



2010-2011 Paralegal Division Board of Directors

by Heather Finch



Back Row: Aaron Thompson, Steven Morley, Jennifer Nakai, Julie Eriksson, & Heather Nielson. Middle Row: Carma Harper, Danielle Price, Lorraine Wardle, & Jessica Christensen. Front Row: Tally Burke & Heather Finch. Board Members Not Pictured: Colleen Wrigley, Thora Searle, Suzanne Potts, & Deb Category

As the new Chair of the Paralegal Division, I am pleased to introduce to you the new officers and directors of the Paralegal Division for 2010-2011. I am honored to be working with such a wonderful group of professionals and am looking forward to the coming year. The Paralegal Division works hard to provide affordable and free Continuing Legal Education seminars, professional networking, job postings, community service opportunities, Bar Journal articles relevant to the Paralegal profession, Paralegal Day events, and many other benefits. I would like to encourage all of you to get involved with the Paralegal Division. There are leadership opportunities and many committees that could always use your help.

If you would like more information about the Paralegal Division,

please visit our website at www.utahparalegals.org.

Our officers and board of directors for 2010-2011 are:

Chair – Heather Finch: Heather has over twenty years of paralegal experience and she is the senior litigation paralegal with the firm of Howard, Lewis & Petersen, P.C., in Provo, where she has worked since 1995. She works primarily in the areas of civil litigation, plaintiffs' medical malpractice, plaintiffs' personal injury, and plaintiffs' product liability. Heather received her paralegal certification in 1990 from Wasatch Career Institute. She was honored to be selected as Utah's Distinguished Paralegal of the Year in 2009.

Region I Director & Chair Elect – Carma Harper: Carma serves the counties of Davis, Morgan, Weber, Rich, Cache, and Box Elder. She works for Strong & Hanni in the areas of insurance defense, personal injury, construction litigation, and product liability. Carma received her paralegal certification from Wasatch Career Institute in 1989. Carma has been very active on the Paralegal Division's Community Service Committee and this year will be Co-Chair for Membership.

Region II Director – Danielle Price: Danielle serves the counties of Salt Lake, Tooele, and Summit. She works for Strong & Hanni where she concentrates in insurance defense. She has worked as a paralegal for eighteen years with experience in various practices of law including civil litigation, personal injury, bankruptcy, construction law, adoption, collections, and family law. She has achieved her Certified Paralegal designation from NALA. She was the chair for the Paralegal Division of the Utah State Bar for the term of 2005-2006. She is currently the Community Service Chair for the Division and the Young Lawyers Division Liaison.

Region III Director, Secretary – Jennifer Nakai: Jennifer serves the counties of Juab, Millard, Utah, Wasatch, Duchesne, Uintah, and Daggett. She currently works for the Utah County Attorney's Office. She has worked in the legal field since 1986 and received her Associates Degree in Paralegal Studies in 1995. She is a certified paralegal with NALA and recently earned her Advanced Certified Paralegal Credential in Trial Practice.

Region IV Director – Colleen Wrigley: Colleen serves the counties of Carbon, Sanpete, Sevier, Emery, Grand, Beaver, Wayne, Piute, San Juan, Garfield, Kane, Iron, and Washington. Colleen is a paralegal at the law firm of Clarkson Draper & Beckstrom in St. George, Utah, working primarily in the areas of estate planning and business entity creation and planning. She earned her B.S. at Brigham Young University. Colleen will be assisting as co-chair for the Paralegal of the Year Committee and CLE.

Director-at-Large – Thora Searle: Thora has worked in the legal field since 1972 and is currently a Judicial Assistant for the Honorable William T. Thurman at the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Utah. She previously worked for Judge Thurman for twenty-one years while he was practicing at McKay, Burton & Thurman. Thora is the Education/CLE Co-Chair for the Paralegal Division.

Director-at-Large – Suzanne Potts: Suzanne has been a paralegal for over twenty years. She is employed at Clarkson Draper & Beckstrom in St. George, Utah. She works primarily in

civil litigation. Suzanne is also a mediator having completed her basic mediation training through the Utah State Bar, Alternative Dispute Resolution in 2001. She is a volunteer for the Southern Utah Community Center and mediator for the Juvenile Court Victim Offender Mediation Program. Suzanne is the chair for the Paralegal of the Year Committee as well as the Chair for Ethics & Professional Standards.

Director-at-Large, Parliamentarian – Deb Caletory: Deb is a certified Paralegal who works for the St. George office of Durham, Jones & Pinegar. She certified as a Paralegal in 1986 through the American Paralegal Association. Deb has extensive experience in the areas of real estate, litigation, business, and transactional law. Deb has been active in the paralegal profession over the course of her career. She was a charter member of the Paralegal Division of the Utah State Bar. Deb has served in numerous leadership positions for the Division, including the Chair of the Division from 2001-2002. In 2008, Deb was honored by being selected as Utah's Distinguished Paralegal of the Year.

Director-at-Large – Tally Burke: Tally has over fifteen years of paralegal experience and currently works as a paralegal in the corporate legal department of Inthinc, Inc., located in West Valley City, which focuses on telematics, fleet solutions, and driving safety technologies. Tally received her Legal Assistant Certificate in 1996 from Salt Lake Community College. She also received her Associate of Applied Science, with a major in Paralegal Studies in 1997 and her Associate of Science in 2005 from Salt Lake Community College. In 2006, she earned her bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Weber State University with a minor in Criminal Law and an emphasis in paralegal studies. Tally is a past Chair of the Paralegal Division (2004-2005) and currently serves as the Co-Chair on the Paralegal Utilization Task Force.

Director-at-Large – Jessica Christensen: Jessica has worked as a Paralegal in the Asset Forfeiture Unit at the United States Attorney's Office for over two years. Prior to working at the United States Attorney's Office, Jessica worked in the area of family law. Jessica has an Associate's Degree in Paralegal Studies from Salt Lake Community College and is currently working on her Bachelor's Degree at Utah Valley University. Jessica is the Membership Chair for the Paralegal Division.

Director-at-Large, Finance Officer – Julie Eriksson: Julie has been a paralegal for seventeen years and currently works for Christensen & Jensen in the area of civil litigation. She has been an active participant in the Paralegal Division since its

Membership Benefits

Members of the Paralegal Division are afforded the benefits that are available to the Bar membership through the efforts of the Bar's Member Benefits Committee. For further information refer to: http://www.utahbar.org/members/member_benefits.html.

- Membership includes the *Utah Bar Journal* which is published six times per year.
- Paralegal Division members are welcome to join various sections of the Bar.
- Counseling services for no additional charge through Blomquist Hale.
- CLE: Free CLE Brownbag Luncheons

Get Connected by Joining Today!

Voluntary membership in the Division will help sustain a high level of leadership and professionalism in the legal community. Get involved.

- Membership Cost – \$75 per year
- Membership forms are available on our website:

<http://www.utahparalegals.org> or
<http://www.utahbar.org/sections/>

inception. Julie served as CLE Chair of the Paralegal Division from 2007-2008. In 2007, she became Chair-Elect of the Paralegal Division and served as the Division's Governmental Relations Liaison to the Utah State Bar's Governmental Relations Committee. Julie is also a member of LAAU and is currently the Chair for the Paralegal Utilization Task Force.

Director-at-Large – Steven A. Morley: Steven is a paralegal in the Asset Forfeiture Unit at the United States Attorney's Office and has been working there for over four years. Steven graduated with a B.S. degree in Paralegal Studies from Utah Valley University. He also worked as a military paralegal in the United States Air Force Reserve for nearly three years concentrating in military justice. Steven serves the Division as the Marketing & Publications Committee Chair and *Bar Journal* Liaison.

Director-at-Large – Heather Nielson: Heather has been a paralegal for over thirteen years. She is currently employed by the United States Attorney's Office as a paralegal specialist, primarily in the area of Asset Forfeiture law. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Paralegal Studies and Criminal Justice from Utah Valley University. Heather serves the Division as the LAAU Liaison and the UMBA Liaison.

Director-at-Large – Lorraine Wardle: Lorraine Wardle is the Senior Paralegal at the firm of Victoria Kidman & Associates, claims litigation counsel for State Farm Insurance. Lorraine also has extensive insurance defense experience. Lorraine is the Education/CLE Chair for the Paralegal Division.

Ex-Officio Director (Immediate Past Chair) – Aaron Thompson: Aaron is a paralegal employed by the legal department of Headwaters Incorporated, concentrating in commercial insurance. He earned his B.A. and Paralegal Studies degree from Westminster College. Aaron's paralegal career experiences have varied from working with the Utah Attorney General's Office in the Commercial Enforcement and Consumer Protection division to working with local and national organizations, gubernatorial, Senate, Congressional and Presidential campaigns around the United States. In 2008, Aaron directed Governor Bill Richardson's Presidential campaign in Utah. Aaron is currently the Government Relations Chair. He is also responsible for maintaining and updating the Paralegal Division's Website and Facebook page.