



2019 Annual Spring CLE Speakers

The Role of a Paralegal within a Family Law Practice

Maurice Ellis, Esq.

Law Office of Maurice N. Ellis

Maurice N. Ellis was born in Anchorage, Alaska, in 1967. He is truly a product of Anchorage, having attended Northwood Elementary, Willowcrest Elementary, Romig Middle School and West Anchorage High School.

After high school, Mr. Ellis attended undergraduate school at Saint John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota. After graduating from Saint John's in 1989 with an undergraduate degree in political science, Mr. Ellis went on to attend the University of Washington School of Law in Seattle, where he graduated with a juris doctorate degree in 1993.

After law school, Mr. Ellis passed the Alaska Bar exam and, in 1993, he opened his own solo law office and has been practicing family law in Anchorage ever since. He focuses almost exclusively in divorce and family law, serving the greater Anchorage area and every borough of Alaska.

Improving Safety & Respect in the Workplace: Legal Community Training

Summer Chitwood, M.Ed

Prevention and Education Coordinator

Abused Women's Aid in Crisis, Inc. (AWAIC)

This presentation will cover the law as it relates to crimes of domestic violence, protective orders, the system's response to victims, warning signs, causes of domestic violence, statistics, and resources.

Summer Chitwood has worked in the non-profit field, specifically with or on behalf of domestic violence survivors for 7 ½ years. Most of these years she was a legal advocate, advocating for survivors and helping them navigate the civil and criminal justice systems. She has her Master's degree in education and is well-versed in presenting to diverse groups, including criminal justice entities, school classrooms and assemblies, businesses, healthcare providers and other non-profit agencies. She is passionate about education and providing resources to help others understand the dynamics surrounding domestic violence.

AWAIC is our charity of choice for 2019. Please support this important organization by bringing a donation from [this list](#) or using [this link for financial donations](#).

Disaster Strikes: Are You Prepared for Earthquakes and Wildfires?

James Butler, Esq., Baldwin & Butler

Special Guests: FEMA Officers

Jim Butler is a partner in the law firm of Baldwin & Butler, LLC in Kenai, Alaska. He is also principal of Incident Response Group, LLC, an incident management consulting firm, and now serves as Director of External & Regulatory Affairs under contract to the Alaska Maritime Prevention & Response Network.

For over 24 years, Jim has represented both for-profit and nonprofit organizations that provide various oil spill response services to vessel and facility operators throughout Alaska. In addition to his legal practice, Jim regularly provides consulting services to responsible parties, pollution response and salvage contractors responding to marine casualties in Alaska and the west coast.

Jim remains active on several public and private sector incident management teams serving in various command and general staff functions on “all-hazard” and Type-1 national wildfire incidents around the country.

Jim earned a Bachelor of Business Administration/Business Economics and Public Policy from the George Washington University School of Government and Business, Washington D. C. and his Juris Doctor from Seattle University Law School. His specialized training includes Lloyds Maritime Academy: Certificate in Marine Salvage Law; U.S. Coast Guard: On-Scene Coordinator Crisis Management and U.S. National Fire Academy: All Hazard Incident Management Team and National Wildland Fire Coordinating Group: Advanced Incident Management Team.

He served through 4 state administrations as sole Public-at-large Member of the State Emergency Response Commission and served as the initial Chair of the Alaska Intrastate Mutual Aid System Committee. An Alaska commercial salmon fisherman for over 35 years, Jim was recognized by United Fishermen of Alaska as “2013 UFA Fisherman of the Year.”

Dealing with Difficult People

Brenda Cothary, Paralegal

NFPA Region 1 Director

In an ideal world, dealing with difficult behavior from your co-workers, clients, and opposing counsel would not be tolerated. In reality, however, dealing with difficult people is something many of us face on a daily basis. Without coping mechanisms, the stress of dealing with difficult people and situations can create lack of productivity, poor attitude and reluctance to come to work. This session will provide you tools for handling workplace behavior problems brought on by the six most common workplace troublemakers.

Brenda Cothary is a paralegal at Coordinated Care, a managed care organization that provides health care services to members across Washington State. She has worked as a paralegal for 19 years and has experience in bankruptcy, collections, risk management, eminent domain, personal injury, administrative law, and contracts.

Brenda graduated from the University of Idaho with a degree in Political Science and Criminal Justice. She worked in law enforcement for 7 years prior to obtaining her paralegal certificate from Highline Community College, an ABA approved paralegal program. In 2015 she graduated from Champlain College with an M.S. in Law.

Brenda has been a member of the Washington State Paralegal Association (WSPA) since 2001. She has served WSPA as Regulation Coordinator, CLE Coordinator, Chapter Director, Vice President, President, NFPA Secondary and NFPA Primary. In addition, she has served NFPA as its Education Coordinator, Legislative Committee Co-Coordinator, and served on the Ad-Hoc Committee for Non Lawyer Legal Practice. In October 2018 she was elected Region I Director and also was awarded NFPA's prestigious William R. Robie Leadership Award. Brenda was appointed by the Washington State Supreme Court to serve on the Limited License Legal Technician (LLLT) Board in 2013. She is currently in her second term on the Board, where she is involved in developing an additional practice area for Washington LLLTs. In addition, she served on the Tacoma Community College Paralegal Advisory Committee during the time the school was seeking ABA approval. She has taught various CLE seminars and has been a substitute instructor at local community colleges.