



SPOKANE  
COUNTY BAR  
ASSOCIATION

# Calendar Call

APRIL 8, 2024

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

by Emily Arneson, SCBA President



Last month, our departing Executive Director, Erin Adler, wrote about change and challenged us to embrace the possibilities that it brings. Perhaps it is fitting that the Bar is experiencing a time of staff transition as we all witness the shifting of seasons. While change often is not linear, like weather

that swings from 70 degrees on April 2 to snowfall on April 5, we can embrace its variety as an exercise in patience and perseverance.

In life, many of the changes we experience are big and obvious, like graduating from law school, sending children off to college, making a practice or firm change, or losing a loved one. Those kinds of changes don't give us a choice—they force us to acknowledge them and their effects on our lives. In contrast, how often do we take the time to recognize the smaller, incremental, almost unnoticed changes that occur in our lives? With so many demands on our time as busy professionals, advisors, jurists, parents, friends, and community members, it is easy to become overly focused on daily survival at the expense of the broader picture.

Recently I have found myself deep in existential thought more frequently than usual. One reason may be that I celebrate a milestone birthday this month, but another is that I've been confronted with formative memories from half a lifetime ago. Every spring I have the good fortune of visiting Whitman College in Walla Walla as a member of its Alumni Board. I invariably enjoy meeting students and taking in the picturesque campus, although it can be jarring to return to physical spaces

## SEEKING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Salary Range:** \$70,000 - \$90,000  
**Date Closing:** May 15, 2024

The Spokane County Bar Association (SCBA) and Spokane County Bar Volunteer Lawyers Program (SCBVLP) seek an inspirational and community-minded leader to serve as the Executive Director for both organizations. As a professional membership organization, the SCBA seeks to enhance the integrity and competence of the legal community and to pursue greater access to justice for all county residents. Its companion organization, the SCBVLP, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that recruits volunteer attorneys to provide legal services to low-income residents of the Inland Northwest. The Executive Director will lead and manage both organizations. While the preference is to have this be a full-time exempt position, in the proper circumstances applicants for part-time employment will be considered.

We are looking for a proven leader who is just as comfortable networking with judges and elected officials as s/he is greeting potential clients at low-income legal clinics. The wide range of responsibilities of this position means that the successful candidate can have an immediate and direct impact on the SCBA and SCBVLP members and stakeholders. Although not a requirement of the position, this can be an ideal position for someone with a legal background who wants to drive measurable and meaningful progress toward more equitable access to justice for all people in need of legal advice and representation.

**PLEASE REVIEW THE ENTIRE JOB DESCRIPTION ON OUR WEB SITE AT:** <https://www.spokanebar.org/seeking-executive-director/>

Comprehensive benefits package, including medical insurance, parking reimbursement, and retirement contribution.

**To Apply:** Send resume and cover letter to [MWardrop@spokanebar.org](mailto:MWardrop@spokanebar.org). Application review begins immediately.

**Continued on Page 4**

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## April

25 YLD Networking Events

## May

9 IP Section Networking Event  
10 VLP Champions of Justice Breakfast  
15-16 Water Law CLE - 2 Day seminar

## OFFICERS

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Erin N. Adler

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## SPOKANE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION CALENDAR CALL

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# ON THE MOVE

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## Winston & Cashatt, Lawyers Welcomes New Associate Christine M. Meegan



Winston & Cashatt is proud to announce that Christine M. Meegan has joined the firm as an associate attorney. Christine's practice focuses on civil litigation, employment & labor, insurance and personal injury & accidental death.

Originally a Seattle native, Christine moved to Spokane in 2013 to study criminal justice, psychology, and sociology at Gonzaga University. She graduated from Gonzaga University School of Law in August 2021, served as Vice President of the Gonzaga Public Interest Law Project and received the Platinum Pro Bono Distinction. During law school, Christine worked for the Spokane County Public Defenders Office and the Spokane City Public Defenders Office's Community Court program. Prior to joining Winston & Cashatt, she worked for a firm handling both criminal defense and civil litigation, with an emphasis on civil rights. In her spare time, Christine enjoys hiking and exploring with her partner, three dogs, and two cats; strongman training; and knitting.

*Winston & Cashatt is a multidisciplinary regional law firm that has been serving clients for more than 50 years. An experienced litigation firm, it represents a roster of local and national clients through its offices in Spokane and Coeur d'Alene.*

# DECREASE MATERNAL MORTALITY BY COLLECTING DATA ON PREGNANCY OUTCOMES AMONG WOMEN WHO ARE INCARCERATED

by Becca Townley, JVC/Americorp VLP



This upcoming Thursday, April 11th, is the start of Black Maternal Health week. This year's theme for Black Maternal Health Week is, "Our Bodies STILL Belong to Us: Reproductive Justice NOW!" An often forgotten and overlooked population of women are those in carceral institutions. Individuals lose autonomy of power and place; thus, maternal health for the incarcerated is crucial.

Statistically, maternal mortality in the United States is higher than most other high resource countries.<sup>1</sup> The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) defines health disparities as "preventable differences in the burden of disease, injury, violence, or opportunities to achieve optimal health that are experienced by socially disadvantaged populations."<sup>2</sup> Pregnancy related health disparities are prevalent in the United States particularly for those who are racial and ethnic minorities and for those who fall below the poverty line. The CDC published a report on pregnancy-related mortality from the years 2007 to 2016. This report showed that pregnancy related mortality ratios are 2.8-3.3 times as high for black women as they are for white women. Among black women, cardiomyopathy, thrombotic pulmonary embolism, and hypertensive disorders contributed more to pregnancy-related deaths than white women.<sup>3</sup> Infant mortality is also higher among racial minorities and those with low socioeconomic statuses; "Infants born to Black and Native Hawaiians and other pacific islanders (NHOPI) women are over twice as likely to die relative to those born to White women."<sup>4</sup> There is an increased risk of complications if women do not receive prenatal care.<sup>5</sup> It is shown, there are significant maternal health disparities, which are concentrated in certain populations. These are the populations that are being incarcerated at higher rates.

Women who are incarcerated have higher chances of poor health outcomes in pregnancy as women are more likely than men to "enter jail with a medical problem or a serious mental illness."<sup>6</sup> In recent decades, the rate of incarceration of women has grown at twice the rate of men. As of March 2024, there are 190,600 women and girls who are in United States carceral institutions.<sup>7</sup> Women who are incarcerated may knowingly or unknowingly enter prison pregnant. The Supreme Court ruled that prisons are constitutionally required to provide healthcare to prisoners (*Estelle v Gamble*). However, there is no comprehensive data on pregnancy in prisons and the women and children's health outcomes. Data reporting is not required, which results in a lack of oversight and standardized health services for women who are pregnant in prison.<sup>8</sup> Access to prenatal care is considered one of the key components of pregnancy care for women. Data shows that 80% of women who are incarcerated are mothers and the primary caretakers to their children.<sup>9</sup> Incarceration impacts the health of following generations, not only the health of pregnant women. Poor health outcomes can be characterized by race, poverty, limited access to healthcare, histories of trauma and abuse, and substance use disorders. As stated earlier, black women experience an increase in adverse pregnancy outcomes. This is aggravated by the fact that the rate of imprisonment of black women is approximately two times higher than that of white women.<sup>10</sup> Data should be regularly collected on prenatal and obstetric care that would indicate the quality of care provided as well as their health outcomes. There is a need for a "national standard of care for incarcerated pregnant women"<sup>11</sup> as well as a coordinated and comprehensive data reporting system for incarcerated women who are pregnant.

The United States Department of Health and Human Services has a program titled, "Healthy People 2030". According to their website they "set data-driven national objectives to improve health and well-being over the next decade."<sup>12</sup> One of their public health goals is the prevention of pregnancy complications and maternal deaths before, during, and after pregnancy. Incarcerated women make up a significant portion of the population and must be included in pregnancy related data as well these public health initiatives.

1 Gunja, Munira Z, Roosa Tikkanen, Shanoor Seervai, and Sara R Collins. "What Is the Status of Women's Health and Health Care in the U.S. Compared to Ten Other Countries?" What Is Status of Women's Health? U.S. vs. 10 Other Countries | Commonwealth Fund, December 19, 2018.

2 "Health Disparities." Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, January 31, 2017.

3 Petersen, Emily E. "Racial/ethnic disparities in pregnancy-related deaths—United States, 2007–2016." *MMWR. Morbidity and mortality weekly report* 68 (2019).

4 Pruitt, Shannon M. "Racial and ethnic disparities in fetal deaths—United States, 2015–2017." *MMWR. Morbidity and mortality weekly report* 69 (2020).

5 Artiga, Samantha, Olivia Pham, Kendal Orgera, and Usha Ranji. "Racial disparities in maternal and infant health: An overview." *Issue Brief. Kaiser Family Foundation*.

6 Kajstura, Aleks, and Wendy Sawyer. "Women's Mass Incarceration: The Whole Pie 2024." Women's Mass Incarceration: The Whole Pie 2024 | Prison Policy Initiative, March 5, 2024.

7 Kajstura, Aleks, and Wendy Sawyer.

8 Hayes, Crystal M., Carolyn Sufirin, and Jamila B. Perritt. "Reproductive justice disrupted: Mass incarceration as a driver of reproductive oppression." *American journal of public health* 110, no. S1 (2020): S21-S24.

9 Kajstura, Aleks, and Wendy Sawyer.

10 Ghandnoosh, Nazgol. "One in Five: Ending Racial Inequity in Incarceration." The Sentencing Project, October 11, 2023.

11 Sufirin, Carolyn, Lauren Beal, Jennifer Clarke, Rachel Jones, and William D. Mosher. "Pregnancy outcomes in US prisons, 2016–2017." *American journal of public health* 109, no. 5 (2019): 799-805.

12 "Healthy People 2030." Healthy people 2030.



**SPOKANE COUNTY  
YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION**

# SPEED NETWORKING EVENT

We are delighted to invite you to our upcoming Speed Networking Event. This event promises to be an evening of valuable connections, insightful conversations, and new opportunities for legal and non-legal professionals!

-  April 25, 2024
-  5:30 - 8:30 PM  
Doors open at 5 PM
-  Hemmingson Center  
Multipurpose Room  
Gonzaga University
-  No cost to attend

First 50 registrants will receive a complimentary drink ticket

Please RSVP by April 15, 2024 at:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FN8N9ZC>

Contact Stephanie Faust  
[sfaust@stevensclay.org](mailto:sfaust@stevensclay.org)




*Continued from PRESIDENT'S LETTER on Page 1*  
that are so familiar while recognizing that I am not the same person I was when I first experienced them.

One of my favorite aspects of belonging to the Alumni Board is the opportunity it provides for inter-generational friendship and mentorship. Members of the Alumni Board come from graduating classes ranging from 1967 through 2016. So much has changed at the college—and in the region and the world—in that period of time, but what has remained constant is the importance of human connection. Friendship, companionship, and mentorship, particularly across generations, continues to be mutually beneficial in immeasurable ways. The college students I met on campus this spring have an understanding of how important mentorship can be, but I wonder if those of us who are a little (or a lot) older can still see ourselves as moldable clay.

The importance of community support and engagement does not lessen as we grow older. It is true that current law students and recent graduates, just like the college students I met, need support from seasoned professionals who have been in their shoes. But it is also true that individuals five, fifteen, or fifty years into practice can benefit from cultivating relationships with mentors and mentees.

Not every mentoring relationship looks the same, nor does mentorship have to be a formal arrangement. However, if you would like some support pursuing a mentor or a mentee, both the WSBA and the ABA offer services. You could also reach out to your college or law school alma mater, or any professional associations in which you are a member. While the SCBA does not have a formal mentorship program, attending our events is a great way to meet other attorneys within our outside of your practice area, and strike up a friendship organically.

There will always be change within the legal profession, and in each of our individual lives. It serves us well to be thoughtful and purposeful about those changes, and a network of mentor and mentee relationships can be the critical support we need during those times of transition. I hope that you take the time to ponder the role mentorship has played in your life, and consider how you can strengthen your own support network and those of people whose lives you have influenced.



YOU'RE INVITED TO AN

# IP Networking Event

HOSTED BY  
SCBA IP SECTION AND FIG.1

MAY 9, 2024 • 4PM  
LIGHT APPETIZERS &  
DRINKS

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# Champions of Justice Breakfast May 10, 2024



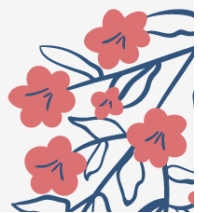
7:30-8:30 AM

(Doors open at 7 AM)

The Ruby River Hotel  
700 N Division St.  
Spokane, WA 99202

**Register Today!**

[Spokanebar.org/events-calendar/](https://Spokanebar.org/events-calendar/)

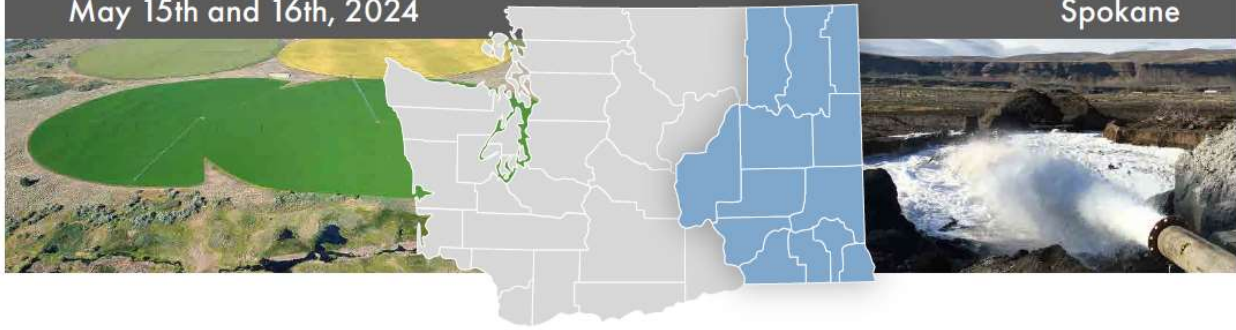


**Save the Date!**

## 1st Annual Water Law in Eastern Washington Conference

May 15th and 16th, 2024

Spokane



### Join us for the 1st Annual Water Law in Eastern Washington Conference!

Sponsored by the Spokane County Bar Association | May 15th & 16th | Spokane, WA

The conference will include a combination of technical, legal, and water resource management topics presented by some of the region's leading water experts. The legal and regulatory landscape around water management is changing – come learn about it!

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- Laws, rules, policies, and practicalities of managing water rights in Eastern Washington
- Current status of water resource efforts to efficiently manage water in Eastern Washington

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- Federal Water Authorizations
- Water Rights Processing, Transfer Headaches, and Roundtable
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- Irrigated Agriculture Financing
- Water Banking
- Regional Water Resource Planning
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#### Keynote Speaker:

Tom Tebb, Director of Ecology's Office of Columbia River

#### Conference Co-chairs:

Jessica Kuchan, Confluence Law, PLLC  
Ben Lee, PE, CWRE, Landau Associates, Inc.

#### Venue:

Gonzaga University School of Law

#### Registration

Price: \$195 | Students: FREE

<https://www.spokanebar.org/events-calendar/>

**REGISTER NOW**

#### Sponsored by:





# REGISTER FOR UPCOMING EVENTS AT GONZAGA LAW



## Clarke Prize in Legal Ethics CLE

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

The annual Clarke Family Prize in Legal Ethics CLE is an event focusing on the topic of professional responsibility with panelists Rebecca Aviel, Professor, University of Denver Sturm College of Law and Aruna Masih, Oregon Supreme Court Justice.

**2.0 CLE ETHICS CREDITS**



## Expo '74: Inland Northwest Environmental Justice

8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

The Gonzaga Climate Institute, in collaboration with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Washington, the Washington State Attorney General, and the Gonzaga Law School Center for Law, Ethics & Commerce, will host a one day event at Gonzaga Law School looking retrospectively at the environmental justice work done over this half century and what work remains to be done in the coming decades.

**5.5 CLE LAW & LEGAL CREDITS**



## With Pride: LGBTQ+ Rights & Advocacy in Legal Education Summit

9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

The Center for Civil & Human Rights at Gonzaga University School of Law is pleased to host the first of its kind summit addressing LGBTQ+ rights, issues, and advocacy efforts.

Three diverse panels of LGBTQ+ faculty advocates from top-tier law schools, practitioners, and keynote speaker Kellye Testy, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Law School Admission Council (LSAC).

**5.0 CLE ETHICS, EQUITY  
& INCLUSION CREDITS**



# You are invited to an award ceremony and reception to honor General James Mattis



Please join Heather Foley and the Foley Institute at a dinner and award ceremony honoring General James Mattis.

Former U.S. Secretary of Defense and four-star Marine Corps General James Mattis will be the inaugural recipient of the Thomas S. Foley Award for Distinguished Public Service. The ceremony will be held April 9 at the John J. Hemmingson Center on the Gonzaga University campus in Spokane.

For more information, and to purchase tickets, visit us at <https://foley.wsu.edu/award>.

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The Thomas S. Foley Institute for Public Policy and Public Service was established at Washington State University to honor Speaker Foley's more than 30 years of public service to state and nation. The non-partisan institute provides high quality programs that educate about American democracy and support student engagement in public service.



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## THE 1ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE SANDY WILLIAMS JUSTICE CENTER

Come enjoy light refreshments with Special Guests: Washington State Supreme Court Justice Mary Yu, Spokane City Council President Betsy Wilkerson, and WSBA Board of Governors District 5, and Treasurer Francis Adewale.

APRIL 20, 2024

9:00 A.M. - 10:30 A.M.

THE CARL MAXEY CENTER

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SPOKANE, WA 99202

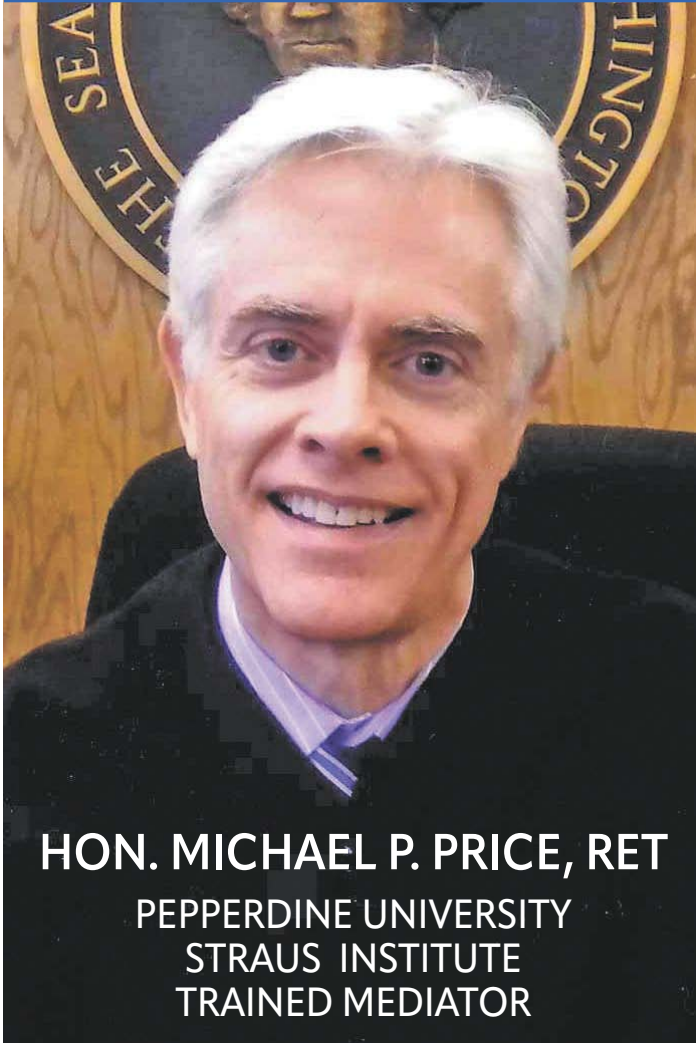
Doors open at 8:30 a.m. and out of respect for our speakers, doors will close at 9:15 a.m. Please plan to arrive no later than 9:00 a.m.

Free legal clinic to follow immediately after.

RSVP at [swjcadmin@carlmaxeycenter.org](mailto:swjcadmin@carlmaxeycenter.org)



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- 2014 Federal Court appointed Arbiter, Hanford Downwinder settlement.
- 2018 King County Superior Court appointed Arbiter, Boeing case settlement involving 61 claimants.



**Ron Van Wert**

- Employment, wrongful termination, discrimination, wage & hour, and labor law matters.
- 25 years' experience counseling employers and employees on resolution strategies.
- Trial experience in state, federal and administrative courts representing employers and employees.
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- Trained via Pepperdine's Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution--*Mediating the Litigated Case*.

### **TO SCHEDULE A MEDIATION PLEASE CONTACT:**

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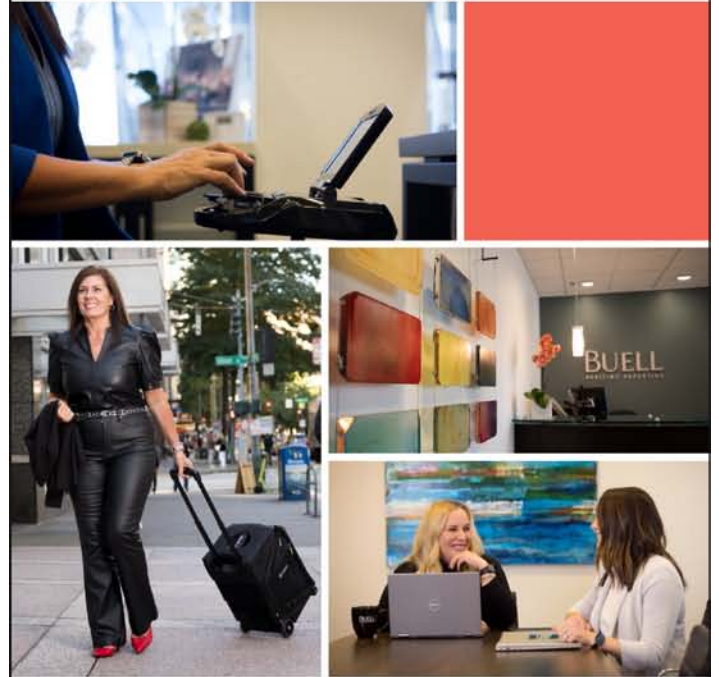
To schedule please contact Michelle Nay at (509) 624-2161 or [michelle@paulbmack.com](mailto:michelle@paulbmack.com)

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### **Senior Litigation Paralegal**

Piskel Yahne Kovarik, PLLC is seeking an experienced and dynamic Senior Litigation Paralegal to join our team. This is an excellent opportunity to advance your career within a collegial law office environment among a tight-knit group of attorneys, paralegals, and legal assistants. This position offers opportunities for leadership, training and mentoring other legal staff, billing time, and potential for becoming a registered paralegal. Pay range is \$25.00 - \$31.00/hour plus potential for discretionary bonuses and participation in a production bonus program. Benefits include health insurance (we pay 100% of employee's premium), 401K and match, vacation and sick leave, 11 paid holidays, and downtown parking.

**Desired Qualifications:** Minimum of five years working in a law office as a paralegal or legal assistant; Excellent verbal and written communication skills; Time management and organizational skills; Advanced proficiency with MS Word, Adobe, Outlook, and client management software; Experience with or a desire to develop skills in mentoring, training, and leadership; Knowledge of civil rules and procedures (Washington and Idaho); Trial experience; AA or a BA – experience may be considered in lieu of a degree; Possess reliable transportation and a valid driver's license. To apply, please submit a cover letter and resume to [tgregory@pyklawyers.com](mailto:tgregory@pyklawyers.com).

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Contact Shannon: [Shannon.EricStevenLaw@gmail.com](mailto:Shannon.EricStevenLaw@gmail.com)



Legal Practice Assistant - Business & Real Estate/Land Group practice groups

This a full-time onsite position from our Spokane office, Monday through Friday, 8:30 am – 5:00 pm. Occasional overtime may be necessary to accommodate client needs.

**Responsibilities:**

- Prepare, proofread, format and revise correspondence and documents.
- Prepare engagement letters and waivers, as requested and needed.
- Schedule appointments and conference room reservations.
- Assist and spearhead the coordination of notebook and binder projects.
- Run conflict checks (Intapp Open), as requested.
- Enroll attorneys in CLE courses and assist with CLE questions and recording.
- Process timely expense reimbursements through Chrome River.
- Coordinate travel arrangements, as requested.
- In-person support to include scanning or copying projects, as requested to include title binders, agreements, and contracts.
- Maintain attorney Outlook calendars.
- Assist in reviewing and finalizing attorney pre-bills.
- Establish effective working relationships and appropriately interact with others.
- Observes attorney-client confidentiality.



**Education:**

- Bachelor’s degree and 3 years of experience in legal or professional services organization, or high school diploma and 5-7 years of experience in legal or professional services organization, or equivalent experience.
- Legal secretary or paralegal certificate is preferred.

**Salary Range and Benefits:**

The pay range for this position is \$52,000 to \$75,000 annually; however, actual pay may vary depending on the candidate’s education, training, experience, and other job-related factors permitted by law. The successful candidate may be eligible for a discretionary signing bonus as well.

**Apply:**

More details on our website. To apply for this position, visit [www.foster.com/careers](http://www.foster.com/careers) and complete the online application. Please include your resume and a cover letter with salary requirements.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

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**Court Visitor taking on new cases;** has no problem taking indigent cases. Over 35 years experience practicing Elder Law, Real Estate and Estate Planning. Robert M. Morgan, Esq., 3322 West Walton Avenue, Spokane, Washington 99205 904-610-8435, [rmmorgan99205@gmail.com](mailto:rmmorgan99205@gmail.com).

**Spurgetis Law, P.S. is seeking one to two legal assistants to work in the areas of trust administration, guardianship, conservatorship, and probate.** We are a small law firm of three lawyers and staff seeking a highly motivated, detailed orientated individual. Compensation will be dependent on experience and qualifications. If interested, please email resume and cover letter to [greg@spurgetislaw.com](mailto:greg@spurgetislaw.com).

### POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT Civil Special Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

The office of Adams County Prosecuting Attorney is accepting resumes for a part time contracted Civil Special Deputy Prosecuting Attorney in our Ritzville office. Duties include assisting the Board of County Commissioners and Elected Officials with employment law, collective bargaining issues, and other related duties. Prior civil division experience and/or labor and employment law related experience is preferred. Applicants must have graduated from an accredited law school, must be a member in good standing of the Washington State Bar Association, and have a valid Washington State Driver's License. This position requires less than a half-time commitment. Excellent oral and written communication skills are essential. Compensation negotiable depending on experience. Send letter of interest, resume, reference list, and writing sample to: Adams County Prosecutor, 210 West Broadway, Ritzville, Washington 99169, attention personnel, or by email to [whitneyk@co.adams.wa.us](mailto:whitneyk@co.adams.wa.us). Applications will be accepted until position is filled.