



Message from the Chair

by Heather Allen

As the new chair of the Paralegal Division, I would like to introduce the 2014–2015 Board of Directors. I am excited and honored to be in this position and am looking forward to helping our Division become even better. I look forward to working with the attorneys in the various divisions of the Bar to help promote the use of paralegals and the importance of the paralegals in our community being a member of our Division.

Chair-Elect – Krystal Hazlett. Krystal is currently a paralegal in the Special Victims Unit at the Salt Lake County District Attorney's Office. She received her paralegal degree from Salt Lake Community College and also has an associate's degree in criminal justice from Salt Lake Community College. She has a bachelor of science in sociology from the University of Utah, and is currently working on her master's degree in public administration at Southern Utah University. Krystal believes so much in education that she is also an adjunct teacher at Salt Lake Community College in the Paralegal Studies Department. Prior to working at the Salt Lake County District Attorney's Office, Krystal worked at the Salt Lake City Prosecutor's Office and at Ballard Spahr. Krystal is a certified paralegal through National Association of Legal Assistants (NALA) and maintains active memberships with the Utah State Bar Paralegal Division and Utah Paralegal Association. Krystal is passionate about volunteering in her community, giving her time to programs and causes such as: the Guardian ad Litem's Office CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) program, the Utah State Bar Wills for Heroes, the Utah Food Bank senior food box deliveries, US Marine Corps Toys for Tots, and the Utah Arts Festival, to name a few.

Region I Director – Alaina Neumeyer. Alaina is a paralegal at Farr, Rasmussen, & Farr (FRF). She has been with FRF since December 2013 and, prior to that, she was a paralegal at Farr, Kaufman, Olds, Kaufman, Rasmussen & Nichols since 2001. Alaina currently runs the personal injury & mass tort divisions for the firm. Alaina has over fifteen years of personal injury experience. She works in all types of personal injury and product liability cases, including wrongful death, all types of accident

cases, mass torts, and many more. Alaina's efforts on the Vioxx litigation resulted in millions of dollars in recovery for the firm's clients. Alaina specializes in unique insurance claims. She is currently handling the firm's mass tort cases for Transvaginal Mesh, Stryker hip devices, and Pradaxa. Alaina has developed a large network of out-of-state attorneys to assist the firm in its many product liability cases. She graduated from Stevens Henager College with her legal secretarial degree with high honors, and she has her ALS certification from the National Association of Legal Secretaries. Her greatest accomplishment has to be her fifteen-year marriage to her husband and raising her four amazing children.

Region II Director – Karen McCall, ACP. Karen has been in the legal field for fifteen years and recently achieved her Certified Paralegal (CP) and Accredited Commercial Professional (ACP) designations from NALA. She has a B.A. in communications and earned her paralegal certificate from Fullerton College in California before relocating to Utah. She is employed as a paralegal with Strong & Hanni in Salt Lake City, where her work centers on insurance defense, personal injury and construction law. Karen has been married for twenty-two years and has two children. She enjoys music, hiking, and exploring new places.

Region III Director – Christina Cope. Christina specializes in state and federal civil litigation and has eleven years' experience in appellate law, family law, business law, and estate planning. She was employed for the past four years as the lead civil litigation paralegal for Heideman & Associates in Provo. Christina is the owner of Cope Litigation Services, providing ad hoc litigation paralegal support to sole practitioners and small firms. She is also the Financial and Administrative Director, and co-owner with her husband, of Ascent IRT, Inc. Ascent IRT provides foster care and therapeutic services for troubled youth. Christina graduated with a degree in paralegal studies from UVU and began her paralegal career at the Utah County Public Defender Association where she helped expand the role of legal assistants. She currently serves with Wills for Heroes and loves new volunteer opportunities. Her volunteer service includes Historic Wendover Airfield Foundation

projects on the Norden Bomb Site storage vault and projects benefitting the Enola Gay hangar restoration. For several years, she served as an independent certified radKIDS® instructor and provided training against abuse, abduction, and bullying to hundreds of children. She is excited to be part of the board so that she can help other paralegals attain their personal and career goals.

Region IV Director – Kari Jimenez. Kari Jimenez received her professional paralegal certificate from the University of Phoenix and has over twenty-two years of experience as a litigation paralegal. She has a broad spectrum of experience which includes criminal defense, criminal prosecution, civil litigation, insurance defense, medical malpractice, products liability, mortgage servicing and lending, and in-house corporate. She obtained her Real Estate license in 2005 and is currently the City Recorder and Paralegal for the municipality of Ivins City. She received her Certified Municipal Clerks (CMC) designation from the University of Utah and will be awarded her Master Municipal Clerk (MMC) designation by the end of this year. Kari served two terms as the Southern Region Director for the Utah Paralegal Association (UPA) and is currently serving as the Region IV Director for the Utah State Bar Paralegal Division. Kari enjoys road and mountain biking, hiking, camping, traveling, and nearly anything that is adventurous.

Director at Large – Sharon Anderson. Sharon has been a paralegal for over twenty-three years. She is currently employed as a litigation paralegal at the Law Offices of Eisenberg Gilchrist & Cutt, working primarily for David Cutt. Over the years, Sharon has worked as a paralegal/legal assistant in law firms, city government, and in-house legal offices of several prominent corporations. She has assisted in a variety of litigation matters involving personal injury, medical malpractice, worker's compensation, labor relations, chemical exposure, and environmental law as well as having experience in contract administration. Sharon attended BYU, married and had a family, then returned to school and graduated from the Legal Assistant Program at Westminster College in 1990. Since 2005, Sharon has served on the board of the Paralegal Division in several capacities, including serving as chair of the Division and ex officio member of the Bar Commission during 2007–2008. Sharon has six adult children and five grandchildren. She views her children and grandchildren as her greatest accomplishment and joy in life.

Director at Large – Julie Emery. Julie has twenty-five years' legal experience focused on complex litigation, trial practice, electronic discovery and document management. After working as a paralegal for approximately ten years, she started and managed

a litigation support company providing paralegal and litigation support, mock trials, and trial support to firms and companies in the Intermountain West. Julie is now with the law firm Snow Christensen & Martineau, and she currently works with a busy trial and litigation practice. Julie is a past adjunct instructor for the paralegal programs at Salt Lake Community College and Westminster College, where she taught document management, ethics and practical applications for paralegals. She has served as a director on the boards of Legal Assistants Association of Utah, Center for Family Development, PTSA Legacy Council, Community Council and Eagle Aquatic Team. She enjoys promoting the usage of paralegals and educating paralegals about electronic discovery issues and technologies. Julie is an avid supporter of the Road Home in Salt Lake City; however, her greatest passion is spending time with her family.

Director at Large – Julie Eriksson. Julie has been a paralegal for twenty-three years and an active participant in the Paralegal Division since its inception. She currently serves on the Board of Directors as a Director at Large and as the current Finance Officer. She is past chair of the Paralegal Division 2008–2009 and also served as CLE Chair of the Paralegal Division from 2007–2008. She is also a member of the Utah Paralegal Association and served that association in many capacities, including several years as its president. For the past fourteen years, she has been employed at the law firm of Christensen & Jensen, P.C., where she works in civil litigation.

Director at Large – Tamara Green. Tamara is the Paralegal Manager for Parsons Behle & Latimer where she has been employed for twenty-six years. Prior to that, she was employed by the State of Utah. She served as an administrative assistant to Governor Scott M. Matheson and then worked at the Division of Public Utilities as an assistant to the director. In 1988, she graduated from Westminster College with a degree in paralegal studies and obtained her certified paralegal endorsement in 1991. Tamara is a founding member of the Utah State Bar Paralegal Division and was on the *Bar Journal* Editorial Board as the Paralegal Representative. In 2006, she was a member of the ABA site evaluation team that reviewed and approved the paralegal program at Utah Valley State College for ABA accreditation. In addition to the Utah State Bar Paralegal Division, she is a current member of the ABA, the National Association of Legal Assistants and the International Paralegal Management Association. Tamara looks forward to serving on the 2014–2015 board.

Director at Large – Abby Ruesch. Abby has worked in the

legal field for over fifteen years in private practice law offices. She has experience in corporation/LLC set up, estate planning, business and civil litigation, family law, land development, and real estate contract law. She currently works for Academy Mortgage Corporation, where she assists the general counsel in handling corporate governance matters, policies and procedures as well as special projects as assigned and other general corporate matters. She has a business degree from LDS Business College, a bachelor of science degree in speech communication from the University of Utah, and a paralegal degree from Salt Lake Community College.

Director at Large – Cheryl Jeffs. Cheryl is a paralegal at Strong and Hanni, where she works in the areas of litigation and insurance defense. Cheryl has been a paralegal for twenty-two years, having received her paralegal certificate from Wasatch Career Institute in 1990. She earned her CP designation from NALA in September 2005. Cheryl has held other positions in the Paralegal Division, including UMBA liaison and Membership Task Force.

Director at Large – Diane McDermaid, CP. Diane is a paralegal who really does love being a paralegal. She earned her paralegal certificate from Phillips Junior College in the late 80s after spending many months in a S.J. Quinney law library carrel surrounded by a mountain of books. Writing and researching, pre-Internet, cemented her devotion to a profession where there is always something new to learn. Initially, she worked in domestic litigation in Ogden, and it was there she found real joy in working directly with clients. The best parts of her job are those personal relationships she is fortunate enough to gain. Her clients' success matters very much, and she works hard to win and maintain their trust. She especially loves litigation and has been fortunate to have been a member of some trial teams with remarkable lawyers at Snow, Christensen & Martineau (1997–2007) and Parsons Behle & Latimer (2008–present), vigorous advocates who refuse to lose. In the spirit of continual learning, and with no trials queued up at that time, she earned her CP designation through NALA in 2009. She is a volunteer court visitor with the district court, and, in addition, she takes every opportunity to volunteer at Wills For Heroes and Serving Our Seniors with the Utah State Bar Young Lawyer Division. She finds it humbling to do this simple act for those who serve. She is a proud and grateful two Blue Star Mother – her son went into the Army as a medic, and her daughter went into the Air Force on a rescue helicopter squadron. Each of them celebrated several birthdays in Iraq and/or Afghanistan, having made four trips between them.

Those who sacrifice and serve have earned Diane's abiding admiration and respect. Diane is honored to be involved in the Bar's Paralegal Division and hopes to advance the paralegal field in some small measure.

Director at Large – Greg Wayment. Greg has over ten years of paralegal experience and is a paralegal at Magleby & Greenwood, P.C. a boutique litigation firm in Salt Lake City, specializing in trademark infringement and complex business disputes. He has been a member of the Paralegal Division, served on the board of directors, and served as the Paralegal Division liaison to the *Utah Bar Journal*. He earned a bachelor's degree from Weber State University.

Ex-Officio – Danielle Davis, CP. Danielle is a certified paralegal with Strong & Hanni. She has worked as a paralegal for twenty-two years with experience in insurance defense, personal injury, bankruptcy, construction law, adoption, collections, and family law. She received her paralegal certificate from Westminster College in 1996 and obtained her certified paralegal designation in 2005. Danielle is the immediate past chair of the Paralegal Division and served as Chair in 2005–2006 and 2011–2012 and has served as a director-at-large and an ex-officio member of the Division. She has served on the Paralegal of the Year Committee, Paralegal Day Committee, Community Service Committee, *Bar Journal* Committee, Governmental Relations Committee, and Licensing Committee and has served as an ex-officio member of the Bar Commission of the Utah State Bar. She is a former president, education chair, parliamentarian, and newsletter editor for the Legal Assistants Association of Utah (LAAU) nka Utah Paralegal Association and is a member of NALA. She is also a member of the Program Advisory Committee for the Salt Lake Community College Paralegal Studies Program.

Chair – Heather Allen. Heather is a paralegal and privacy officer at 1-800 CONTACTS, Inc. and has been there since November 2012. She previously was a paralegal at Ray Quinney & Nebeker, working with wonderful attorneys in the product liability group. She had the opportunity to work on large class action lawsuits in Florida, plaintiff personal injury, and corporate defense product liability cases. She has also been a paralegal at Snell & Wilmer in asbestos litigation and other product liability litigation. Heather has also been an adjunct professor at Utah Valley University (when it was Utah Valley State College), teaching computerized legal research. She graduated from Utah Valley University with a bachelor's degree in paralegal studies and a minor in psychology. She enjoys reading and spending time with her family.