



Message from the Chair

by Danielle S. Davis

The Paralegal Division Board of Directors has been contacted by the Board of the Utah Newborn Safe Haven program about working with them to spread the word about the program and increase their opportunities for fundraising efforts. We are pleased to assist this program and have some information from them as follows:

In an ideal world, all pregnancies would be planned and wanted. Newborns would be welcomed into the home and raised by loving parents. But, sometimes, a pregnancy is not planned nor wanted. When this happens, a newborn baby's life may be at risk.

For some women, their pregnancies are not welcomed. The woman may not want to admit she is pregnant. She may not receive prenatal care or counseling, nor does she consider traditional adoption. Instead, she may hide her pregnancy, deliver on her own with no medical care and leave her newborn in an unsafe place.

That is why in 2001, the statewide Utah Newborn Safe Haven law went into effect allowing birth parents to anonymously give up custody of their newborn baby without facing any legal consequences. The law is designed to prevent tragic situations we have all heard about when a newborn was left in a dumpster, airport bathroom or other unsafe place that jeopardized the life of the infant or actually led to a newborn baby's death.

The law states that *anyone* can drop off a newborn baby at any

Utah hospital that is open 24/7 – with no questions asked.

The Utah Newborn Safe Haven Committee has developed an outreach initiative to inform Utah residents about the Safe Relinquishment Law. The committee has created materials to promote general awareness, including a website, educational posters, TV and radio public service announcements, and access to a toll-free information hotline staffed by emergency professionals at the Utah Department of Health. The website provides information on Utah's Safe Relinquishment Law, including Commonly Asked Questions, Utah Hospital Locations, and Helpful Links and Resources.

With questions about the Utah Newborn Safe Haven program, please visit the website www.utahsafehaven.org or call the hotline at 1-866-458-0058.

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All of these activities and materials are costly to create and implement. Tax-deductible donations for this valued project are appreciated. Checks can be addressed to "Safe Haven" and mailed to Julia Robertson, Utah Newborn Safe Haven, 44 North Medical Drive, Salt Lake City, Utah 84114.

The program would like to garner support from the legal community. If this program interests you or you if you feel you can assist with fundraising, please contact them for more information. If you know of someone that may benefit from this information, please pass it along.

Distinguished Paralegal of the Year Award

The Distinguished Paralegal of the Year Award is presented by the Paralegal Division of the Utah State Bar and the Utah Paralegal Association to a paralegal who has met a standard of excellence through his or her work and service in this profession.

We invite you to submit nominations of those individuals who have met this standard. Please consider taking the time to recognize an outstanding paralegal. Nominating a paralegal is the perfect way to ensure that his or her hard work is recognized, not only by a professional organization, but by the legal community. This will be an opportunity to shine. Nomination forms and additional information are available by contacting Danielle Davis at ddavis@strongandhanni.com or on the Paralegal Division website at www.utahbar.org/sections/paralegals.

The deadline for nominations is April 30, 2014. Reminders will also come via E-bulletin as well as announcements at the Mid-Year Meeting in March in St. George. The award will be presented at the Paralegal Day Celebration held on May 15, 2014.

Heather Johnson Finch Memorial Endowed Scholarship

The Paralegal Division of the Utah State Bar is proud to announce that the Heather Johnson Finch Memorial Endowed Scholarship has now reached the \$30,000 benchmark needed to fund scholarship opportunities. Heather Finch was the consummate professional and model of what a paralegal should be. Heather tragically died in an airplane crash in August of 2010. It was the goal of the Division and the legal community to honor Heather's legacy and dedication by providing scholarship opportunities for dedicated, aspiring, service-oriented students majoring in Paralegal Studies at Utah Valley University (UVU). By pursuing the best paralegal education, the legal community will benefit when these students enter the workforce. Interested students should follow the guidelines established by UVU. We anticipate the first recipient will be announced at the Paralegal Day Celebration luncheon on May 15, 2014. Please donate to this continuing, growing scholarship. For more information contact: Nancy Smith, UVU Office of Institutional Advancement (801) 863-8896. Students may apply, as listed on UVU's scholarship financial aid website: <http://www.uvu.edu/financialaid/scholarships/>.



Even minds we don't
understand grow
beautiful things.

Let's rethink
mental illness.