

## **Congratulations on 75 Years!**

by Kathryn K. Shelton, Chair

Seventy-five years is a remarkable achievement for any one or any thing. My father is approaching this remarkable age and as I watch him age with grace and dignity, I realize that the decisions, experiences, education and choices he made through all of those years, as well as the people he has encountered and touched, truly made him who he is today. My father is a wise man - educated, objective, and benevolent. He is a man of great integrity and character. Not unlike my almost 75 year old father, we note that the now 75 year old Utah State Bar has succeeded because it has been built upon principles of education, objectivity, integrity and character. The Bar is the governing and regulating authority for the attorneys in the State but its intrinsic value rests with its members who hold a wealth of wisdom, experience and integrity and that bring honor to its name and to the profession of law. It will be the Bar's responsibility to continue to ensure the professionalism exhibited by so many members in the past 75 years is continued into the next 75 years.

As my father's life exemplifies, the Utah State Bar will be only as good as the choices and character of the people that comprise its membership. As the Bar administers to and governs its members it continues to ensure the community is provided with excellent legal services.

I have been privileged to know many lawyers in my 23 years working in the legal field. It has been my privilege to work with and support some of the best attorneys in the profession - Brent Stevenson, Rob Lence, Paul Durham and others. Every one of these attorneys has exhibited the highest ideals of the legal profession. These attorneys have taught me that the delivery of quality legal services consists not only of providing the highest service to your clients, but of personally maintaining the highest standards of integrity and ethics as you provide the service. I am grateful for their tutoring and mentoring and am pleased to have known them and so many others who are an asset to the legal profession during my career. Professionals like these will ensure the continuing success of the Bar and these people are truly lighthouses for the legal profession.

The Paralegal Division is proud to join with attorneys, community and civic leaders, and the public at large in celebrating and congratulating the Utah State Bar on their 75th anniversary. The continuing success of the Utah State Bar and the continuing excellence of its leadership in this state and of the attorneys it represents are necessary

for each citizen of this state. Certainly, as paralegals we are keenly aware of the value of providing clients with excellent legal services and we support the Utah State Bar's efforts in ensuring quality of legal services and true justice for all. It is a pleasure to support the Utah State Bar and the attorneys in their profession. Congratulations!

#### Paralegal Division's Role in the History of the Utah State Bar

The Paralegal Division is pleased to participate in the celebration and recognition of the Utah State Bar's 75th Anniversary. While paralegals are not new to the legal field, the Paralegal Division is a relatively new addition to the Bar, having just celebrated its ten year anniversary earlier this year. The Division is a wonderful example of the Mission and Vision of the Bar and commitment of Bar leadership to serving attorneys and our community.

In July of 1994 a proposal was made to the Bar Commission for creation of a Legal Assistant Division. A petition for the creation of the Division was approved by the Bar in October of 1994. Finally, in March of 1996, the Supreme Court of Utah signed an order creating a legal assistant/paralegal division of the Bar, now known as the Paralegal Division, effective April of 1996. The Division held their first annual meeting in the summer of 1996 at which time the first Chair was elected. Work began to form an Executive Committee and leadership. The wheels were set in motion in 1996 and the Division has been going full throttle ever since?

The Division was created, in part, to assist with the need for access to affordable and low cost quality legal services and to work toward the protection of the public from unqualified persons who provide assistance in law-related situations. Members of the Paralegal Division have met membership requirements that demonstrate training and experience. In today's legal field, there is scarcely a law office or legal department that operates without a paralegal. Paralegals are an integral part of any legal team and when used effectively and properly, can assist attorneys in meeting the legal needs of our community.

Many things have changed within the Division over the last ten years, but the original intent and dedication endure. Leadership of the Division works constantly to promote membership; set a standard of professionalism, ethics, and competence for paralegals; and to educate members of the legal field as to the importance of paralegal services both to an employer and to the public.

The Paralegal Division is proud to be part of the Utah State Bar and looks forward to celebrating this milestone. The Bar continually grows and improves, as evidenced by the creation of this division, and the Paralegal Division leadership plans to follow that example as it works to remain a productive, involved, and effective Division of the Bar. There have been many accomplishments within the Paralegal Division over the

last decade. Following is a sampling of the progress, work and involvement of the Division which serves as evidence of the role the Division in fulfilling the Bar's Mission and Vision:

1996-1997

- \* Membership Committee formed to study and draft membership requirements
- \* Bylaw committee formed to draft bylaws

1997-1998

- \* Formed group to study licensing issue at Bar's request and submit report on licensing
- \* Long Range Plan committee formed to study future of LAD and draft report
- \* Second Annual Meeting of Members: Approved first bylaws

1998-1999

- \* First Membership Cards Issued
- \* Third Annual Meeting of Members:
  - First Directors-At-Large elected
  - Long Range Plan approved

1999-2000

- \* Membership requirements revised
- \* Fourth Annual Meeting of Members approve new leadership of four Regional Directors

2000-2001

- \* Study of utilization guidelines
- \* First Membership Directory published
- \* Fifth Annual Meeting of Members:
  - Additional Structural changes and regional directors elected

2001-2002

- \* Utilization guidelines published
- \* Sixth Annual Meeting of Members: Approve revised Bylaws

2002-2003

- \* Seventh Annual Meeting of Members: Standing Rules approved
- \* Bar Section affiliation committee initiated

2003-2004

- \* Salary Survey Project initiated
- \* Liaison Member of the LAAU added to Board of Directors

- \* Eighth Annual Meeting of Members:
- Name changed to the 'Paralegal Division' of the Utah State Bar

#### 2004-2005

- \* Professional Standards implemented
- \* Membership requirements revised to include part-time and non-traditional population of paralegals
- \* Ninth Annual Meeting of Members
- \* Utah's first online salary survey for paralegals
- \* Established monthly Brown Bag Seminars hosted by Jones Waldo in Salt Lake

#### 2005-2006

- \* Division Brochure Created and Published
- \* Web Site Improvements
- \* Ten Year Anniversary
- \* Paralegal of the Year Award implemented
- \* Established team for Law Day 5K
- \* Tenth Annual Meeting of Members
- Bylaw Amendment to appoint Chair-Elect as member of the Governmental Relations Committee
- \* Developed monthly Brown Bag CLE seminars hosted by Smith Knowles and VanCott Bagley in Ogden
- \* Paralegal Division included in LAP benefits offered to Bar members

#### 2006-

- \* Community Service Committee established

#### Paralegal Division Participation in Utah State Bar Events:

- \* Ex-officio member to the Board of Bar Commissioners
- \* Member of the Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee
- \* Member of the Governmental Relations Committee
- \* Member of the Utah Bar Journal Committee
- \* Member of the Bar Convention Committees
- \* Member of the Utah Professionalism Liaison Committee
- \* Member of the Racial and Ethnic Fairness Committee
- \* Liaison member to the Utah Minority Bar Association
- \* Liaison member to the Young Lawyers Division
- \* Affiliate members of various sections and divisions
- \* Distinguished Section of the Year in 1998 and in 2001

#### Community and Other Involvement:

- \* Volunteer projects with the Assistance League of Utah

- \* Blood Drive with the Red Cross
- \* Volunteers participate with the Utah Law Related Education Project Mock Trials
- \* Donations to And Justice for All
- \* Supporter of the Estrin Legal Paralegal SuperConference
- \* Attendees at UMBA's First Fifty Celebration
- \* Attendees at UMBA's Annual Dinner
- \* Co-sponsors with LAAU of monthly Brown Bag CLE
- \* Clothing and Food drives