



Western
Association of
Legal
Assistants

The L.A. Times

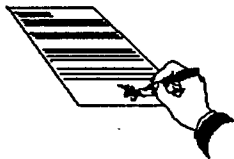
June 1993 Edition

P.O. BOX 4127, MAIN POST OFFICE, VANCOUVER B.C. V6B 3Z6

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

(Jerena Laursen)

Off the top, I would like to say a very special "thank you" to



Pattee Clark for filling the last vacancy on the Board of Directors of the Association and for agreeing to be a person of the Newsletter. I would also like to congratulate Pattee for successfully orchestrating her first newsletter!

The next newsletter will be published merely weeks before the Annual General Meeting on September 30, 1993. With that thought in mind, I would like you to take a moment of the time you might spend basking in the sun and ask yourself how you might actively participate in your Association during the 1993-94 term. In three short months, we are all to meet again to select an entirely new slate of directors. Our mandate requires resignation of all directors on an annual basis. Some of the current directors may stand for re-election; however, some may not. Do you have the time and enthusiasm needed to meet the excitement of next year? If you do, please call me to

discuss the opportunities that await your participation!

Have a great summer! I sincerely look forward to your attendance at the Annual General Meeting in the Fall.



VOLUNTEERS

(Pattee Clark)

As Jerena indicated election time is soon approaching. As always we are looking for volunteers. Being a director is a challenge and a rewarding experience. It is being part of a team working together to obtain a common goal - the promotion of Legal Assistants: how better to keep in tune with the times and learn what is going on in the Legal Assistant community? As John F. Kennedy once said "Change is the law of life. Those who look only to the past or the present are certain to miss the future."



I think a big round of applause should go to all of our directors and those who assisted on various committees for the free time and effort they have expended on our behalf.

It seems the same people always volunteer for everything and the others have the attitude "let someone else do it." Not too long ago I was the editor of newsletter for another society. A director of that society gave me this little verse regarding volunteers:

"Many will be shocked to find
When the day of Judgment nears
That there's a special place in heaven
Set aside for volunteers.

Furnished with soft recliners
Satin couches and foot stools,
Where there's no committee chairmen,
No group leaders or car pools;

No eager team that needs a coach
No bazaar and no bake sale;
Not a single thing to staple;
Not one thing to fold or mail.

Phoning lists will be outlawed,
but a finger snap will bring
Cool drinks and gourmet dinners,
Rare treats fit for a king.

You ask, "Who will serve these privileged few,
And work for all they're worth?"
Why, all those who reaped the benefits
And not once volunteered on earth!

Anonymous

Which one will you be???



**PANEL DISCUSSION -
Certification of Legal Assistants
(June 23, 1993)**
(Jasbir S. Bains)

The Association is hosting the panel discussion to enable legal assistants to become more aware of what is being proposed for their "profession" and how certification might affect them.

The panel discussion should be very informative and will probably be one of the last opportunities for legal assistants to express their concerns to a Bencher of the Law Society of British Columbia. Thus, the directors encourage all members to attend and ask lots of questions.

The response for tickets has been overwhelming. Ticket requests were sold out in one week. Patricia Hunt was able to orchestrate a larger ballroom and we were able to sell another fifty tickets. These additional tickets are also sold.

The directors would like to thank:

Fraser Rudelier Title Search Ltd.,
West Coast Title Search Ltd. and
Arlyn Personnel Agencies Ltd.

for their assistance in distributing the
Panel Discussion Notices.



**STUDENT REPRESENTATION
TO THE BOARD**

(Jerena Laursen)

We apologize for the confusion to both Capilano College and Douglas College. In our excitement of welcoming student representatives to the Board meetings via our March newsletter, we inaccurately acknowledged representation by Monica Burg. While Monica represents the evening class students attending at Douglas College, the class is actually a satellite Capilano College class held on the Douglas College Campus. The proper designations of the representatives are:

Janice Verrault - First Year Class

Debbie Jamison - Second Year Class

Monica Burg - Evening Class
Douglas College Campus

Maria Palmiere - Evening Class
Capilano College Campus



**CAPILANO COLLEGE
FOUNDATION**

(Jerena Laursen)

Lucy Komori, Manager, Fund Raising and Alumni Relations, Capilano College Foundation, has informed us that the College plans to officially open the new Library this Fall. She reports that the new building is a dramatic improvement over the cramped quarters of the old library.

To fill the shelves of the Library, the College is appealing to the community for support to help build the Library collections. In particular, we have been asked to appeal to our membership to support the Library campaign, specifically with regard to the library resources for the Legal Assistants programs at the College.

The College is asking that you consider a \$50 donation to buy a book for the Legal Assistants programs. With your support, they can greatly enhance the collections for use by students and faculty in those programs. Your \$50 donation will place your name on a book plate which will go into the inside cover of a new book purchased with your support.

If you would like to lend your support to this project, please call Lucy directly at 984-2983 for more information.



WANTED - CONVEYANCER

(Sandra Cameron Spiller)

Cameron & Co. requires experienced conveyancer on a part-time basis, immediately.

Contact Brenda Cameron at 737-0977.



**1993-94 MEMBERSHIP FEES
ARE NOW DUE!!!**

(Laura MacLean)



Yes, another year has passed and your 1993/94 annual fees are now due. Please fill

out the attached membership form and return it along with your cheque payable to Western Association of Legal Assistants. Please ensure that you state your full address including postal code. This makes it much easier when we amend our membership and mailing list!!

We also ask that you fill out the questionnaire on the back of the membership form. We appreciate your comments and/or suggestions about what the Association can do for you (in addition to the social events and educational seminars that we organize).



**CONGRATULATIONS TO
RECENT GRADUATES**

(Patricia Hunt)



On behalf of the Directors and Members of our Association, I would

extend our congratulations to this year's graduates of the Capilano Legal

Assistant Programs. We wish them all the best in their new endeavours. We also encourage them to get involved in our Association, their participation would be greatly appreciated.

Once again, GOOD LUCK to all of you!



**WELCOME TO NEW
MEMBERS**

(Laura MacLean)

WELCOME!!!!!! Since the last newsletter, the Association has acquired 12 new members. We take this opportunity to introduce our new members who have joined the Association since our March 1993 newsletter:

Monika M. Burg
David E. W. Bush
Margaret Chan
Michelle Clark
Ida J. Hefferman
Debbie Jamison
Sandra R. Townsend
Connie Lew
Anne Moxon
Rhonda Trowers
Maria G. Palmieri
Lee Ann Windell



**NOTICE TO DIRECTORS AND
STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES**

(Jerena Laursen)

Please note that the June 24th and July 28th Directors Meetings have been cancelled. A "combined" meeting has been set for July 8th instead (same time, same place).



**WEST COAST TITLE
SEARCH LTD.**

(by Leona Pinsky)

LAND TITLE UPDATE:

The Altos 2 project at the Land Title Branch is well under way. Malcolm McAvity, Director of Land Titles, described Altos 2 as "a re-engineering of the Land Title administrative and business processes and the design and installation of new technologies to support them"

There are four phases to the project.

Phase 1 was from April 1992 to October 1992. It consisted of a preliminary analysis of the existing infrastructure and implementation of strategies for developing and implementing the new integrated operating systems.

Phase 2 was scheduled to run from May 1992 to July 1993. This phase is

to complete the detailed design and implementation of the image processing subsystem. It will replace microfilm. Imaging subsystem will make it possible to request copies of documents via BC Online. Copies of documents will print in one of three locations: dedicated agents' printers, land title staff printers, or via fax to your office.

This phase was originally scheduled to have all Land Title Offices running by July 1993. The implementation has been delayed indefinitely.

In addition to directing copies to one of three locations, it will be possible to have one of three service levels:

Same day service provides a copy of the document within three hours.

Overnight provides a copy of the document within 24 hours.

Priority provides a copy of the document within 15 minutes. Priority service is not available through BC Online. It is necessary to contact the Registrar or Deputy Registrar or the image processing supervisor at the Land Title Office. These are limited on priority service.

Phase 3 runs from September 1992 to April 1994. It integrates the elements of the Altos 1 system with Altos 2. For example, work flow in the Land Title Offices will be redesigned, optical character recognition (OCR) will be introduced, and all Land Title fees will be payable using BC Online deposit accounts.

Phase 4 beginning in June 1994 will allow for pre-submission and management information for Land Title Branch users. This pre-submission service is in the design stage. An applicant will be able to pre-submit a document to the Land Title Office for full examination prior to tendering it at the cash wicket. The applicant can then reserve a registry date and time. Assuming that the applicant is happy with the draft title received at the time of submission, as well as confirmation that no more charges have been added, registration could automatically be scheduled for a certain date and time. The applicant would signal the "go ahead" to the Land Title Office on the registration date.

Folio management is also scheduled to be introduced in Phase 4. This will allow applicants to track their applications through the registration process. It will also permit law firms to obtain statistics on their registration defects in order to better manage their internal quality control. The Land Title Branch is also predicting a guaranteed 24 hour turn-around between application and actual registration.

The possibility of ten new application centres is also being discussed. These have not been approved and may or may not proceed.



NETWORK NEWS

(Arlene Pelrine)

Arlyn Personnel Agencies Ltd.
1160 - 625 Howe Street
Vancouver, B.C.
V6C 2T6

Phone: (604) 681-4432

We have experienced an exciting six months here at Arlyn; we have seen a significant increase in employment in law firms generally and specifically in the commercial, finance and securities areas. We have filled legal assistant positions in banking, securities and corporate records.

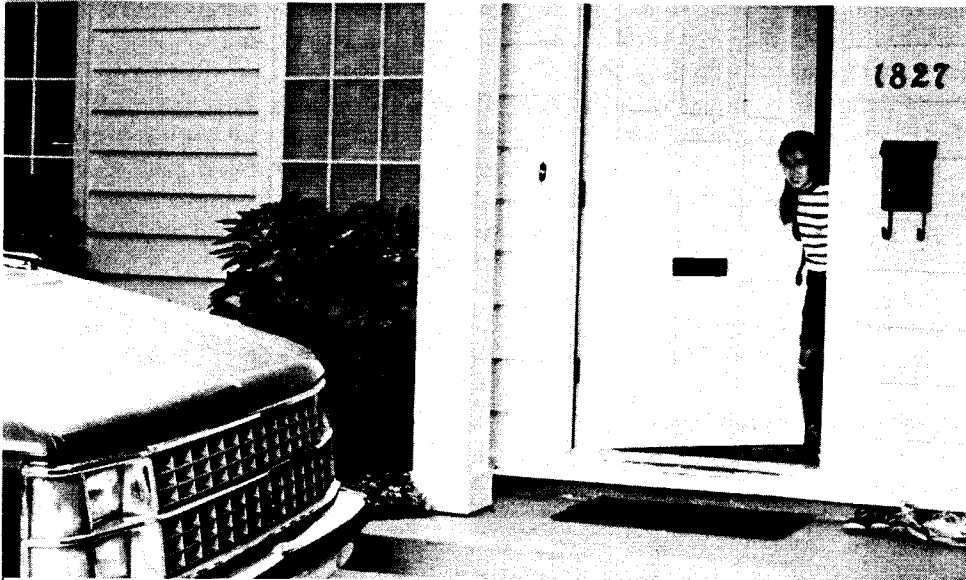
Recently our clients have sought to fill legal assistant positions in areas of:

- * banking
- * corporate records
- * securities
- * litigation:
 - ICBC
 - Plaintiff Personal Injuries
 - Commercial
 - (large file management)

It might interest Association members to know that the salaries on these positions ranged from \$33,500 to \$45,000 and required no less than 3 years experience at a legal assistant level.

If we can be of assistance to you, please contact me or my partner, Mary McGillis.





My daddy says he's not home.

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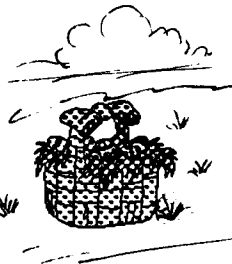
ALOUETTE PROCESS SERVING LTD

Suite 104 - 625 Agnes Street, New Westminster, B.C. V3M 5Y4 Tel: (604) 521-6910

PICNIC

(Sandra Spiller)

John Lawson Park, bottom of 17th, below Marine Drive, in West Vancouver, is a lovely spot for a get together/picnic.



We have tentatively planned this event for Sunday July 25, 1993.

If you are interested in attending contract Sandra Cameron Spiller at 662-5458 or Nancy Vianello at 983-3338 to indicate your interest.

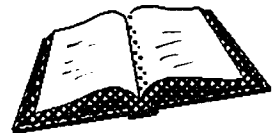
If the response is favourable we will advise you of further particulars, in flyer form, in the next couple of weeks.



LEGAL TALES

(Sarah Hanna)

It seems crazy that many of us who work in law offices all day would want to go



home to spend what little leisure time we have reading tales set in the same law office or court room environment - and yet, it seems that this is an addiction shared by many members of law firms.

With summer and vacation time rolling around here are some suggestions for legal tales with which you might while away a

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few lazy summer afternoons. Not all of these are new publications - some in fact may be easier to find on the shelves of the local used book store.

William J. Coughlin has written three novels:

- "The Twelve Apostles"
- "Her Father's Daughter" &
- "Her Honor"

All of these are good stories - my favourite is "The Twelve Apostles" whose title refers to the limited number of partners of a very prestigious fictitious New York law firm. The two central characters are junior partners who are hopeful of filling the next vacancy among the twelve senior partners. This novel follows their work in both the areas of corporate law and litigation.

All three of these novels have been out for a while and are probably easier to find at the used book store.

William Bernhardt's publications are more recent:

- "Primary Justice" and
- "Blind Justice"

and are worth mentioning because they are the only legal tales I have ever read which feature a legal assistant as a major character. She is not exactly a role model for the profession but the author has captured certain aspects of her role in the law firm in a fairly accurate, realistic and humorous manner.

In "Primary Justice", the lead character is a new lawyer whose first clients end up dead approximately one hour after meeting with him. His attempt to solve the mystery of their murder, and the problems arising from this, forms the basis of the story. "Blind Justice" follows the story of the

same lawyer and legal assistant who have both been fired from the law firm in which they worked during the first novel. The legal assistant is charged with the murder of a client of her new law firm and the young lawyer is called upon to defend her.

The novels of John Grisham are all worth reading -

- "The Firm"
- "The Pelican Brief"
- "A Time to Kill"

and his most recent publication, just out in hard cover:

- "The Client".

"The Firm" follows the recruitment of a brilliant law school graduate to a prestigious midwest law firm and his discovery of the corruption lurking behind the Firm's respectable facade. Mr. Grisham's portrayal of the law firm (corruption aside) is terrific - there is a particular paragraph where, after a one day closure over Christmas, when absolutely nobody was in the office working, one of the senior partners is portrayed as walking down the hall listening to the sound of hours being billed and money being made. Somehow the economics of the practice of law in a large firm are perfectly captured in that one paragraph.

"The Firm" has been made into a movie soon to be released starring Tom Cruise as the brilliant law student.

Of the first three Grisham novels, "A Time to Kill" is my favourite for the complexity of its plot and for being a good courtroom story where you can't imagine how the hero is going to get the accused acquitted of the murder charges.

No list of legal tales would be complete without mentioning Scott Turow's novels:

- "Presumed Innocent" and
- "The Burden of Proof"

and just out in hardcover:

- "Pleading Guilty"

If you don't feel like reading, "Presumed Innocent" has been made into a mc starring Harrison Ford. "The Burden Proof" was also made into a TV mini-series but that may be harder to find.

For myself, I am planning to curl up in my hammock sometime this summer to read Scott Turow's new novel "Pleading Guilty", as well as John Grisham's "The Client". After that I'll be on the lookout for some new legal tales - if you have some suggestions, please let me know.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS		
DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
June 1/93	1993 MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE - Dues notices are enclosed with this Newsletter - please keep your membership in good standing by forwarding payment promptly.	
June 23/93	PANEL DISCUSSION - Certification of Legal Assistants TICKETS - SOLD OUT!	Vancouver Renaissance Hotel 3rd Floor, 1133 West Hastings, Vancouver, B.C. Starts at 5:30 p.m
July 8/93	BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING (Closed Meeting - Contact Jerena Laursen at 293-6418)	Time: 5:30pm Russell & DuMoulin 1500 - 1075 West Georgia Street Vancouver, B.C.
July 25/93	FAMILY PICNIC - Our First Annual Family Picnic?? If you like this idea, please call Sandra Cameron Spiller at 662-5458 or Nancy Vianello at 983-3338 to voice your thoughts.	Suggested Location: John Lawson Park (bottom of 17th, below Marine Drive & Belvue Ave.) West Vancouver
September 1/93	BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING (Closed Meeting - Contact Jerena Laursen at 293-6418)	Time: 5:30pm Russell & DuMoulin 1500 - 1075 West Georgia Street Vancouver, B.C.
September 10/93	CUT OFF DATE FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES - (Contact Jerena Laursen at 293-6418 for more information)	
September 30/93	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of Western Association of Legal Assistants.	Time: 5:30pm Location: TBA

NOTE: We have included times and dates of Directors' meetings (where available) for your reference. The Directors and committees (Education, Membership, Programming, Public Relations, Newsletter) welcome your input and comments. Should you wish to raise a matter with the Directors at a Board meeting, please contact Jerena Laursen at 293-6418. If you wish to volunteer for any of the committees, contact the committee chairmen: Programs - Sandra Cameron Spiller @ 662-5458; Education - Patricia Hunt @ 661-6291; Membership - Laura MacLean @ 685-4332; Public Relations - Jasbir Bains @ 684-9151; Newsletter - Pattee Clark @ 631-4750.

**WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF LEGAL ASSISTANTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS 1992/93**

OFFICERS:

President	Jerena Laursen	Bus: 293-6418
Vice-President	Sarah Hanna	Res: 924-1329
Secretary	Nancy Vianello	Bus: 687-5700
Treasurer	Jill Matthews	Bus: 631-4894

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Membership	Laura MacLean	Bus: 685-4332
Program	Sandra Cameron Spiller	Bus: 662-5458
Education	Patricia Hunt	Bus: 682-3664
Public Relations	Jasbir Bains	Bus: 684-9151
Newsletter	Pattee Clark	Bus: 631-4750

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EDITORIAL TEAM: Jerena Laursen, Sarah Hanna, Sandra Cameron Spiller, Laura MacLean, Jasbir Bains, Jill Matthews, Patricia Hunt, Pattee Clark

Can your client return to productive employment?

Did your client try their best?

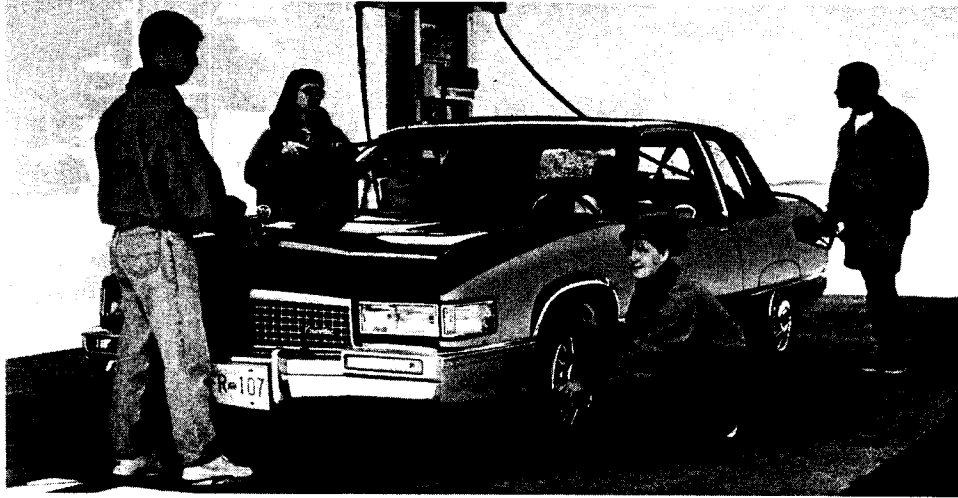
What rehabilitation is appropriate?

What are the occupation alternatives?

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VANCOUVER, B.C. V6B 3Z6

1993-1994 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please complete the following:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: Home

Work

_____ FIRM NAME: _____

postal code _____

PHONE NO: _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP: LEGAL ASSISTANT
(\$50.00) _____

STUDENT
(\$15.00) _____

RECEIPT REQUIRED: YES: _____

NO: _____

PREFERRED MAILING ADD: HOME: _____

WORK: _____

Student membership includes those on their practicum.

Please make cheque payable to Western Association of Legal Assistants in the appropriate amount and return same along with this form.

If you have any questions, please call Laura MacLean at 685-4332.

PLEASE TURN OVER

TO ASSIST US IN MAKING WALA A SUCCESSFUL ASSOCIATION,
WOULD YOU KINDLY TAKE THE TIME TO ANSWER THE
FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

1. Please indicate your preference for topics of future educational seminars by ranking the following i.e. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.

- A. LITIGATION _____
- B. CRIMINAL _____
- C. REAL ESTATE _____
- D. ENVIRONMENTAL _____
- E. CORPORATE _____
- F. FAMILY _____
- G. WILLS & ESTATES _____

2. What following activities interest you the most? Please rank as above.

- A. EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS _____
- B. NEWSLETTER _____
- C. SOCIAL FUNCTIONS _____
- D. OTHER (please specify) _____

3. Are you interested in becoming a director or committee member or do you wish to volunteer any of your spare time to assist in WALA?

4. The Law Society is currently reviewing certification for Legal Assistants. Do you have any comments on certification?

5. What are your expectations of WALA?