PRESIDENTS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Past Presidents of the State Bar of Montana are as follows:

1975-76 Marshall H. Murray
1976-77 Thomas H. Mahan
1977-78 Bruce R. Toole
1978-79 Theodore K. Thompson
1979-80 L. Morris Ormseth
1980-81 Robert D. Corrette
1981-82 Alexander A. George
1982-83 Ward A. Shanahan
1983-84 Sandy McCracken
1984-85 Douglas A. Wold
1985-86 George C. Dalthorp
1986-87 Terry N. Trieweiler
1987-88 John A. Warner
1988-89 Max A. Hansen
1989-90 Gary L. Spaeth
1990-91 Damon L. Gannett
1991-92 James W. Johnson
1992-93 Sherry S. Matteucci
1993-94 Robert M. Carlson
1994-95 Robert J. Phillips
1995-96 Gary L. Day
1996-97 Donald D. MacIntyre
1997-98 Martha Sheehy
1998-99 Brent Cromley
1999-00 Ed Bartlett
2000-01 Molly Shepherd
2001-02 Donald R. Murray
2002-03 Andrew P. Suenram
2003-04 Robert J. Sullivan
2004-05 Keith A. Maristuen

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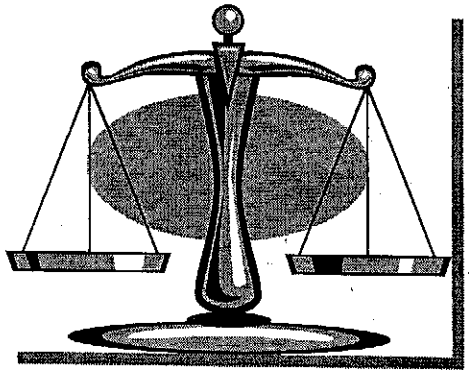
State Bar of Montana

EXHIBIT 5
DATE 1/25/05
HB 2

STATE BAR OF MONTANA



The Mission of the Board of Trustees of the State Bar of Montana is to lead the legal profession and serve the public interest.

EXHIBIT 5
DATE 1/25/05
HB 2

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P.O. Box 577
Helena, MT 59624

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Email: mailbox@montanabar.org
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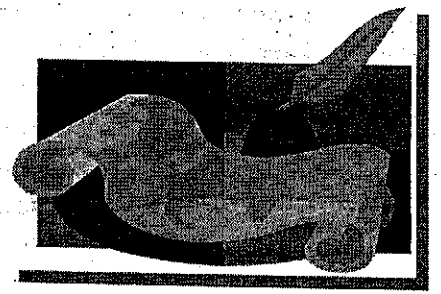


HISTORY AND PURPOSE

The voluntary Montana Bar Association, established on January 8, 1885, had by 1889, the year Montana's first constitution was adopted, a standing committee on legal education and admission to the Bar.

The State Bar of Montana was created by order of the Montana Supreme Court in January, 1974. In it's Order, the Court provided that all persons practicing law in the state were obliged to be members of the State Bar.

The purposes of the State Bar are to aid the courts in maintaining and improving the administration of justice; to foster, maintain and require on the part of attorneys high standards of integrity, learning, competence, public service and conduct; to safeguard proper professional interests of the local bar associations; to provide a forum for discussion of and effective action concerning subjects pertaining to the practice of law, the science of jurisprudence and law reform, and relations of the Bar to the public; to provide for continuing legal education of members of the Bar and to insure that the responsibilities of the legal profession to the public are more effectively discharged.

GOVERNANCE

The State Bar is governed by a Board of Trustees. Seventeen members of the Board are elected by the active members of the Bar to two-year terms from the State Bar areas. State Bar areas are made up of one or several judicial districts. The other four Board members are the President and the President-Elect, who are elected statewide to one-year terms, the Secretary-Treasurer, who is elected statewide to a two-year term, and the Immediate Past President. The State Bar has two ABA delegates.

ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS

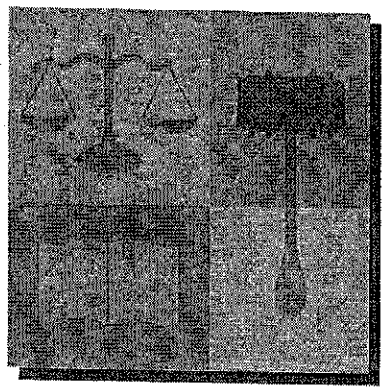
Major activities and programs of the State Bar include:

- A program of Mandatory Continuing Legal Education, requiring active members of the State Bar to secure 15 hours of continuing legal education each year and 5 ethics credits every three years.
- A Lawyers Fund for Client Protection, which makes restitution in cases where an attorney has improperly appropriated client funds. Twenty dollars of each active member's dues is earmarked for this program. Since it's inception through October 31, 1996, more than $400,000 in restitution has been paid by the Fund.
- A Lawyer Referral Service, which allows members of the public to get help to find a lawyer for help with their particular legal problem The Service receives about 5,000 calls and makes approximately 3,500 referrals each year.
- A Fee Arbitration Program to settle fee disputes between an attorney and a client short of litigation.
- Publication of informational pamphlets for the general public on a wide variety of legal subjects, including marriage and divorce, landlord-tenant law, small claims court, rights of clients, wills and probate, etc.
- Character and fitness reviews to determine if the applicants for admission to the State Bar possess the necessary traits of character and fitness for the practice of law.
- Provision of direct financial support for legal services to the poor through the Montana Justice Foundation.
- A variety of services to its members, including continuing legal education seminars, practice manuals and ethics opinions.
- A website at www.montanabar.org offering information and links to www.montanalawhelp.org and montanaprobono.net.

MEMBERSHIP DATA

As of December 1, 2004, State Bar membership totaled 4,118. Of this number, 2,920 were in-state members and 1,198 were out-of-state members. Of the same total, 3,179 were active members, 715 were inactive members, 105 had judicial status, 93 had senior status and 26 had active military status.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Annual dues are $150 for active members, $75 for inactive members, $120 for active military members and $50 for senior members. Judicial members do not pay dues while serving on the bench. (These assessments are in addition to the $25 paid by active and inactive members only to the Clerk of Court for the statutory lawyer license fee.) An assessment of $75 is also paid by active members only to fund the Montana Supreme Court's Office of Disciplinary Counsel.

Dues revenue constitutes the major source of income to the State Bar. Other revenue sources include income from State Bar continuing legal education programs and the sale of publications.