



COFFEE BREAK

Wyoming Trial Lawyers Association's
E-Newsletter

August 27, 2019

WTLA Elects New Officers and Board for the Coming Year



WTLA officers and board members were elected during the annual membership meeting held during the 2019 Jackson convention. New Officers include President, Elizabeth (Beth) Lance of Cheyenne, President Elect, Phil Nicholas, Laramie and Dona Playton from Laramie as Secretary/Treasurer. Beth took the reins from immediate past president, Colin Simpson of Cody and will lead the association in 2019 - 2020.

"I am humbled and honored to have been selected by my colleagues for this position. WTLA has a diverse membership which we continue to work to expand. The Association remains committed to working on behalf of all Wyoming citizens to ensure the constitutional right to a trial by jury. I look forward to guiding WTLA through its 50th year and see it thrive over the next 50 years."

Beth Lance is the founding partner of Lance & Hall. Prior to opening her own practice she worked in both the private and public sectors including the Public Defender's and Attorney General's offices. She also gained administrative law experience by representing several state agencies and boards, including the Department of Family Services.



[MEET YOUR 2019-2020 BOARD MEMBERS HERE](#)

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Joint Judiciary Committee Interim Update

WTLA follows a number of legislative committees during the interim, monitoring their work and draft legislation being considered. Here is an update on the Joint Judiciary Committee's interim work to date.

The Joint Judiciary Committee has met twice since the legislative session ended in early March to study the eight priorities assigned

Lifetime Achievement & Rising Star Award Winners

Richard Wolf of Cheyenne received WTLA's prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award during the 50th Anniversary Gala held in Jackson June 21, 2019. The Lifetime Achievement Award is given to a trial lawyer who over the course of their career, best exemplifies the highest skills and ethical principles of a trial lawyer. These principles include honesty, integrity, and adherence to the rule of law, the Constitution and promotion of the right to trial by jury.



Noah Drew of Jackson was the very first recipient of the Rising Star Award. To be eligible, the recipient must be a WTLA member



who has practiced law for ten or fewer years and has demonstrated the skills, ethics and dedication embodied in the WTLA mission. The recipient is selected by the WTLA Awards Committee and approved by a majority vote of WTLA's Board of Directors.

WTLA Celebrates 50 Years

On June 21, 2019 WTLA Celebrated 50 Years! The gala and celebration took place at the Snow King Resort in Jackson and could not have been better! After dinner and drinks members heard from past board presidents and learned about the



by the Management Council. The eight include:

1. Review of Recent Wyoming Supreme Court Opinions
2. Public Meetings and Public Records – two-year study of the statutes to modernize in light of changes to the law, technology and to promote realistic transparency
3. Supreme Court Updates (including the Family First Prevention Services Act and Guardian Ad Litem (GAL) and Parents' Counsel Programs)
4. Conservator and Guardianship statutes
5. Justice Reinvestment Updates
6. Review of the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS)
7. Trespass
8. Sexual Abuse of Minors and Human Trafficking

Trespass - In response to requests from the Ag Industry, legislation was drafted to amend trespass elements and penalties for criminal trespass along with providing defenses. The legislation deleted "knowing" from the trespass statute and amended the statute to read, "A person is guilty of criminal trespass if he enters the land or premises of another person when he is not authorized to do so. The draft was titled [Criminal trespass amendments](#).

An increased fine of \$1,000 was included in the legislation along with seven affirmative defenses. The committee discussed the legislation during their June and August meetings. During the August meeting the committee voted not to sponsor the legislation as a committee bill. Likely individual legislators



history of an organization whose existence has bettered not only attorneys in Wyoming but citizens as well. Attendees then danced the night away to the Big Wow Band. WTLA would like to thank the many individuals and firms who helped sponsor the Gala with their donations! The success of the event was firmly in your generous hands, thank you.

New Member Feature



Justin Tynsky joined WTLA in May. He has been licensed since 2012 and devotes 50% of his practice to contract and business law and the other 50% to PI, family law and property law. Justin acts as general counsel for many of the businesses he works with. He has a deep-rooted investment in his community and Wyoming. "Not only did I attend elementary, middle and high school in Wyoming, I also have three young daughters who were born and are being raised in Wyoming. Although I had opportunities to advance my career in other locations throughout the country, I chose to return to Sweetwater County to provide my services and give back to the community where I was born and grew up."

New Board Member Highlight

Eight new members of the WTLA Board were elected June 21st during the annual membership meeting held in conjunction with the convention and Anniversary Gala in Jackson. Meet Ben Rose, a new member of the Board. Ben is a Cheyenne, Wyoming native and is an associate with Lance & Hall, LLP.



Ben attended the University of Wyoming for his undergraduate studies and ultimately for law school, graduating in May, 2018. During law school, Ben was tirelessly seeking opportunities to engage with classmates outside of the classroom. He was President of the WTLA Student Chapter, and also managed, along with several other enterprising students, to breathe new life into a foundering law fraternity. After law school, Ben's natural inclination for engaging with his fellow students translated directly to his work as a family and criminal attorney in Cheyenne. Ben loves counseling his clients ensnared

will sponsor the bill to allow consideration during the 2020 session.

The committee also considered draft legislation regarding the office of guardian ad litem. [Office of the guardian ad litem](#) creates the office of the guardian ad litem, changes the administration of the program and repeals provisions relating to the public defender's office overseeing the program. The committee voted to move the bill forward.

Upcoming WTLA Events

- Sept.
12

[CLE, Cocktails & Conversation](#) - Laramie, WY
- Sept.
14

Voir Dire Workshop
- Sept.
20

[Drugged Driving](#) - 7 Hr. CLE in Laramie or Via Live Streaming
- Sept.
21

[Voir Dire Competition](#) - Sign up to be a volunteer juror or judge!
- June
17-19

SAVE THE DATE: WTLA's 2020 Annual Convention June 17-19, 2020, Lander, WY - [Room Blocks Now Open!](#)

in the notorious and emotionally fraught family law arena and has made it his mission to dismantle and re-structure the way attorneys interact with one another while embattled in difficult domestic matters. Ben also enjoys the fast-paced and dynamic aspects of keeping clients out of the clutches of our over-zealous justice system. As a new WTLA board member, Ben seeks to ensure that young law students strive to become successful, fearless courtroom attorneys in their local communities, and views WTLA as an indispensable element in their legal careers.

"The future of our profession depends on the students we mentor today. We can and should do better."

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