

President's Message



Thank you to Jenny Krueger and Chris Schmidt for being our speakers in January! The discussion regarding *Clark v. Rameker* just goes to show how one case can affect so many other aspects within the legal world.

Also, congratulations to the newly elected 2015-16 Board! Thank you to everyone who stepped up to take on a new challenge or role, and I know it will be a great year under President Carol.

Plans are also (slowly) underway for the 2016 WALP Annual Meeting & Educational Conference that we are hosting. I will be looking to all our members for ideas and assistance. Let's make this the best one yet!

I look forward to seeing all our members and guests at our February 11 meeting! By then we will know what Jimmy the Groundhog had to say!

Karen Dempski, PLS
LPSCW President, 2014-2015

Legal Trivia

Q1: What kind of debt is it when the debtor pledges something of value to guarantee repayment?

Q2: What is the government's right and power to take private land for public use by paying for it?



See [Answers](#) on Page 4



**Submission Deadline for the next issue of
Mandatum is:**

February 23, 2015

Meeting Notice for February 11, 2015

- Topic: *Cyber Security*
- Speaker: Jennifer Frank, US District Court Clerk,
Western District of Wisconsin
- Time: 5:30 p.m. Networking
6:00 p.m. Dinner
6:30 p.m. Speaker
- Place: Benvenuto's – Wine Cellar (Downstairs)
2949 Triverton Pike Drive
Fitchburg, WI 53711
- Menu: 10" Margherita pizza with mozzarella,
basil, tomatoes and roasted garlic. / \$16

½ Pound Angus steak cheeseburger with
fries. / \$12

Southwest chicken salad with chipotle
ranch dressing. / \$16

*Price includes tax and gratuity, beverage not included.

RSVP

with your dinner order by 12pm
on Monday, February 9 to Anna
Canty at: akcanty@gmail.com.

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Attachments: Membership Application, Member of the Year Nomination Form, Invite to CLE Sessions, LPSCW Official Logos

2014 – 2015 LPSCW Directory

Officers

President	Karen Dempksi, PLS (608) 347-8059 (cell) kedempski@perkinscoie.com
President-Elect	Carol Mays, PLS (608) 835-8487 cmays@kerkmandunn.com
Secretary	Jennifer Frank (608) 261-5729 Jen.frank30@gmail.com
Treasurer	Michelle Tyms, PLS (608) 842-0718 chelle291@aol.com
Marketing Director	Deborah Dawson (608) 283-6701 (work) ddawson@axley.com
Education Director	Brenda Johll, PP, PLS (608) 334-9068 brendajohllpppls@gmail.com
Membership Director	Hilary Williams (608) 258-4335 (work) hwilliams@foley.com

Committees

Bulletin/Mandatum	Anna Canty
Certification	Carol Mays, PLS
Employment	Cindy Frank, PLS
Fundraising	Deborah Dawson
Legal Education	Brenda Johll, PP, PLS
Member Services	Hilary Williams
Member of the Year	Jennifer Frank
Nominations/Elections	Sonja Umberger
Program	Brenda Johll, PP, PLS
Publicity	Deborah Dawson
Reservations	Anna Canty
Scholarship	Karen Pederson
Standing Rules/Bylaws	Anna Canty Jennifer Frank Sonja Umberger
Technology	Jennifer Frank



2014 – 2015 LPSCW Meeting Dates

Feb. 11	<i>Cyber Security / Jennifer Frank</i>
March 11	<i>Topic TBA/ Peter Oppeneer</i>
April 8	<i>Annual Business Meeting & Roundtable</i>
May 13	<i>Officer Installation and Awards Evening</i>

No meetings in June, July, or August 2015

Other Dates to Remember

2015	
May15-16	WALP 48th Annual Meeting and Education Conference Holiday Inn Riverwalk, Neenah, WI
May 30	Komen Race for the Cure Alliant Energy Center

Congratulations!

Incoming officers for 2015-2016

President: Carol Mays, PLS
President-elect: Hilary Williams
Education Director: Deborah Dawson
Marketing Director: Anna Canty
Membership Director: Jennifer Frank
Secretary: Karen R. Dempski, PLS
Treasurer: Michelle Tyms, PLS

2014 – 2015 Member of the Year Nomination

All Members of LPSCW:

It's time to start thinking about who you would like to nominate for the LPSCW Member of the Year Award.

In order to be eligible for nomination, a member must be in good standing with LPSCW and presently employed in the legal field with at least three (3) years of legal experience. Recipients of this special honor from the last three (3) years are not eligible for nomination and include:

Jennifer Frank – 2014
Hilary Williams – 2013
Kim Starr – 2012

Please think about potential nominees and complete the attached nomination form. If you are not certain whether your nominee meets the requirements, submit your form and I will take care of verifying that person's qualifications. Nominations must be submitted to me no later than Friday, February 6, 2015.

Nominations may be emailed to jen.frank30@gmail.com or mailed/faxed to, Jennifer Frank, U.S. District Court, Western District of Wisconsin, 120 N. Henry St. Room 320, Madison, WI 53703, 608-264-5925 (fax).

Jennifer Frank
LPSCW Secretary

Legal Personnel of South Central Wisconsin, P.O. Box 2446, Madison, Wisconsin, 53701

Member Spotlight:

Pamela Pahmeier, Legal Secretary
Balisle & Roberson, S.C.
Madison, WI

Mandatum: Tell us about your journey in the legal profession.

Pamela Pahmeier: For many years I worked at a large business in the Madison area. Then there came a change in my personal life, and I felt the need to change gears. I found I was interested in the legal field and so I earned my paralegal certificate through MATC (n/k/a Madison College). It was a two-year program that took me three years to complete as I was taking classes at night and working full time during the day. The first legal industry job I landed was at Balisle & Roberson, S.C., where I have been for the past 15 years. I support attorneys specializing in family law/adoption, as well as estate planning on occasion.

M: How did you get involved with LPSCW?

PP: I wanted to be a part of a professional organization with legal support staff. One day at work I came across an office assistant bulletin that



Left: Pamela Pahmeier, right: Sonja Umberger

suggested various legal associations and I reviewed the suggestions made. I chose to become a member of NALS and I am glad that I joined as I have made many great friends and have established networks across various legal fields.

M: What is the first thing you notice about people?

PP: When I meet someone face-to-face, I generally notice if they smile and how they carry themselves—i.e. do they extend common courtesies.

M: What books are you reading?

PP: I just finished reading *The Shack* by William P. Young and *Novels and Stories* by Shirley Jackson. I am usually read one or two books at the same time.

See **Pam** on Page 4

www.lpscw.org

Pam continued from Page 3

M: What is the next movie you would like to see?

PP: American Sniper.

M: What advice would you give to someone new to the legal profession?

PP: Learn as much as you can and have a positive and open attitude. Get involved. You don't know what opportunities are available until you get involved.

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Find our page on Facebook under
Legal Personnel of
South Central Wisconsin
and share with us!

Legal Trivia Answers

Answers continued from Page 1

Q1: What kind of debt is it when the debtor pledges something of value to guarantee repayment?



A1: Secured debt

Q2: What is the government's right and power to take private land for public use by paying for it?

A2: Eminent Domain

Legal Personnel of South Central Wisconsin

Minutes – January 14, 2015 Benvenuto's, Fitchburg, WI

The business meeting was called to order by President Karen Dempski, PLS at 7:56 p.m. Roll call was taken. Eleven members were present.

Officer Reports

Secretary, Jennifer Frank: The minutes from the November 12, 2014 meeting were published in the Mandatum. The minutes stand approved as printed.

Treasurer, Michelle Tyms, PLS: A report was submitted subject to financial review. Michelle indicated three adjustments were made to make the report balance, the details of which are on the financial report. Karen reminded the membership it is time to start thinking about the budget for 2016 annual meeting, which we will be hosting.

Marketing, Deborah Dawson: The Legal Association for Women is hosting a fundraising event for DAIS at the Hovde Building on Thursday, February 26, 2015, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., giving us the opportunity to make a contribution or volunteer. Deb will be volunteering on our behalf, and will ask if additional volunteers are needed and, if so, will let the membership know. A motion was made, seconded and carried, to donate a gift basket totaling no more than \$50. Anna Canty and Deb will put together a winter-themed basket with the LPSCW logo and scarves, mugs, hot cocoa, etc.

Membership, Hilary Williams: Membership is currently at 26, with 22 voting members. The directory is up-to-date as of today.

Committee Reports

Mandatum: The deadline for the February edition is January 23, 2015.

Certification: Carol Mays, PLS let everyone know that Pam Pahmeier is registered to take the exam in September.

Employment: There is a position posting for an opening in bankruptcy court.

Fundraising: Karen indicated that the nut sale raised \$240.

Legal Education: Deb is still working on communicating with Judge Lanford. Carlo Esqueda will be asked to speak next year after the county's e-filing system has been up and running for a time. Jennifer Frank will speak in February concerning cyber security and Peter Oppeneer, Clerk/Part-Time Magistrate, Western District of Wisconsin will speak at the March meeting.

Installation: Benvenuto's Wine Cellar room has been reserved. Hilary will contact speakers for the evening.

Member Services: Hilary sent Norma an updated membership directory.

See **Minutes** on Page 5

Minutes continued from Page 4

Nominations/Elections: Sonja Umberger asked for officer nominations from the members. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the following slate of 2015-2016 officers: President: Carol Mays, PLS; President-Elect: Hilary Williams; Secretary: Karen Dempski, PLS; Treasurer: Michelle Tyms, PLS; Education Director: Deborah Dawson; Marketing Director: Anna Canty; and Membership Director: Jennifer Frank.

Reservations: Anna confirmed the reservations have been going well. The Wine Cellar room has been booked for the remainder of the year.

Standing Rules/Bylaws: Sonja confirmed the group is through the Bylaws and is now on to the Standing Rules. The Committee will meet again on January 19, 2015.

New Business

LPSCW Gmail account – Hilary continues to look into this option.

WALP 2015 Annual Meeting – The ad registration, door prize, and money are due on January 31, 2015. Discussions regarding the door prize were tabled until next month's meeting. Hilary will send in a check, and a request for an extension of submission of the door prize, by the end of the month. Anna will create a half-page ad for submission.

Website Renewal – Jennifer informed everyone that there are some questions regarding website renewal. She will continue to work on this and update everyone as she learns more.

Old Business

2016 WALP Annual Meeting: Looking for ideas about where in downtown Madison to host.

Jane Doe registration for NALS Tulsa: By next month we will know who will want to attend.

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Frank
LPSCW Secretary

Free CLE From Madison College

Attached is an invite to four free CLE sessions offered this spring semester by the Madison College Paralegal Program. We encourage you to take advantage of these educational opportunities!

The graphic features the NALS logo at the bottom, which includes the text 'www.nals.org' and 'The association for legal professionals'. Above the logo is a blue box with the text 'en-hance | en'hans |' and a definition: 'to trans- | intensify, increase, or further improve the quality, value, or extent of; to improve and strengthen with evidence; to sustain; to sustain by production; to promote the value of an endeavor.' To the right of the logo is a list of benefits: 'Enhance your career with education and certifications that fit your needs.' followed by bullet points: '• Online CLE focused on practice areas.', '• Three certifications to advance your career.', '• Website access to a library of articles and resources.', '• Conference schedules built around your specialties.', '• Online communities of experienced legal professionals.', and '• Career Center linked to other legal associations.'

NALS Mission

NALS is dedicated to enhancing the competencies and contributions of members in the legal services profession. It accomplishes its mission and supports the public interest through:

- Continuing legal education and resource materials;
- Networking opportunities at the local, state, regional and national levels;
- Commitment to a Code of Ethics and professional standards;
- Professional certification programs and designations.

NALS Code of Ethics

Members of NALS are bound by the objectives of this association and the standards of conduct required of the legal profession.

Every member shall:

- Encourage respect for the law and the administration of justice;
- Observe rules governing privileged communications and confidential information;
- Promote and exemplify high standards of loyalty, cooperation, and courtesy;
- Perform all duties of the profession with integrity and competence; and
- Pursue a high order of professional attainment.

See **Ethics** on Page 6

Ethics continued from Page 5

Integrity and high standards of conduct are fundamental to the success of our professional association. This Code is promulgated by the NALS and accepted by its members to accomplish these ends.

- Canon 1.** Members of this association shall maintain a high degree of competency and integrity through continuing education to better assist the legal profession in fulfilling its duty to provide quality legal services to the public.
- Canon 2.** Members of this association shall maintain a high standard of ethical conduct and shall contribute to the integrity of the association and the legal profession
- Canon 3.** Members of this association shall avoid a conflict of interest pertaining to a client matter.
- Canon 4.** Members of this association shall preserve and protect the confidences and privileged communications of a client.
- Canon 5.** Members of this association shall exercise care in using independent professional judgment and in determining the extent to which a client may be assisted without the presence of a lawyer and shall not act in matters involving professional legal judgment.
- Canon 6.** Members of this association shall not solicit legal business on behalf of a lawyer.
- Canon 7.** Members of this association, unless permitted by law, shall not perform paralegal functions except under the direct supervision of a lawyer and shall not advertise or contract with members of the general public for the performance of paralegal functions.

- Canon 8.** Members of this association, unless permitted by law, shall not perform any of the duties restricted to lawyers or do things which lawyers themselves may not do and shall assist in preventing the unauthorized practice of law.
- Canon 9.** Members of this association not licensed to practice law shall not engage in the practice of law as defined by statutes or court decisions.
- Canon 10.** Members of this association shall do all other things incidental, necessary, or expedient to enhance professional responsibility and participation in the administration of justice and public service in cooperation with the legal profession.

MANDATUM

Editor: Theresa M. Doty
Content, Layout & Design: Anna Canty
Contributing writers: Karen Dempski, PLS, Hilary Williams, Sonja Umberger, Jennifer Frank, and Norma Kropp

Mandatum is a publication of the Legal Personnel of South Central Wisconsin (LPSCW). The purpose of this publication is to provide legal education, reports of officers and committee chairs, registration information for national, state and local chapter meetings and other news of LPSCW which will benefit legal services industry employees.

If you have any questions or comments regarding *Mandatum*, or would like to submit an idea or article for future editions, please contact Anna Canty at akcanty@gmail.com.

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