

# The Tickler



A Monthly Publication of Douglas-Carson Legal Professionals

February 2024

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I hope everyone is staying warm and dry in this winter weather. We are back to burning wood in our woodburning stove as the power bills are crazy!

February has many holidays and special celebration days. The most popular are Valentine's Day on the 14th and President's Day on the 19th. Abraham Lincoln's birthday is February 12 and George Washington's birthday is February 22. Groundhog Day is February 2. Will he see his shadow?

This year Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday) and Ash Wednesday are in February. February is also Black History Month, National Cancer prevention month, and American Heart Association Month. In 2024 February is a leap year so we get an extra day. What will you do on February 29?

We will continue our discussion of ethical scenarios at our meeting on February 7. Hope to see you there at noon on Zoom!

—Maria Nelson, PLS, DCLP President

## DCLP LIVE!!

### No Reservation Needed

Via ZOOM **Wednesday**  
**February 7, 2024 at 12 p.m.**  
 No charge for guests.  
 Meeting ID: 922 280 3023  
 Passcode: 412889



The next Lunch Bunch meet up will be on Wednesday, February 21 at noon at Mom and Pop's Diner, 224 S. Carson Street in Carson City. If you can get away, please join us! No official business or program... Just an opportunity to socialize and catch up with our members.





## DCLP presents Cognitive Fitness



Excerpted from a National Geographic Article by Rachel Fobar

When people think of word innovators throughout history, male writers likely come to mind. Shakespeare is credited with inventing more than 1,700 words, including “bedroom,” “courtship,” and “swagger.” Charles Dickens is said to have first used the words “butterfingers” and “doormat,” and Dr. Seuss reportedly came up with “nerd.”

But despite contributions from famous writers, historians say another group has an even greater impact on the development of language: teenage girls.

Women lead up to 90 percent of linguistic changes, sociolinguist William Labov observed in the early 2000s. In fact, he wrote, women are often linguistically ahead of men “by a full generation.”

It's often impossible to tell who first used new words. For example, Shakespeare may not have invented all the words he's credited with creating—he likely used language his audience was already familiar with.

Linguists who reviewed 6,000 letters written between about 1410 and 1680 found that for 11 out of 14 observed language changes, women were quicker to adopt the new way of writing. These changes include the eradication of “ye,” the transition from “mine eyes” to “my eyes,” and the switch from words like “hath” and “doth” to “has” and “does.”

Queen Elizabeth I was “one of the most linguistically progressive people” of her day, using “does” instead of “doth” in letters to her brother

Edward, says Terttu Nevalainen, a linguist at the University of Helsinki in Finland and an author of the study.

Even fictional women lead linguistic change, according to a 2005 study by Tagliamonte and a colleague on the use of intensifier words such as “so,” “really,” and “very” in the TV show *Friends*. Though the show had script writers, the actors often embellished their lines and helped construct dialogue. The study found that Rachel, Monica, and Phoebe were more likely to use “really” than Ross, Chandler, and Joey, and twice as likely to use “so,” a more recent language change. “Very,” the oldest word in the study, with origins in the 15th century, was used equally by the male and female characters.

There are a handful of possible reasons why girls lead lexical innovation. According to Gretchen McCulloch, author of *Because Internet: Understanding the New Rules of Language*, women tend to be more socially aware. They have larger social circles and may be exposed to more language diversity, she says. And because women tend to be caregivers, boys usually learn language from their mothers, whereas women and girls learn words from other women.

Even in male-dominated spaces like online gaming communities, women use new terms more frequently than their male counterparts, which is “shocking,” Tagliamonte says. “You would think, in online communities, it wouldn't matter if you were male or female.”

With the rise of social media, language changes are also happening faster than ever. The transition from “ye” to “you” took about 80 years, which was very rapid for the time, Nevalainen says. But today, changes can happen within a year. “We're not writing letters—you're talking to people all the time,” Tagliamonte says. “And you could be talking to people on the other side of the country...Language has its own path, its own system, and it changes whether we like it or not,” she says. “We are all often part of those changes without even knowing it.”

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/culture/article/teenage-girls-innovate-new-language-linguistics>

# Handling Ethical Questions in an Interview

Employers ask ethical dilemma interview questions to assess your integrity and approach to evaluating and solving problems in the workplace. This type of question allows employers to see what your values are as a professional and how those values align with the company or firm.

Typically, employers ask a broad question, such as, “*Can you describe a time when you were faced with an ethical dilemma?*” With this ethical interview question, your answer will be an example of a situation you experienced when you relied on transparency when interacting with others, your core values, empathy and morality to solve an ethical problem in the workplace.

In other instances, ethical dilemma interview questions can consist of specific situational questions that an interviewer asks to get a sense of these qualities in various hypothetical situations. Several types of ethical dilemma interview questions you can prepare for in advance include:

- *What would you do if an employer asked you to misrepresent information?*
- *What would you do if a manager or supervisor asked you to do something against your own ethics?*
- *What would you do if you witnessed a coworker doing something unethical?*

When you prepare for your interview, there are several steps you can take to ensure you have a response ready in the event you encounter moral interview questions:

## Think of an experience and how you handled it

The most effective way to answer ethical interview questions is with specific examples from your past experience. Think of a situation when you found yourself solving a conflict, taking action against an unethical behavior or another situation where you had to rely on your problem-solving and ability to act under pressure.

For instance, maybe you witnessed a coworker stealing or a new supervisor using company equipment for personal gains. You can use examples like these to describe how you approached the situation to help resolve it.

## Relate your actions to the company's values or mission

Describe your experience using examples of your communication skills, critical thinking and decision-making skills. Explain the situation and how you were able to solve the conflict in a morally appropriate manner. This will allow the interviewer to understand how your core values and beliefs motivate you to approach an ethical dilemma.

## Prioritize the company's needs and interests

When you respond with your experience, consider how your actions and the outcome of the situation show how you prioritize the interests of the company. For instance, if you noticed an employee access your past company's client network for personal interests or gains and took action to stop it, describe how you did so while upholding the company's interests.

## Emphasize acting with integrity

No matter the type of situation you experienced and respond with during the interview, clearly emphasize your ability to act with honesty and integrity. Even if your experience required you to take action against wrong-doing or unethical behaviors, be sure to reiterate your values and showcase how you chose to take steps toward a solution proactively and fairly.

## Apply the STAR response technique

Ethical dilemma interview questions are really just situational interview questions that focus on moral actions and integrity in the workplace. Just like situational interview questions, you can answer ethical questions with the STAR response technique:

•**Situation:** Briefly describe the ethical dilemma or situation you experienced.

•**Task:** Explain your role and the roles of everyone involved in the situation.

•**Action or approach:** Give examples of the approaches you took to solve the situation.

•**Result:** Highlight how you applied integrity, your values and other skills to come to a resolution. Connect this to the values of the company.

Source: <https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/interviewing/ethical-interview-questions>

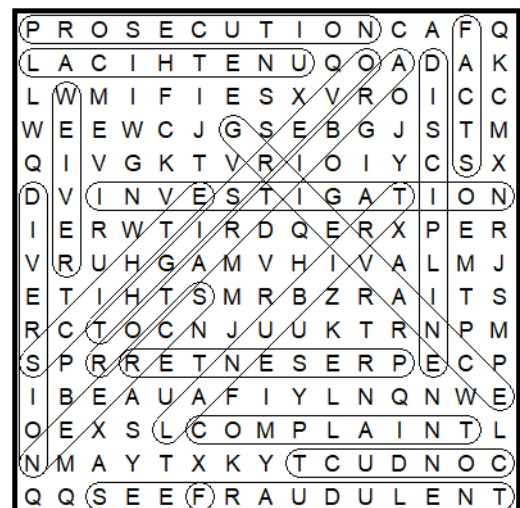
## A Quiz on Bankruptcy

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. abandonment
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. bankruptcy
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. creditor
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. debtor
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. discharge
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. exempt property
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. involuntary bankruptcy
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. liquidation
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. reaffirmation of debt
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. voluntary bankruptcy

- A.** A proceeding under the bankruptcy code through which a debtor voluntarily seeks a discharge of his or her debts.
- B.** The conversion by sale of all of a debtor's nonexempt property in a bankruptcy proceeding.
- C.** The person or entity seeking relief under the bankruptcy code (or sought to be placed in bankruptcy by a creditor).
- D.** All the property of a debtor that is not attachable under the bankruptcy code or state law.
- E.** An agreement between the debtor and creditor for the debtor to continue to pay the creditor for property the debtor wishes to keep.
- F.** The disposal by the trustee of property in which the debtor has no equity.
- G.** The name given to the bankruptcy court's formal extinguishment of a debtor's dischargeable debts.
- H.** A proceeding initiated by creditors requesting the bankruptcy court to place a debtor in liquidation.
- I.** A proceeding under Title 11 of the United States Code under which a legal entity or an individual requests protection under the terms of that law.
- J.** An individual or entity that has a claim against a debtor that arose at the time of or before the order for relief concerning the debtor.

Answers to the Bankruptcy Quiz can be found on page 10.

Answer to January's Ethics Word Search



## Four AI-Powered Tools for Paralegals to Learn Now

### 1. CHATGPT – EMPOWERING LEGAL RESEARCH AND DRAFTING

ChatGPT, powered by OpenAI's advanced language model, is a cutting-edge AI tool that offers tremendous value. This powerful language model can assist in conducting in-depth legal research by quickly sifting through vast amounts of legal information and identifying relevant precedents, statutes, and case law. Its natural language processing capabilities enable paralegals to extract key insights from complex legal texts very efficiently. ChatGPT can also aid in drafting legal documents and contracts. By analyzing the context and intent provided by the paralegal, ChatGPT can generate well-structured and accurate provisions, saving valuable time and effort.

### 2. COCOUNSEL – SIMPLIFYING CASE MANAGEMENT

CoCounsel is an AI-driven case management platform designed to streamline various tasks in the legal setting. This tool can help paralegals organize case files, manage deadlines, track client communication, and automate routine administrative processes. By leveraging CoCounsel, paralegals can focus more on substantive work while leaving the repetitive tasks to AI.

### 3. LEXIS+ AI – ENHANCING LEGAL RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS

Lexis+ AI is an AI-driven research tool that complements traditional legal research platforms. It utilizes machine learning algorithms to offer personalized research insights tailored to the specific needs of the case. Lexis+ AI can highlight relevant information from vast legal databases, making it easier for paralegals to find essential case law, regulations, and legal commentary. Lexis+ AI's analytical capabilities enable paralegals to predict case outcomes, assess the strength of legal arguments, and identify potential risks in a more data-driven manner. These tasks support the legal team in all they do, and having paralegals undertake legal research and analysis allows the attorneys to focus on legal argument and position development.

### 4. GOOGLE BARD – SIMPLIFYING LEGAL DOCUMENT REVIEW

Google Bard is an AI-powered document review tool. It uses natural language processing and machine learning algorithms to efficiently review and analyze legal documents, contracts, and emails. Paralegals can use Google Bard to identify critical information, classify documents, and conduct e-discovery tasks more accurately and quickly. By integrating AI tools like Google Bard into the workflow, paralegals can significantly reduce the time spent on manual document review, enabling them to focus on tasks that require their specialized expertise.

AI-powered tools have the potential to revolutionize the legal industry, and paralegals can harness their capabilities to become more efficient and effective in their roles. By embracing these cutting-edge tools like ChatGPT, CoCounsel, Lexis+ AI, and Google Bard, paralegals can elevate their skills, stay up-to-date with technological advancements, and ultimately provide greater value to their legal teams and clients.

<https://klrparalegal.com/ai-tools-for-paralegals>

# All About Conversations

## Don't Know What to say?



Here are some great conversation starters when you are networking:

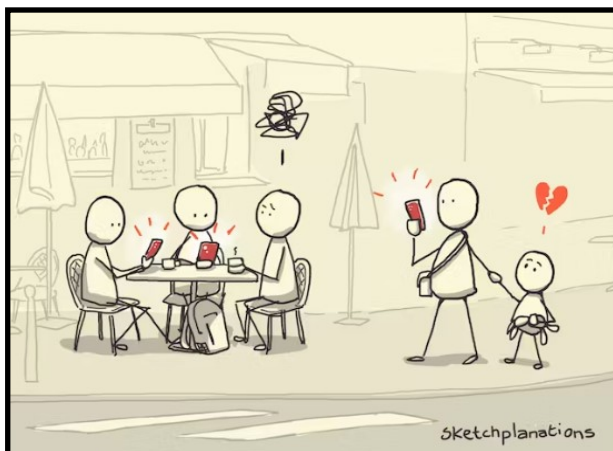
- What is your professional goal for this year?
- Why did you choose this career?
- What part of your job do you wish you could automate?
- What's the best place you've ever travelled to for work?
- Any big plans for the weekend?

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## Phubbing

Phubbing: snubbing people for your phone.

We've probably all experienced it — heck, we've probably all done it at one point or another — or at least it's likely to be familiar. Someone in a restaurant waiting for their friends to put their phones down. A family gathering where people are no longer talking to each other. A teacher without the attention of their students. A child failing to get the attention of an adult who's trying to process some messages on their phone.



Research on phubbing, mostly since the word was coined, says it largely has the effects you'd think it would. The effects vary with who's being phubbed and who's doing the phubbing: bosses and employees, family members, parents and kids, or partners. Whoever's phubbing who, snubbing is a suitable root word for it — it's not so nice to feel snubbed.

I learned about phubbing from the [Mind over Tech](#) community — they also have a [newsletter on forming better digital habits](#).

The word phubbing has the unusual distinction of being created for [an advertising campaign to sell a dictionary](#).

Phubbing, you may have spotted, is a portmanteau (a made-up word coined from a combination of two words, e.g. podcast from iPod and broadcast." ).

See, for example, Knausenberger, J. et al. (2022). [Feeling Ostracized by Others' Smartphone Use: The Effect of Phubbing on Fundamental Needs, Mood, and Trust](#). *Frontiers in Psychology*, 13. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2022.883901>

Source: <https://sketchplanations.com/phubbing>

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Adding fresh content and topics to The Tickler is my goal for 2024. Thanks to the Out-to-Lunch Bunch for their suggestions. I hope you enjoy this added feature "All About Conversations.—Editor

## Why Join a Professional Organization?

By Dee Beardsley, Emeritus PP, PLS

Getting involved in a professional association can benefit you in many ways—from networking, to the feel-good aspect of volunteering, to developing lasting personal and professional relationships. When juggling career, family and social life, time is your capital and you must choose wisely where you spend your volunteer time.

Think about your objectives in terms of how your service helps fulfill your goals. Ask yourself the following questions:

- Are you looking for educational opportunities, certifications and seminars that will further your industry knowledge?
- Are you looking for professional contacts?
- Do you need a mentor?
- Are you looking for a new job or position?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, you might want to join **and** get involved with Douglas-Carson Legal Professionals, an affiliated chapter of the National Association for Legal Professionals (NALS). Membership offers development and connections with others in your field and enhances your business profile. Having DCLP/NALS on your resume says you are committed to your profession and actively participating in its advancement. Employers like that.

And remember, don't just show up; volunteer! Attending a monthly meeting is great for face time, but it may also mean that you may be viewed as an observer instead of a participant. If you really want to get to know people and showcase your own abilities, get involved. Serve on a committee, volunteer for a task, and/or become a board member. These activities build long-lasting relationships and potential career opportunities.

My first NALS chapter held an annual game night. One year the game was Password (a popular word association game where one partner tries to get his/her teammate to guess the password using only one-word clues). The passwords were legal terms and I volunteered my boss and me to be contestants. We won and the following day I received a job offer from another attorney who was impressed by my ability to elicit correct responses from my boss (who was better at giving clues than receiving them!).

Once you decide to join a professional organization, wear your membership or certification pin(s)! When people ask what they represent, have your elevator pitch ready. An elevator pitch is a statement of about 30 seconds that introduces yourself, an idea, or a concept. This pitch should leave an interesting and memorable experience with the other person. It needs to explain what makes you, your organization, and/or the subject of the query important. By the end, you want to have made a connection or impression on your audience. Does it work? Yes! When in line to board a plane, the gentleman behind me asked what my PLS pin meant and I went into pitch mode. Turns out he was a judge and his secretary became a member.

Regardless of your objective, becoming involved in an organization is about developing meaningful relationships from which you will learn and hopefully grow your career goals. This means a commitment of personal time and, often resources in terms of membership fees or fundraising. The bottom line is that consistent and active involvement is the key to successfully developing relationships and business opportunities.

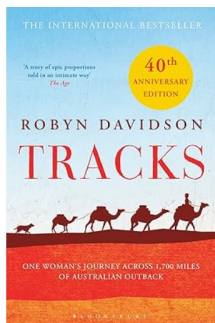




Kiminariyin under CC BY-NC-ND 3.0 DEED

## The Reading Nook

By Members for Members



### Tracks: A Woman's Solo Trek Across 1700 Miles of Australian Outback

by Robyn Davidson (1995)

Available on Amazon in a variety of formats, including Kindle.

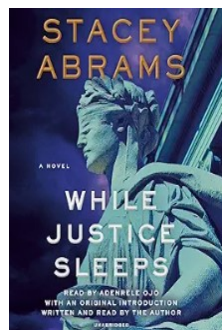
Also *Tracks: The Movie* (2013) available on Prime Video.

Highlighting the rawness of Australia with incredible cinematography and containing a powerful performance from Wasikowska, *Tracks* is very above-average dramatic fare. *Tracks* succeeds magnificently in capturing the daunting atmosphere of the vast and harsh Australian outback. Rotten Tomatoes gives the movie 4.5 stars out of 5.

The other day I found a video on Prime called "Tracks" and is the story of a young woman who, with four camels and a dog, made an incredible trek of about 1700 miles across the Australian Outback, in the early 70s. She aimed for 20 miles a day, six days a week, and she pretty well kept to her schedule, finishing the incredibly difficult and lonely trip in just under six months. I found the movie riveting.

When the movie was released in 2013, a book she wrote about the trip was re-released. Normally when I see a movie based on a book, I want to read it before seeing the movie, but in this case I am glad I saw the movie first. The movie gave some context to the book, as it is pretty much impossible to describe the vastness and emptiness of the Australian Outback. You just have to see it. The book also is incredible. Also, the book made some comments about the 60s and 70s which I hadn't thought about before.

—Vicki Van Pelt



### While Justice Sleeps

by Stacey Abrams

Available on Amazon in paperback. Also on Kindle and Audible.

"A gripping, complexly plotted thriller set within the halls of the US Supreme Court," says the ad copy. It didn't lie.

This book was recommended to me by a friend partly because she knew I had worked in the legal arena and partly because of all the drama going on at the Court recently.

The heroine is Avery Keene, a brilliant young law clerk with a troubled family, who works for legendary Justice Howard Wynn, the swing vote on many current high-profile cases. When Justice Wynn slips into a coma, Avery not only finds out he has left her his power of attorney and instructions for her to serve as his legal guardian, but that he has been secretly researching one of the most controversial cases before the court. She also discovers that Wynn suspected a dangerous conspiracy has infiltrated the highest power corridors of Washington.


The author comes by her inside knowledge of courts and government from first-hand experience. She is a lawyer, voting rights activist and politician who served in the Georgia House of Representatives from 2007 to 2017, serving as minority leader from 2011 to 2017.

In the words of author Scott Turow, **While Justice Sleeps** is "*fast-paced and full of surprises—a terrific read.*" So much so that I logged an additional 5,000 steps every time I listed to the Audible version on a walk because I couldn't stop listening.

—Dee Beardsley, Emeritus PP, PLS



Be sure to check for the special CLE code you will receive when renewing your membership in 2024.

And  to use it!!

If you are unsure of your renewal date visit [nals.org](http://nals.org) OR contact VP Sharon Coates, PP, CLP

### New to Zoom?

You can join DCLP's meetings as a participant without creating a Zoom account.

### Windows or Mac

1. Open the **Zoom** desktop client.
2. **Join** a meeting using one of these methods: (a) Click **Join a Meeting** if you want to **join without** signing in, or (b) sign in to Zoom and then click **Join**.
3. Enter the **meeting** ID number and your display name. If you're signed in, you can change your display name. If you're not signed in, enter a display name.
4. Select if you would like to connect to audio and/or video and click **join**.

### For other devices, visit:

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193-Joining-a-meeting>



February 6 — Dee Beardsley, Emeritus PP, PLS

February 9 — Jill Nelson



*Dance like no one is watching.  
Email like it may one day be  
read aloud in a deposition.*

### Answers to Bankruptcy Quiz on

Page 5

1. F
2. I
3. J
4. C
5. G
6. D
7. H
8. B
9. E
10. A

## NALS Code of Ethics & Professional Responsibility

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 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
- Pursue a high order of professional attainment

Integrity and high standards of conduct are fundamental to the success of our professional association. This Code is promulgated by 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 legal 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.



The NALS Legal Brief is a biweekly newsletter that delivers to you the trends, updates, and news from around the legal industry that is necessary to help you succeed in your career. Along with some association news, the NALS Legal Brief will give you a rundown of the current state of the legal support world by giving you a list of relevant industry-focused articles to educate and inform you.

[View past publications](#) of the NALS Legal News Brief



@Law, the NALS eMagazine for Legal Professionals, has been published for over 50 years. Each digital issue of @Law contains articles chosen by the Editorial Board, a committee of individuals in the legal support profession. It contains content to assist legal support professionals in their duties and recognizes NALS members for their achievements.

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