagmus test (the follow the pen with your eyes test), if you are intoxicated, your eyes will twitch back and forth and the more you have had to drink, the worse the twitching becomes. So, with this test, there really is some scientific evidence to back up your level of intoxication. As for the walk and turn test, with all the instructions that are given, I would fail that one sober. And, with the one leg stand, there aren't too many things you have to do with that one, but stand on one leg and count...but, as most of us know, if you have had too much to drink, standing on one leg in itself is pretty much impossible and counting along with it just adds to the difficulty.

The Prosecuting Attorney informed us that she will go over every single aspect of a police officer's report before deciding whether or not to file DUI charges. There are certain things she looks for, like why the person was pulled over in the first place, the results of the field sobriety and breathalyzer tests, and whether or not the arrest protocol was followed. She tries to anticipate everything the defense attorney is going to try to use to get their client off before she files charges.

On the other hand, the Defense Attorney let us know that the field sobriety tests are completely voluntary. This was a surprise to me as I thought the field sobriety and breathalyzer tests were both mandatory. However, both are voluntary; the only difference is there are no consequences if you don't do the field sobriety tests, whereas if you don't do the breathalyzer your driver's license will automatically be suspended.

The Judge let us know that a majority of the people that get DUI's are first-time offenders. The entire situation has completely humiliated him/her and they will probably never step another foot in his courtroom. I found this

very interesting, as I truly thought most people that get a DUI are repeat offenders.

I really enjoyed hearing the DUI Victims Panel Coordinator speak. I was amazed to learn that there are several classes throughout the month, and for the most part they are full of people that are required to take the class as terms of a plea arrangement for DUI. I learned that people will actually show-up intoxicated to a DUI Victims Panel and be asked to leave. Sometimes I really wonder what people are thinking!

Overall, the conference was great and all of the speakers passed on a wealth of information. All of the Real Estate courses on Saturday were also fantastic. I'm extremely pleased that I attended. I truly enjoyed myself!



Remember Your Credit Score is Everything

By Shannon Bjornson, PLS

My report focuses on the seminar entitled: *Financing Options – How to Boost Your Credit Rating*. Our speaker was the branch manager from Sound Mortgage, Inc. in Tacoma, WA. He had lots of information, specifically little tidbits he has learned over the course of years being in the mortgage industry.

For starters, he highly recommends that people obtain their credit report once a year. Avoid the companies (scammers) which say they will pull the report(s) for you and charge you a fee. Simply go to www.FTC.gov or www.annualfreecreditreport.com to order your report for free. By doing this, hopefully you can stay ahead of the people who are committing identity theft and catch any inaccuracies on your report before they cause too much of a problem.

Once you have your report in hand, you can dispute any item. It is easy to do online. He also says to send a letter to the credit agency *and* to the merchant who lists your account is in arrears. This letter should simply state that 'I dispute this bill and please provide me with documentation regarding its validity'. The agency has 30 days in which to respond to you.

Another handy item is you can stop people/companies, from making inquiries on your report without your authorization. You can Opt-Out by calling 888-5opt-out.

I knew that banks and other companies are having major difficulties in our current economy, but he put some numbers to it all. 80% of banks have closed, as have 342 major lending companies. Due to this, all ARM's and No-Interest programs are gone. Zero-down programs have accounted for 80% of the recent foreclosures. Also, he said that HELOC's have been disbanded. He asked for a show of hands as to who has a HELOC or LOC, and once we raised our hands, he suggested we check with our banks as we might not have them as of the end of March. Ouch. Who knew?

For those people looking at refinancing, check out mortgage brokers as they have larger access to other financing plans than going with a traditional banking institution.

Basically, stay on your toes, listen and read all you can to stay on top of your credit. Your credit score is everything.



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PRESENTS:

MEDIATION AND ARBITRATION

Michelle Nemeth, Business Manager, and Michele Wilson, Senior Case Manager, of JAMS present aspects of alternative dispute resolution, including the mediation and arbitration processes. Collectively, they have 27 years of experience in the ADR field.

When: Thursday, May 14, 2009
 Where: Riddell Williams P.S.
 1001 Fourth Avenue,
 45th Floor
 Time: Noon to 1 p.m.
 (Registration opens 11:45 a.m.)



COST (circle one):

Member: \$10.00 for seminar only
 \$15.00 for seminar & lunch
 Non-Member: \$20.00 for seminar only
 \$25.00 for seminar & lunch

Note: Due to limited space, registrations are only accepted upon receipt of payment. Pre-registration is highly recommended. Cancellation for a refund must be received by the Friday prior to the seminar.

Attendee Information: Name: _____ Firm: _____ Address: _____ _____ Phone: _____ E-Mail Address: _____ Amount Enclosed: \$ _____	We are proudly offering the following lunches from Gretchen's Shoebox Express: <input type="checkbox"/> California Club Express <input type="checkbox"/> Cougar Express <input type="checkbox"/> Focaccia Margherita Express <input type="checkbox"/> Italian Baguette Express <input type="checkbox"/> Turkey Havarti Express (Sandwich includes chips and a cookie) <input type="checkbox"/> Asian Salad Express <input type="checkbox"/> Chicken Caesar Salad <input type="checkbox"/> Cobb Salad Express <input type="checkbox"/> Farmers Market Salad Express (Salad includes a handmade roll and a cookie) A pop is included with your lunch Menu subject to change
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Registration and payment are due by the Friday prior to the seminar, May 8, 2009. **Checks should be made payable to NALS of Greater Seattle** and mailed c/o Melinda Bergquam, Riddell Williams, PS, 1001 Fourth Avenue, Ste 4500, Seattle, Washington 98154. Phone: 206-389-1591. E-mail: mbergquam@riddellwilliams.com

Beverages and lunch discount courtesy of Riddell Williams P.S.; Copying Courtesy of Sound Legal Copy; Delivery Courtesy of ABC Legal Messengers

Is Our Substitute Service Statue Obsolete?

By Elizabeth Fuhrman, Paralegal Cutler Nylander & Hayton, P.S.

The touchstone service of process is that it must be “reasonably calculated” to reach the defendant. “An elementary and fundamental requirement of due process in any proceeding which is to be accorded finality is notice reasonably calculated, under all the circumstances, to apprise interested parties of the pendency of the action and afford them an opportunity to present their objections.” *Mullane v. Central Hanover Trust Co.*, 339 U.S. 306, 314 (1950). How likely is it that publication in a local newspaper reaches the defendant?

I don't know about you but the last time I picked up a physical “local newspaper” to read leisurely was at least two years ago, and I am certainly not in the habit of reading the fine print in the classified legal section. I obtain most, if not all, of my current news from newspaper sites on the internet. I find the online versions faster, more up to date, and convenient for me, and on the plus side, I don't end up with the black newsprint on my fingers. Even for the few of you that do sit down with an old fashioned newspaper and read it in a leisurely manner, how may of you actually peruse the incredibly fine print in the classified legal section? I am guessing not many.

But currently in Washington State, under RCW 4.28.100 and 4.28.110, substitute service may be granted by the court to allow publication of the summons in a local newspaper. “The publication shall be made in a newspaper of general circulation in the county where the action is brought once a week for six consecutive weeks”. RCW 4.28.110. We need to consider that it is probably more likely that defendants will receive actual notice through U.S. Postal Service mail, social networking sites, or email than it is through the substitute service currently allowed under RCW 4.28.100 and 4.28.110.

There is also the problem that a vast number of “local newspapers” in our country are no longer printing papers and distributing them in the old fashioned way and more and more are going to an online format only. Here is another thing to consider or ponder upon: what do we as a society now consider a “newspaper of general circulation” to be?

Recently there has been a precedent set in Australia allowing substitute service of process through the social networking site Facebook. In December 2008, Master Harper, sitting on the Australian Capital Supreme Court (“ACT”) in the matter of *MKM Capital v. Corbo and Poyser*, granted substitute service of a default judgment on defendants through Facebook. Facebook is one example of a social networking site which can be defined as an:

.... online community[y] of people who share interests and/or activities, or who are interested in exploring the interests and activities of others. Most social network services [sites] are web based and provide a variety of ways for users to interact, such as e-mail and instant messaging services.

The main types of social networking services [sites] are those which contain category divisions (such as former school-year or classmates), means to connect with friends (usually with self-description pages) and a recommendation system linked to trust. Popular methods now combine many of these, with Facebook widely used worldwide; MySpace, Twitter and LinkedIn being the most widely used in North America;[2] Nexopia (mostly in Canada);[3] Bebo,[4] Hi5, MySpace, dol2day (mostly in Germany), Tagged, XING;[5] and Skyrock in parts of Europe;[6] Orkut and Hi5 in South America and Central America;[7] and Friendster, Multiply, Orkut, Xiaonei and Cyworld in Asia and the Pacific Islands.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_networking_site (Last visited, April 24, 2009).

Mark McCormack and Jason Oliver, counsel for plaintiff MKM Capital, attempted service of process unsuccessfully through traditional means eleven times prior to asking the ACT to allow substitute service through defendants' Facebook accounts. MKM's counsel had to satisfy the court that Facebook was a sufficient method of communicating with the defendants. Mark McCormack, through his own and a colleague's personal Facebook account, was able to locate one of the defendant's Facebook pages using personal details provided to the lender by defendant. MKM's counsel were then able to locate the other defendant's Facebook page through the found defendant's “friends list”. Neither of the defendants choose to accept the privacy options provided to users of the Facebook social networking site. MKM's counsel was able to provide the court information that showed that the Facebook profiles included defendants' dates of birth, email addresses and friends lists. Each defendant's Facebook profile friends list included the other defendant as a friend.

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While Master Harper granted the request to allow substitute service through Facebook, he included detailed instructions that the documents be attached to a private e-mail sent via Facebook that could not be seen by others visiting the pages.

Australian courts are known to be technologically advanced and groundbreaking, they have also allowed “service by email” and in another recent case “the court presiding over the [matter] even allowed documents to be served by cell phone text messages.” *Oz Court serves default judgment via Facebook!*, Australian News.Net, Saturday 13th December, 2008 (ANI). www.australiannews.net/story/441608 (Last visited April 24, 2009).

Australia is not the only jurisdiction that is known for being electronically forward-thinking and embracing

technology in a way that may make even the steadfast shake in their boots. In March 2009, Justice David Gendall of the New Zealand High Court in Wellington granted permission for serving court papers via Facebook. *NZ court papers can be served via Facebook, judge rules*, by Ian Llewellyn, www.nzherald.co.nz (Last accessed April 22, 2009).

This is the future, substitute process by electronic means will be discussed and used and accepted as part of our normal every days lives. Perhaps it is time for those of us in Washington State to consider being forward-thinking ourselves and start to include or change the language of our substitute service rules to address the current ways we as United States citizens actually communicate.

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www.nals.org

Donna Hammond – She’s A Stitch!

By Janine Fader

As a special gift to the out-going President of the national NALS organization, a quilt was being constructed out of squares donated by members of each “Region” (the state of Washington is part of Region 7).

Our own Donna Hammonds was honored to be selected to represent NALS of Greater Seattle by constructing a quilt square, based on a “theatrical” theme. A picture of Donna’s quilt square is attached, as well as a picture of President Dee Beardsley holding up the finished quilt.

CONGRATULATIONS DONNA – on a job well done!

Talking with Donna about her quilting, it occurred to me that I knew very little about her, and decided to take this opportunity to ask her a few questions. I hope you will enjoy her answers.

First of all, Donna has worked at Riddell Williams almost eight years (since June 2001) as a Litigation Legal Secretary and Executive Assistant.

Donna has been quilting since the early 1970’s, but became more deeply interested in quilting in late-1999. Donna has made approximately 35 quilts, and her favorite colors are red, purple, black and white. The inspiration for the NALS quilt block was “theatrical masks,” but her favorite quilt (the one that means the most to her) is “the Japanese sampler” – it came from a class about Japanese construction. She learned so much about constructing a quilt (design aspects) – and it was one that her mother loved and chose.

If she could make a quilt for anyone in the world, it would be Michelle Obama with the message: “to give warmth and comfort to all in need.”

I asked Donna what people might be surprised to know about her (she has two things):

- (1) “That I lived and worked in Germany for several years”; and
- (2) “That I was on the Forensic Squad (Debate/Speech Team) and traveled with my college to several local, state and

national competitions. I even took first place at a state championship in the field or original interpretation.”

One thing we are NOT surprised to hear is that Donna is an asset to Riddell Williams -- she is a talented and interesting person, and we are fortunate to have her working with us!



2008-2009 NALS President, Dee Beardsley, PP, PLS with her quilt



NALS of Greater Seattle Quilt Square that went on Dee Beardsley’s quilt

Summary of the NALS of GS Board of Directors Meeting

By Jennifer Endres, Corporate Secretary (2008–2009)

The monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of NALS of Greater Seattle, held at the offices of Perkins Coie, on April 2, 2009, was called to order by President, Brynne Williamson, Certified PP, PLS, at 12:03 p.m.

Present at the meeting were:

Brynne Williamson, Certified PP, PLS	President
Kathy Cusack, Certified PLS	President-Elect and Membership Director
Celine M. Straub (via telephone)	Immediate Past President
Jennifer L. Endres Kim Sandstrom (via telephone)	Corporate Secretary Treasurer
Melinda Bergquam (via telephone)	Education Director
Christie Reynolds, PP, PLS (via telephone)	NALS of GS Member
Meghan Allen Elizabeth Fuhrman	NALS of GS Member NALS of GS Member
Amylyn Riedling	Awards Chair

Review and approval of March 3, 2009 Meeting Minutes

The March 3, 2009 meeting minutes were reviewed and stand approved as submitted.

Review and approval of Consent Agendas

The Consent Agendas were reviewed and stand approved as submitted.

Consent Agenda Items - NONE

Other Business/Discussion Items

a. Installation.

Kathy reports that planning for Installation is going great. Perkins Coie is going to host the cocktail reception.

b. June Noontime Seminar.

Melinda is working on everything. She said that she will get it all figured out and email the Board.

c. Audit Committee.

Brynne has contacted Sharie Parks, PLS and Susan Allan, PLS as potential members to volunteer on the Audit Committee. She also asked Bridget Allen, PLS. Amylyn Riedling volunteered to be on the committee. Kim will be available by phone to answer questions during the audit.

d. Thank You Gift for Riddell Williams.

It was decided that we would choose the personalized globe from Things Remembered.

e. Gift to the NALS Foundation.

Brynne has “heard” that in the past Chapters would return some, or all, of the money that was received in grants back to the NALS Foundation. Brynne suggested we could take from the Charity line item and return some money to the NALS Foundation. It was decided to keep the money in the budget.

f. Upcoming Deadlines.

Consent Agendas for the April Membership Meeting are due April 9, 2009.

Action Items

None.

Old Business

- Brynne contacted Glenda Hanson at Renton Technical College. Glenda would like to coordinate Shadow Day with the June Noontime Seminar.
- On a side note, Glenda called Kathy and mentioned that we haven’t been pro-active enough with a student that recently became a member. Celine believes this was just a misunderstanding.

New Business

- Brynne thinks that it would be a great idea if at installation all of the officers of the 2008–2009 Board of Directors report to the membership regarding what they have done over the last year. So, be prepared.

Next Meeting

Board of Directors Meeting on Thursday, May 7, 2009, at 12 p.m. at Perkins Coie.

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*Note: 10% Discount will apply for the companies who sponsor any part of two or more meetings and/or provide goods or services to NALS of Greater Seattle, which reduces expenses. Contact Chanda M. Smith, Marketing Director for more information.



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Enjoy information from the President and President-Elect as well as from the Resource Center Staff...use insideNALS to keep up to date on what is going on with NALS!

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