

FROM YOUR CHAPTER PRESIDENT,

Julia Strickland...



Skyline view of Little Rock, Arkansas

I am a DC addict. I love the Discovery Channel.

One of my favorite shows is *The Deadliest Catch*. The show follows a crew of fishermen as they brave the Bering Sea searching for Alaskan crabs. According to one website, the Alaskan shellfish industry averaged 400 deaths per 100,000 workers during the 1990's. That's more than triple the rate for lumbermen, ranked No. 1 among the most dangerous jobs in the U.S. Amazing! But it isn't because crabs themselves are dangerous. Rather, the conditions, such as wind, ice and high waves, are the real risks that the captain and his crew endure.

Although I don't operate in life-threatening situations in my law firm, I do see parallels between the deadly weather on the show and difficult people I interact with every day. What they say and do can be difficult, especially when it triggers something within me that makes it hard for me to keep my bearings. However, whenever a fisherman is lost at sea, his buddies don't get angry at the weather because they recognize it is a force of nature that humans can't change.

And so are our coworkers. We can't eliminate the difficult people from our offices or our lives. But, we can stay alert and aware and find ways to keep our bearings-no matter what, or who, happens.

Julia

ALA Arkansas Chapter-JANUARY Meeting

**Where: The Little Rock Club
Regions Bank Building, 30th Floor
Little Rock, AR**

When: January 13, 2010

Lunch: 11:30 a.m.

Meeting: 12:00 Noon

Topic: Office Equipment

**Speaker: Deborah Coop
Business World**



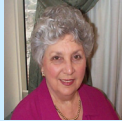
Note: Validated parking in the Regions Bank Building parking deck.

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Cross, Gunter, Witherspoon
& Galchus
501-371-9999
jstrickland@cgwg.com



Bev Eberle, President-Elect
Laser Law Firm
(501) 376-2981
beberly@laser.com



Nancy Collins, Vice-President
Mitchell, Williams, Selig,
Gates
& Woodyard
(501) 688-8800
ncollins@mwlaw.com



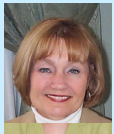
Carol Minor, Treasurer
Lax, Vaughan, Fortson,
Jones & Rowe, P.A.
(501) 376-6565
cminor@laxvaughan.com



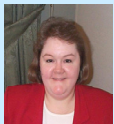
Bonnie Vickery, Secretary
Mitchell, Williams, Selig,
Gates
& Woodyard
(501) 680-0880
bvickery@mwlaw.com



Angelia Hadden, Immediate
Past President
Friday Eldredge & Clark
(501) 370-1528
ahadden@fec.net



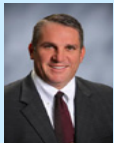
Kathy Cagle, Director
Huckabay, Munson, Rowlett
& Moore, P.A.
(501) 374-6535
Kathy.cagle@hmr.com



Gina Richburg
Wilson & Associates
(501) 734-4150
Gina.richburg@wilson-
assoc.com



Region 4 Director
Thomas H. Ivey, JR., CLM
Crain Caton & James, PC
Houston, TX
tivey@craincaton.com



National President
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skoran@fellersnider.com



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Membership in Association of Legal Administrators offers opportunities for:

**Knowledge sharing and networking opportunities (locally, regionally,
nationally and internationally)*

**Professional recognition*

**Chapter and leadership support (substantive educational tools, idea exchanges
and workshops to educate chapter leaders)*

**And a whole host of resources and opportunities for professional development*

*For more information, read more [about ALA](#) or contact Angelia Hadden at
ahadden@fec.net.*

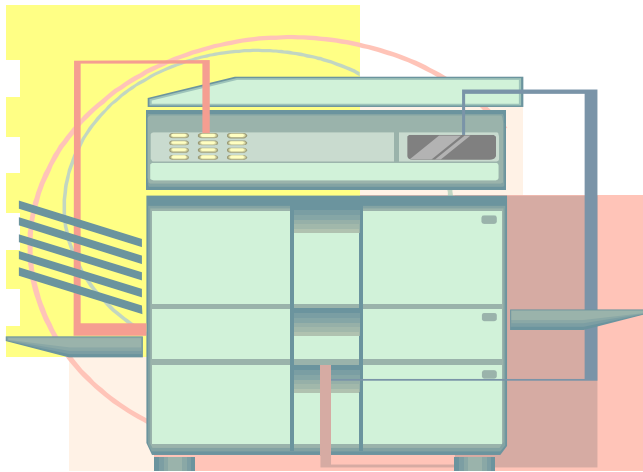


We value your comments/suggestions and even your submissions! This is your newsletter! If you would like to make a suggestion that would enhance the newsletter or would be willing to write an article for the newsletter, please e-mail Mary Coney, Newsletter Editor at mary.coney@arkansas.gov. The Legal Link editorial team consists of Pat Campbell and Julia Strickland. Clip art located in this newsletter is furnished by www.fotosearch.com.

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JANUARY ALA PROGRAM

Deborah Coop with Business World will give a presentation at our January ALA meeting on industry trends in office equipment. As law firms attempt to "Green Up", what does this mean to office equipment companies and how does it affect us all. Do we see a trend toward more low-end scanners to meet the scanning needs as of many or will the multi-function devices continue their popularity? Let's have a lively discussion about where we see the office equipment industry going.



ALA Announces 2010 Webinar Schedule Mark Your Calendars!

March 17, 2010 [Law Firm Innovation: Will You Lead or Follow?](#) *Speakers: Gary and Catherine Mitchell of GEM Communications*

April 21, 2010 [Administrator's Role as Coach in a Multi-Generational Workplace](#)

Speakers: Judy Hissong and Camille Grabowski

May 19, 2010 [The Social Networking Revolution](#) *Speaker: Ross Fishman*

June 16, 2010 [The Keys to Develop and Implement the Firm's Dreaded Strategic Plan](#) *Speaker: John Remsen*

July 21, 2010 [Legal Risks to Assessing Candidates by Social Network Sites](#)

Speaker: Shelly Freeman, J.D., HROI

August 18, 2010 [Law Firm Profitability Enhancement](#) *Speaker: Richard Turnbow*

September 15, 2010

[Electronic Records Management: How to Manage your ESI in the 21st Century](#)

Speaker: Dana Moore

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*Thanks for the opportunity
to be a part of ALA!*

Deborah Coop

ALA GOLD MEMBER

920 South Spring Street

Little Rock, AR 72201

Direct Line: (501) 399-3341 Cell (501) 779-1406

deborah.coop@businessworld-usa.com
www.businessworld-usa.com

SHARP®

ALA'S 2010 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

As 2010 approaches, don't forget to include the [ALA Annual Conference & Exposition](#) in your plans. Despite tight budgets and time constraints, this Conference may be the single most important professional development activity you undertake next year. Choose from more than 100 educational sessions and workshops focusing on competencies, skills and best practices you need for optimal performance in the workplace. You'll also have numerous opportunities to network with your colleagues to exchange ideas and discuss challenges, and you'll have ample time to explore the ALA Exposition to learn about and see the latest in law firm management products, technology and services.

[Registration fees](#) and [hotel rates](#) are now posted on the Annual Conference Web site. To help you with calculating your expenses, download the [budget spreadsheet](#) we've designed especially to assist you.

In addition to budget considerations, we encourage you to read some practical advice for [obtaining support to attend the Annual Conference](#). Learn what important steps you can take to make sure that Conference attendance is in your future.

AND

Get a taste of Conference behind the scenes

Join your fellow members, meet new people, exercise your leadership skills and experience the conference from a unique behind-the-scenes perspective....[Volunteer](#) to be a session manager at the [2010 Financial Management Conference](#)!

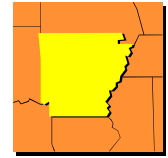
As a session manager, you will:

- Distribute session materials and assist speakers as requested
- Welcome the session participants and introduce the speaker(s) (script and guidelines provided!)
- Collect session evaluation forms

Wear your Session Manager ribbon proudly!
To [volunteer](#), or request more information, contact [Vic Maurer](#).

WHAT'S NEW???

From Around the State...



The Arkansas Chapter announces its 2009-10 Board of Directors:

President:	Julia Strickland
President-Elect:	Bev Eberle
Vice President:	Nancy Collins
Treasurer:	Carol Minor
Secretary:	Bonnie Vickery
Director:	Kathy Cagle
Director:	Gina Richburg

The following members will serve as Chairs of committees:

Advertising:	Bonnie Vickery
Bar Liaison:	Carolyn Owen
Benefits/Compensation:	Bonnie Vickery
Community:	Mary Coney/Donna Blacklaw
Education:	Nancy Collins
Fundraising:	Bev Eberle
Membership:	Angelia Hadden
Newsletter:	Mary Coney
Roster/Hospitality:	Kathy Cagle
Vendor Relations:	Gina Richburg/Kathy Cagle
Webmaster:	Paul Soulsby

Check out our state's ALA website anytime at www.arkansasala.com!

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PASS THE BISCUIT

When I was a kid, my mom liked to make breakfast food for dinner every now and then. And I remember one night in particular when she had made breakfast after a long, hard day at work. On that evening so long ago, my mom placed a plate of eggs, sausage and extremely burned biscuits in front of my dad. I remember waiting to see if anyone noticed!

Yet all my dad did was reach for his biscuit, smile at my mom and asked me how my day was at school. I don't remember what I told him that night, but I remember watching him smear butter and jelly on that biscuit and eat every bite!

When I got up from the table that evening, I remember hearing my mom apologize to my dad for burning the biscuits. And I'll never forget what he said: "Honey, I love burned biscuits." Later that night, I went to kiss Daddy good night and I asked him if he really liked his biscuits burned. He wrapped me in his arms and said, "Your Momma put in a hard day at work today and she's real tired. And besides-a little burnt biscuit never hurt anyone!"

You know life is full of imperfect things and imperfect people. I'm not the best at hardly anything, and I forget birthdays and anniversaries just like everyone else. What I've learned over the years is that learning to accept each others faults and choosing to celebrate each others differences is one of the most important keys to creating a healthy, growing, and lasting relationship and that's my wish for you today. That you will learn to take the good, the bad, and the ugly parts of your life. Because in the end, who will be able to give you a relationship where a burnt biscuit isn't a deal-breaker!

Understanding is the base of any relationship, be it a husband-wife or parent-child or friendship! "Don't put the key to your happiness in someone else's pocket - keep it in your own."

So please pass me a biscuit, and yes the burned one will do just fine.

An editorial by Mary Coney.



LARRY G. SMITH

ALA
ANNOUNCES
NEW
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR

ALA President Susan French Koran, Director of Administration at Oklahoma based Fellers Snider Blankenship Bailey & Tippens, P.C., expressed her confidence in Mr. Smith's ability to lead the Association. "Larry's experience, knowledge and familiarity with the legal industry and legal management profession as well as his strong financial background make him the right person at the right time for the ALA," Koran said. "The Board of Directors voted unanimously to select Larry as ALA's next Executive Director. We are enthusiastic about Larry taking the helm of ALA and look forward to his vision helping shape the future of the Association."

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*NEW AND ALMOST NEW
MEMBERS
WELCOME TO THE
ARKANSAS CHAPTER
OF THE ALA*

The Association of Legal Administrators' mission is to:

- Promote and enhance the competence and professionalism of all members of the legal management team;
- Improve the quality of management in law firms and other legal service organizations; and
- Represent professional legal management and managers to the legal community and to the community at large.

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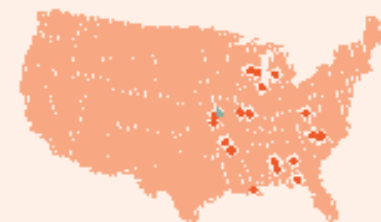
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