

The Tickler



A Monthly Publication of Douglas-Carson Legal Professionals

November 2020

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President's Message



Our speaker this month will be Kendra Bertschy, Esq. She wrote an article for the *Nevada Lawyer* magazine (published by the State Bar) for the August 2020 issue titled "Is Lady Justice Gender Blind?"

I've asked her to speak on that topic at our November meeting. In the article, she wrote about female jurors, female attorneys, and implicit bias against women. I've also asked her to give us her thoughts on the future of women attorneys, whether she sees the situation changing, whether women attorneys are respected by their male colleagues, and what she thinks women attorneys can do to assure that a jury or judge takes them seriously and concentrates on the case and the arguments rather than on the gender of the attorneys.

I think this will be a very interesting presentation and I look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

—Mary Baldecchi, Emeritus PP, PLS, CLA



DCLP Luncheon Meeting — November 4

We'll be in Red's private dining room. They will accommodate social distancing for us. **Be sure to wear your mask.** Send your lunch order by 5 p.m. Tuesday, November 3rd to nalsdclp@gmail.com or call Darci at 224-1444. View Red's [menu here](#). As a precaution, please check our Facebook page for any last minute updates or changes.

Kendra G. Bertschy

Deputy Public Defender



Kendra G. Bertschy is a felony criminal defense attorney at the Washoe County Public Defender's Office. She serves as a trial attorney, and serves as the lobbyist for the office. She is the President of the Northern Nevada Women Lawyers Association and the Chair of the Washoe CASA Foundation. She graduated with distinction from the University of Pacific McGeorge, School of Law in 2012.

The title of her presentation will be: Is Lady Justice Gender Blind?



Image source: Pixabay

Gender Bias in the Courts

Beginning in the 1980s, many state court systems established task forces to investigate the existence of gender bias in the courts. The reports of these task forces have documented sex discrimination, with its victims more often women than men. The task forces have found that much gender bias behavior is unconscious and that the manifestation of bias, although often subtle, are deeply ingrained in state judicial systems. For example, the studies have noted the existence of stereotypes concerning victims of domestic violence and sexual assault; many judges believe that women who are beaten by a spouse or raped have provoked the attack.

These studies also have shown that judges do not always treat men and women equally in the courtroom. For example, judges may identify women appearing before them by their first name but use professional titles or "Mister" when addressing men. In response to these findings, states have set up judicial educational programs on the dangers of gender-based stereotypes and have modified judges' and lawyers' codes of conduct to explicitly prohibit gender biased behavior. These task forces have also recommended that more women be appointed to the bench.

Source: [The Free Dictionary](#)

DCLP presents
Cognitive Fitness

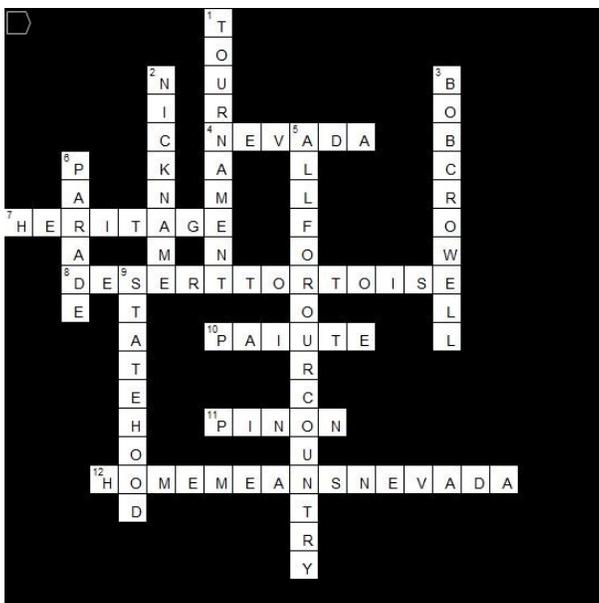


Are you keeping mentally fit during COVID-19? DCLP aims to help. This month's puzzle is Sudoku.

Are you enjoying these puzzles? What kind is your favorite?

Please let The Tickler know by emailing NALSdclp@gmail.com

Answer to the October 2020 Puzzle



November Sudoku

				8		1		
5							8	3
		7			6			
						7		4
		6			2		1	9
					3			
	7	2	4					
	9					4		
			8	9			7	1

Answer to the November puzzle will appear in the next issue.

Sudoku is played on a grid of 9 x 9 spaces. Within the rows and columns are 9 "squares" (made up of 3 x 3 spaces).

Each row, column and square (9 spaces each) needs to be filled out with the numbers 1-9, without repeating any numbers within the row, column or square.

The Sudoku grid comes with a few spaces already filled in; the more spaces filled in, the easier the game – the more difficult Sudoku puzzles have very few spaces that are already filled in.



"To beef up security, nobody can gain access to our computers until they complete a sudoku puzzle, answer a fifth-grade math question, and explain how to program a VCR."

Writing! How you say it matters.

Chances are you spend the a good portion of your day writing emails to your attorney, staff, clients, vendors. You can improve those communications by following these tips:

Strengthen your writing by eliminating weak words:

Just — Unless you're Nike and have built a multi-million dollar ad campaign around the words "Just Do It," eliminate "just" in most instances:

It's just my opinion.

It's my opinion.

The second sentence is stronger and more succinct.

Very — This is a tough word to avoid because we were taught it should be used to convey emphasis. However, it is better to replace "very" with a more descriptive word.

It's very cold.

It's frigid.

Some — too vague. "Some" should be used when writing about unknown amounts.

She moved some boxes to the library.

She moved two boxes to the library.

If you are unsure of the exact amount, communicate generalized but perspective-building details to the reader such as "a handful of," or "an armful of."

Actually — rarely does this word add strength to what you are saying.

Actually, you'd be better off without him.

You'd be better off without him.

Waffle (noun)

: empty or pretentious words

Other weak (waffle) words that too often populate our communications:

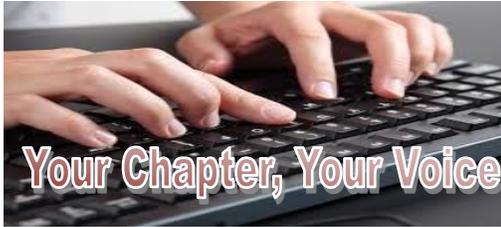
That/Well/So — if you can eliminate these words without changing the meaning of the sentence, do so.

I think/I believe/I feel/I guess/I suggest — They often don't add anything to sentences. Certain phrases, such as "I feel," can work for a psychological effect, to connect with people emotionally. But, without these phrases, your sentences can pack more punch.

I think we should hire an accountant to file our tax return.

We should hire an accountant to file our tax return.

By eliminating unnecessary words, you'll make your writing more precise and ultimately more effective.



November 1 — Heather Paterson-Lewis

November 2 — Holly Mitchell

November 3 — Dionna Negrete

November 7 — Susan Davis



Our Black Marble balance is growing. One half can be yours if you pull the black marble. The bag is light (only 3 marbles left). Get your tickets at the November 4 meeting.



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.



During the 69th Annual NALS Conference on Saturday, September 26, several association members were recognized for their service contributions to the organization. The winners announced at the conference are:

NALS Award of Excellence:

Cathy Zackery, CLP (NALs of Michigan, NALS of Greater Kalamazoo)

NALS Mentoring Award:

Diane Berry, PLS (NALs of Michigan, NALS of Greater Kalamazoo)



Wednesday, November 11

**NALS of Nashville presents:
Law Firm Economics 101**

Time: 1:00 PM Eastern Time

 [Export to Your Calendar](#)

Join NALS of Nashville and hear from John Bowers of Patterson Intellectual Property Law PC, who will speak about Law Firm Economics at the chapter's monthly 'Lunch and Learn.' **The event will take place via Zoom, and registration is free.** To register, contact Jennifer Mustain at jennifer.mustain@wallerlaw.com.



NALS Study Hall Live

Whether you are preparing for one of our certification exams, participating in our Virtual Legal Training Course (VLTC), or earning credit(s) toward recertification, *NALS Study Hall Live! Series* is a wonderful benefit of your membership with NALS. Study Hall sessions provide the opportunity to learn exam content from certified NALS members and get your questions answered! Don't miss this opportunity to earn free CLE! Participation is free and only open to NALS members, but requires registration.

Contact Natalie Shryock, NALS Certification Manager at natalie@nals.org with questions.

**NALS Study Hall Live! Series -
Alternative Dispute Resolution**

11/5/2020

Time: 9:00 - 10:00 PM Eastern

 [Export to Your Calendar](#)  [Register](#)

**NALS Study Hall Live! Series -
Courts and Jurisdiction**

11/12/2020

Time: 8:00 - 9:00 PM Eastern

 [Export to Your Calendar](#)  [Register](#)

**NALS Study Hall Live! Series - Round-up
Time...a Q&A Session**

11/19/2020

Time: 7:00 - 8:00 PM Eastern

 [Export to Your Calendar](#)  [Register](#)

Douglas-Carson Legal Professionals

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NALSdclp@gmail.com

Facebook: [NALSdclp](#)

Instagram: [NALS in Nevada](#)



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Emilie Perkins, CAE, CMP CMM, PMP

Annual conference planning, future

meeting date selection

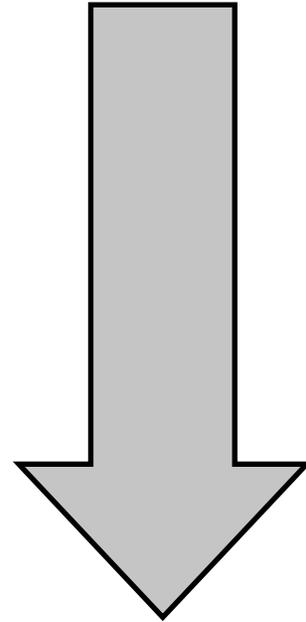
emilie@nals.org

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Mark Lewis

Individual Member and Chapter Support

mark@nals.org



COMPANY MEMBERSHIP

1. Promotes the NALS mission to engage, inspire, enhance, and promote professionals from all across the legal industry by giving them the opportunity to join as members through their companies.
2. Offers discounts for membership on a per-member basis. This discount is equivalent to 20% of an individual membership, saving money on member fees for each person under the company account.
3. Simplifies the process for companies who wish to sign up multiple employees. Joining under a company membership means that your company receives one invoice and can make a single payment for all members, rather than paying for each individually.

Membership Application



engage
inspire
enhance
promote

Membership Application

Application Date: _____
Local Chapter Name: Douglas-Carson Legal Professionals
Last Name _____ First Name _____
Home Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Employer: _____
Position Title: _____
Business Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Preferred Mailing Address: Home Business
Home Phone: _____
Business Phone: _____
Fax: _____
Date of Birth: _____
Would you like to receive monthly legal education via email?
 Yes No
Preferred Email Address: _____

Your Specialty Area: (required)

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Law Office Management | <input type="radio"/> Criminal |
| <input type="radio"/> Business/Corporate | <input type="radio"/> Bankruptcy |
| <input type="radio"/> Probate/Estate Planning | <input type="radio"/> Taxation |
| <input type="radio"/> Court Personnel | <input type="radio"/> Administrative |
| <input type="radio"/> Litigation | <input type="radio"/> Government |
| <input type="radio"/> Family | <input type="radio"/> Real Estate |
| <input type="radio"/> Other (specify): _____ | |

Years Worked in the Legal Profession:

- 0-1 2-5 6-10 11-15 16-19 Over 20

Lawyers in Office:

- 0-1 2-5 6-10 11-20 21-49 Over 50

Type of Legal Office:

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Law Office | <input type="radio"/> Self-employed |
| <input type="radio"/> Corporate Legal Department | <input type="radio"/> Court System |
| <input type="radio"/> Government Services | <input type="radio"/> Other |

Membership Category

- \$207 International Membership (US Currency Only)
 \$140 New Member Membership (National Dues)
 \$140 Active Duty Military Membership **[All-Inclusive]**
 \$85 Associate Membership (educators, judges, attorneys)
 \$39 Student Membership (minimum 9 credit hours required)
 \$ 5.00 Local Chapter Dues
 \$ _____ ~~State Association Dues~~

Total Due \$ 145.00

Payment Method

Payment must accompany application. There will be a \$20 charge for returned checks. Make checks payable to NALS.

- Check One: Check or Money Order Visa
 MasterCard Discover

Credit Card Number:

Expiration Date: Month _____ Year _____

Security Code: _____

Signature (credit card registrants only)

Return This Form and Payment to:

~~NALS the association for legal professionals~~

~~Dept. 1170~~

~~P.O. Box 291483~~

~~Tulsa, Oklahoma 74178~~

~~or Fax To (918) 582-5907~~

Douglas-Carson Legal Professionals
P.O. Box 2994
Minden, NV 89423

Questions?

Call (918) 582-5188 and ask for the member services department.

I agree to be bound by the *Code of Ethics and Professional Responsibility* and the bylaws/standing rules as adopted by NALS. (Visit www.nals.org/aboutnals for details.)

Applicant's Signature _____

Membership is nontransferable.
Please send a copy of this application to your local membership chair.