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Legal Education and Civility

BY DEAN MARK C. NILES

The popular culture image of the quintessential harsh Socratic law professor, Professor Kingsfield from The Paper Chase, is still vividly remembered almost 40 years after its release. Even current law students, most of them born in the late 1980s, can recall images of the first scene of the film when the contracts professor calls on an unprepared student and proceeds to humiliate him, all in the name of a rigorous legal education (closing the scene by offering the student a dime to call his mother so she can take him home from law school).

Less often remembered is a central plot point involving a student who is struggling in school and is reaching out to his colleagues for help. While sympathetic, his friends ultimately leave him to his own devices, motivated to a great extent by the kind of “sink or swim” attitude fostered by the faculty. The struggling student is a bit older than his colleagues and is married with a small child, giving rise to both distractions and additional responsibilities that the other students are not faced with. One day, the protagonist has a shock of conscience and goes to check on the struggling friend, only to be met at the apartment door by his wife and the tragic news that her husband has attempted suicide.

One important message that this dramatic story conveys is the important role that colleagues and friends play both in law school and in the professional world after graduation and the influence that faculty and staff and the example that they set can have on how students interact. When faculty and staff place students in positions of conflict and unnecessary competition, they convey the message that this is the natural and approved state of affairs in the profession for which they are training. But when faculty members encourage students to work together and support each other and to share in each other’s successes, students will conclude that the inherently “adversarial” profession of legal practice need not be nasty and constantly embattled.

The foundations for civility in the legal profession, along with the other building blocks of legal education, are built in law school. Most students enter law school with little or no experience with lawyers or the legal profession. From their first moments in law school, they are shown examples of the appropriate ways to treat their colleagues and of the appropriate ways that they should be treated.

Law students’ first instructors in civility are, not surprisingly, their professors. If faculty treat students with respect and foster cooperation and consensus as opposed to fear, mistrust, and antagonism, students are placed squarely on the road to developing as respectful and civil legal professionals. But if professors seek to fulfill their role as challenging and demanding educators by creating an atmosphere of competition and embarrassment by way of a harsh version of the “Socratic” method inside and outside the classroom, the professional development of students can be severely hampered.

It is critically important that faculty and staff create this positive atmosphere in law school because of the important role that students play in their own education and that of their colleagues. Students learn at least as much from each other as they learn from their law professors during their three years. And much of what is most important to civility in the profession — cooperation, courtesy, consensus-building, and respect for others — is learned (or not) outside faculty classes and office hours.

As deans, we must work to ensure that law school provides an atmosphere that fosters the kind of civility that is essential for the effective function of the legal profession and for the promotion of justice.

I have been both impressed and proud to see the great atmosphere of civility that is present at Seattle University School of Law during my first year as dean. Faculty and staff have a great affection and regard for their students, and treat them with great respect and patience. Our students have a cooperative attitude that is particularly laudable in these challenging times in the profession.

I have been touched by the number of stories of selfless and exceptional acts of kindness and support between students during the past academic year, including sharing notes, loaning money to replace lost or broken laptops, and even one incident where a student who was going through a particularly difficult time came home to find groceries in his apartment and a note from some colleagues who were concerned and wanted to make sure he was all right. I feel lucky to be at a school that attracts students of this caliber, and I am confident that the atmosphere created by faculty and staff serves to reinforce these instincts.

The first and best hope for civility in the legal profession is the right kind of legal education. Seattle University School of Law is committed to helping to build the foundation for a strong, healthy, and civil legal practice in Washington state and beyond.

This series produced in association with:

Robert’s Fund fostering care and respect

Mark C. Niles is dean of Seattle University School of Law. He was the associate dean at American University Washington College of Law, and has taught civil procedure, administrative law, constitutional law, governmental liability, and law and literature. Earlier in his career, he served as a clerk for the Honorable Francis Murnaghan Jr. of the U.S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. He was an associate at the D.C. firm of Hogan and Hartson and an attorney on the civil appellate staff of the U.S. Department of Justice.
Opportunities for Service

Supreme Court Ethics Advisory Committee

Application Deadline: September 5, 2011

The WSBA Board of Governors is accepting letters of interest and résumés for members interested in serving a two-year term on the Supreme Court Ethics Advisory Committee. The Board of Governors will nominate one member who is appointed by the Supreme Court. The term will commence on or about November 1, 2011, and expire October 31, 2013. The incumbent is eligible for reappointment and must submit a written expression of interest and a résumé if interested in reappointment.

The Committee is designated as the body to give advice with respect to the application of the provisions of the Code of Judicial Conduct to officials of the Judicial Branch, as defined in Article 4 of the Washington Constitution, and shall from time to time submit to the Supreme Court recommendations for necessary or advisable changes in the Code of Judicial Conduct (GR 10). The Committee communicates regularly by email regarding opinion requests. The Committee also meets from time to time in person, although such meetings are infrequent. Further information about the Supreme Court Ethics Advisory Committee can be found at www.tinyurl.com/4xqg8ad.

Please submit letters of interest and résumés to: WSBA Communications Dept., 1325 4th Ave., Ste. 600, Seattle, WA 98101-2539, or email barleaders@wsba.org.

Office of Public Defense Advisory Committee

Application Deadline: October 7, 2011

The WSBA Board of Governors is accepting letters of interest and résumés from members interested in serving a three-year term on the Office of Public Defense Advisory Committee. The three-year term will commence on January 1, 2012, and will expire on December 31, 2014. A written expression of interest and résumé are required for any incumbents seeking reappointment. The Office of Public Defense Advisory Committee meets quarterly to recommend policies for the agency’s appellate indigent defense, trial public defense, and parents’ representation programs, advise the agency on oversight of its programs, make recommendations regarding legislative positions and proposed rules, review budgetary matters, and consider appeals of billing decisions. During the term of appointment, no appointee may: a) provide indigent defense services except on a pro bono basis; b) serve as an appellate judge or an appellate court employee; or c) serve as a prosecutor or prosecutor employee. Committee members receive no compensation for their services as members of the committee, but may be reimbursed for travel and other expenses in accordance with rules adopted by the Office of Financial Management.

Limited Practice Board

Application deadline: October 7, 2011

The WSBA Board of Governors seeks a candidate for appointment to the Limited Practice Board, which oversees administration of, and compliance with, the Limited Practice Rule (APR 12) authorizing certain lay persons to select, prepare, and complete legal documents pertaining to the closing of real estate and personal-property transactions. The candidate’s name will be submitted to the Washington State Supreme Court for appointment, and the appointee will serve a four-year term commencing January 1, 2012, and ending December 31, 2015. In keeping with the member requirements of APR 12, the position must be filled by an active member of the WSBA. A completed application form and résumé are required for any incumbents seeking reappointment. The Board generally meets every other month. Please submit completed application forms, along with résumés (form can be found on the WSBA website at www.wsba.org/legal-community/volunteer-opportunities/volunteer-toolbox/committee-volunteer-tools) to: WSBA Communications Dept., WSBA, 1325 4th Ave., Ste. 600, Seattle, WA 98101-2539, or email barleaders@wsba.org.

Legal Foundation of Washington Board of Trustees

Application deadline: October 7, 2011

The WSBA Board of Governors is accepting letters of interest and résumés from members interested in serving a three-year term on the Legal Foundation of Washington Board of Trustees. Appointees will serve a term that commences on January 1, 2012, and ends on December 31, 2013. There are three positions available; two are held by incumbents who are seeking reappointment. Incumbents must also submit letters of interest and résumés. The Legal Foundation of Washington is a private, not-for-profit organization that promotes equal justice for low-income people through the administration of IOLTA and other funds. Trustees should have a demonstrated commitment to, and knowledge of, the need for legal services and how these services are provided in Washington. Further information about trustee responsibilities is available upon request by email to caitlindc@legalfoundation.org. Please submit letters of interest and résumés to: WSBA Communications Dept., 1325 4th Ave., Ste. 600, Seattle, WA 98109-2539, or by email to barleaders@wsba.org.

2012 Licensing and MCLE Information

Online licensing is a convenient and easy way to complete your license renewal and MCLE certification. Log in now at www.mywsba.org to verify and update your contact information, then complete your license renewal after you get your packet in the mail. The License Renewal Form and the Section Membership Form will be mailed together in mid-October, and online licensing will be available at that time. Renewal and payment must be completed by February 1, 2012. However, as the section membership year is October 1, 2011, through September 30, 2012, we encourage you to join or renew sections in October to receive the full benefit of section membership. For detailed instructions, go to www.wsba.org/legal-community/sections. If you are due to report MCLE
compliance for 2009–2011 (Group 2), you will also receive your Continuing Legal Education Certification (C2) form in the license packet that will be mailed in mid-October. Lawyers in Group 2 include active members who were admitted in 1976–1983, 1992, 1995, 1998, 2001, 2004, and 2007. (Members admitted in 2010 are also in Group 2 but are not due to report until the end of 2014.) All CLE credits must be completed by December 31, 2011, and certification (C2 form) must be completed online or be postmarked or delivered to the WSBA by February 1, 2012. For detailed instructions, go to www.wsba.org/wsba-cle.

WSBA Leadership Institute Seeks 2012 Class of Fellows

Application deadline: September 30, 2011

Applications are now being accepted for the WSBA Leadership Institute (WLI) 2012 class of fellows. To be considered, all required application materials must be received at the WSBA offices no later than September 30, 2011, at 5:00 p.m. The WLI prefers to have all applications submitted electronically. However, complete applications may be mailed to WSBA, and must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on September 30.

The WLI is an intensive leadership training program developed with the recognition that many lawyers, especially those from diverse backgrounds or other underrepresented groups, have not been traditionally recruited for leadership positions within WSBA or other bar associations. The WLI provides leadership training, skill development, and professional growth over an eight-month period. Fellows also identify a community need and collaboratively create a sustainable community-service project during the program. Fellows are also required to commit to an additional year of service to the Bar. Approximately 12 attorneys in practice for at least three years and not more than 10 years will be carefully selected for the eighth class of fellows. The eight leadership-development seminars run from January 2012 to August 2012. Each session is designed to highlight vital areas of development including leadership styles; mentorship and service; success in practice, whether in legal aid, public, or private practice; managing your career; and the legislative and judicial processes. The sessions are chaired by state, regional, and national leaders in the legal community, and include skill-building and the latest trends in professional leadership development. Fellows will earn at least 30 CLE credits, and the program is provided at no charge to participants.

For more information about the program and required application information, visit the WLI webpage at www.wsba.org/wli or contact Judy Barrett at judithb@wsba.org, 206-727-8212, or 800-945-9722, ext. 8212.

Judicial Member Licensing

New WSBA Bylaws relating to judicial members will be effective January 1, 2012 (see WSBA Bylaws Art. III, Sections A.3, B, C.2, C.4, H.1.c, H.2 and H.3). Judicial members now will be asked to complete annual license renewal forms and pay a $50 license fee if they wish to maintain eligibility to transfer to another membership type when their judicial service ends. The Judicial Member License Renewal Form will be mailed in mid-October, and online licensing will be available at that time. Please update your member contact information online at www.mywsba.org to ensure that you will receive the 2012 licensing form. Contact membershipchanges@wsba.org or 206-239-2131 if you have any questions or concerns.

Legal Foundation of Washington Notice of Public Meeting

The trustees of the Legal Foundation of Washington will meet on September 22, 2011, at the Legal Foundation of Washington offices in Seattle. The public may appear in order to comment on the Foundation's activities between 9:00–9:30 a.m. This opportunity is made pursuant to Article I, Section 1.7 of the Bylaws of the Legal Foundation of Washington. See www.legalfoundation.org for further information.

Facing an Ethical Dilemma?

Members facing ethical dilemmas can talk with WSBA professional responsibility counsel for informal guidance on analyzing a situation involving their own prospective ethical conduct under the RPCs. All calls are confidential. Any advice given is intended for the education of the inquirer and does not represent an official position of the WSBA. Every effort is made to return calls within two business days. Call the Ethics Line at 206-727-8284 or 800-945-9722, ext. 8284.

“Foundations of American Democracy” Civics Pamphlet

The WSBA offers a pamphlet for the public called “Foundations of American Democracy” that describes the basics of American government: the rule of law, the separation of powers, checks and balances, and a fair and impartial judiciary. It also includes a short quiz and a list of useful websites. Lawyers and judges are encouraged to bring the pamphlet with them when they speak to students or the public in schools, courtrooms, and the community. Teachers may also request the pamphlet for classroom use. The WSBA can provide reasonable numbers of copies at no charge, or the pamphlet may be downloaded from the WSBA website at www.wsba.org. Requests for copies should be directed to Pam Inglesby, WSBA outreach programs manager, at pam@wsba.org.

Search WSBA Ethics Opinions Online

Formal and informal WSBA ethics opinions are available online at http://mcle.mywsba.org/io. You can search opinions by number, year issued, ethical rule, subject matter, or keyword. Ethics opinions are issued by the WSBA to assist members in interpreting their ethical obligations in specific circumstances. The opinions are the result of study and analysis in response to requests from WSBA members. For assistance, call the Ethics Line at 206-727-8284 or 800-945-9722, ext. 8284.

Addicted?

We become addicted when we engage in a behavior repeatedly to obtain escape, relief, or pleasure, even when the behavior itself becomes counter-productive. We can become addicted to just about any-
thing: work, sex, alcohol, drugs, gambling, even relationships. If addiction is getting in your way, call the Lawyers Assistance Program at 206-727-8269 or 800-945-9722, ext. 8269.

Get More out of Your Software
The WSBA offers hands-on computer clinics for members wanting to learn more about what Microsoft Office Outlook and Word, as well as Adobe Acrobat, can do for a lawyer. We also cover online legal research such as Casemaker and other resources. Are you a total beginner? No problem. The clinic teaches helpful tips you can use immediately. Bring your laptop or use provided computers. Seating is limited to 15 members. The September 12 clinic will meet from 10 a.m. to noon at the WSBA offices and will focus on Adobe Acrobat (not the Reader). On September 15, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., we will discuss Outlook and Word. There is no charge and no CLE credit. To reserve your seat, contact Peter Roberts at 206-727-8237, 800-945-9722, ext. 8237, or peter@wsba.org.

Just Starting a Practice?
Think “out of the box” and consider purchasing “Law Office in a Box.” For $79, you receive an hour of consultation time plus everything you see here: http://tinyurl.com/3nr75hj. Questions? Contact Peter Roberts at peter@wsba.org, 206-727-8237, or 800-945-9722, ext. 8237.

Monthly and Weekly Job Seekers Groups
The Weekly Job Seekers group provides strategy and support to unemployed attorneys. The group runs for eight weeks and is limited to eight attorneys. We provide the comprehensive WSBA job search guide Getting There: Your Guide to Career Success. The Monthly Job Seekers Group will not be meeting in September. We look forward to seeing you on October 12 at noon for the next group. For more information about monthly and weekly job group programming, contact Dan Crystal at danc@wsba.org, 206-727-8267, or 800-945-9722, ext. 8267.

Work/Life Balance Group
The Lawyers Assistance Program (LAP) is offering “From Surviving to Thriving: Achieving a Meaningful Work/Life Balance.” This eight-week group offers both specific skills and a supportive environment for this critical topic. If you are interested in participating in the next group, contact LAP therapist Heidi Seligman at 206-727-8269, 800-945-9722, ext. 8269, or heidis@wsba.org.

Speakers Available
The WSBA Lawyers Assistance Program offers speakers for engagements at county, minority, and specialty bar associations, and other law-related organizations. Topics include stress management, life/work balance, and recognizing and handling problem-personality clients. Contact the lawyer services coordinator at 206-727-8268, 800-945-9722, ext. 8268.

Help for Judges
The Judges Assistance Services Program provides confidential assistance to judges experiencing personal or professional difficulties. Telephone or in-person sessions are available on a sliding-scale basis. For more information, call the program coordinator at 206-727-8268 or 800-945-9722, ext. 8268.

Assistance for Law Students
The Lawyers Assistance Program offers counseling to third-year law students attending Washington schools. Sessions are held in person or by phone. Treatment is confidential and available for depression, addiction, family and relationship issues, health problems, and emotional distress. A sliding-fee scale is offered ranging from $0–$30, depending on ability to pay. Call 206-727-8268, 800-945-9722, ext. 8268, or visit www.wsba.org.

Casemaker Online Research
Casemaker is a powerful online research library provided to WSBA members that can be accessed from the WSBA website at www.wsba.org/resources-and-services/casemaker-and-legal-research.

For help using Casemaker, contact Julie Salmon at 206-733-5914, 800-945-9722, ext. 5914, juliesa@wsba.org, or call the WSBA Service Center at 800-945-WSBA (9722) or 206-443-WSBA (9722).

Interested in Mindful Lawyering?
A growing number of legal professionals across the nation are applying mindfulness-based skills and training to lawyering. The Washington Contemplative Lawyers group meets on the last Wednesday of each month (September 28) at the Lawyers Assistance Program office from 8:15–9:00 a.m. The group explores ways in which mindfulness practices may lead to more effective delivery of quality legal services, increased professionalism, and lawyer well-being and health. For more information, contact Sevilla Rhoads at srhoads@gsblaw.com. Learn more about mindful lawyering at http://wacontemplativelaw.blogspot.com.

Learn More about Case-Management Software
The WSBA Law Office Management Assistance Program (LOMAP) maintains a computer for members to review software tools designed to maximize office efficiency. LOMAP staff is available to provide materials, answer questions, and make recommendations. To make an appointment, contact Julie Salmon at 206-733-5914, 800-945-9722, ext. 5914, or juliesa@wsba.org.

Upcoming Board of Governors Meetings

**September 22–23, Seattle**
**October 28–29, Tacoma**
**December 9–10, Bellingham**

With the exception of the executive session, Board of Governors meetings are open, and all WSBA members are welcome to attend. RSVPs are appreciated but not required. Contact Margaret Shane at 206-727-8244, 800-945-9722, ext. 8244, or margarets@wsba.org. The complete Board of Governors meeting schedule is available on the WSBA website at www.wsba.org/about-wsba/governance/board-of-governors.

Usury Rate
The average coupon equivalent yield from the first auction of 26-week treasury bills in August 2011 was 0.153 percent. Therefore, the maximum allowable usury rate for September is 12 percent.
Disciplinary Notices

These notices of imposition of disciplinary sanctions and actions are published pursuant to Rule 3.5(d) of the Washington State Supreme Court Rules for Enforcement of Lawyer Conduct, and pursuant to the February 18, 1995, policy statement of the WSBA Board of Governors. For a complete copy of any disciplinary decision, call the Washington State Disciplinary Board at 206-733-5926, leaving the case name, and your name and address.

Note: Approximately 30,000 persons are eligible to practice law in Washington state. Some of them share the same or similar names. Bar News strives to include a clarification whenever an attorney listed in the Disciplinary Notices has the same name as another WSBA member; however, all disciplinary notices should be read carefully for names, cities, and bar numbers.

Disbarred

Michael Primont (WSBA No. 20568, admitted 1991) of Seattle, was disbarred, effective June 2, 2011, by order of the Washington State Supreme Court following approval of a stipulation. Mr. Primont affirmatively admitted that if the matter were to proceed to a public hearing, there is a substantial likelihood the Bar Association could prove by a clear preponderance of the evidence the facts and misconduct, but did not affirmatively admit to the facts and misconduct herein. This discipline is based on conduct involving immigration fraud. According to the Stipulated Facts:

Since 2005, Ms. X has worked for Mr. Primont as a paralegal. Mr. Primont paid Ms. X $7,000 to marry Mr. W, an alien from China. On April 23, 2007, Ms. X and Mr. W were married in Las Vegas, Nevada. Mr. Primont was a witness to their marriage. Section 245(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act prohibits an alien from seeking to procure a visa by fraud or willfully misrepresenting a material fact. On December 17, 2007, Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) officers conducted an unannounced visit to Ms. X’s residence in Kent, Washington. Ms. X admitted that her marriage to Mr. W was a sham, that the only purpose of the marriage was to aid Mr. W’s immigration case, and that Mr. Primont and Mr. W were in a relationship. On January 28, 2008, Ms. X filed for dissolution from Mr. W and the case concluded in May 2008. Ms. X withdrew her I-864 Affidavit of Support. In May 2008, Mr. Primont and Mr. W entered into a domestic partnership in Washington State. In July 2008, Mr. Primont married Mr. W in the State of California. In April 2009, Mr. W’s I-485 application to register permanent residence or adjust status was denied by CIS on the basis of the fraudulent marriage. On November 18, 2010, the immigration judge accepted a pre-hearing stipulation and granted Mr. W voluntary departure to China in lieu of removal on or before December 20, 2010.

Mr. Primont’s conduct violated RPC 8.4(c), prohibiting a lawyer from engaging in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation.

Erica W. Temple represented the Bar Association. Kurt M. Bulmer represented Mr. Primont.

Suspended

Fiona A.C. Kennedy (WSBA No. 32385, admitted 2002), of Kirkland, was suspended for 18

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- Nearly 30% of Washington residents live below 200% of the poverty level
- Only 1 in 5 people will receive help for an urgent legal problem this year
- Since 2009, top requests for legal help have drastically increased:
  - Domestic Violence Advocacy ↑ 109%
  - Foreclosures ↑ 556%
  - Unemployment ↑ 890%

Sources: 2010 US Census; King County Crisis Clinic (2008-2010 comparison)

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months, effective June 17, 2011, by order of the Washington State Supreme Court imposing reciprocal discipline in accordance with an order entered by the Idaho Supreme Court. This discipline stems from an earlier disciplinary order of the Idaho Supreme Court dated May 4, 2010, in which that court found that Ms. Kennedy had engaged in professional misconduct and imposed an 18-month suspension with all 18 months withheld, placed her on probation for two years with conditions, and imposed a public censure. Ms. Kennedy failed to abide by the terms of the probation; thus, the Idaho Supreme Court ordered that the 18 months' withheld suspension be imposed. For more information, see the Idaho State Bar's publication, Advocate (May 2011 and June/July 2010), available at www.isb.idaho.gov.

Ms. Kennedy's conduct violated Idaho's I.R.P.C. 1.2(a) (failure to abide by client's decisions concerning the objectives of representation); Idaho's I.R.P.C. 1.3 (diligence); Idaho's I.R.P.C. 1.4 (communication); Idaho's I.R.P.C. 1.16(d) (failure to return unearned fees upon termination of representation); Idaho's I.R.P.C. 3.2 (failure to make reasonable efforts to expedite litigation); Idaho's I.R.P.C. 3.4(c) (knowingly disobeying an obligation under the rules of a tribunal); Idaho's I.R.P.C. 8.1(b) (knowing failure to respond to a lawful demand for information from an admissions or disciplinary authority); Idaho's I.R.P.C. 8.4(d) (conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice); and Idaho's I.B.C.R. 505(e) (failure to respond to a request from bar counsel).

Joanne S. Abelson represented the Bar Association. Kurt M. Bulmer represented Ms. Kennedy.

Suspended

Michael J. Trull (WSBA No. 16977, admitted 1987), of Tucson, Arizona, was suspended for six months, effective May 25, 2011, by order of the Washington State Supreme Court imposing reciprocal discipline in accordance with an order of the Supreme Court of the State of Arizona. This discipline is based on conduct involving Mr. Trull engaging in the unauthorized practice of law while suspended and failing to respond to bar counsel's requests to the complaint. For more information, see the Arizona Attorney (December 2009), available at www.myazbar.org.

Mr. Trull's conduct violated Arizona's Rule 31, Ariz. R. Sup. Ct., which defines the practice of law; Arizona's Rule 42, Ariz. R. Sup. Ct., ER 5.5(a), prohibiting a lawyer from practicing law in a jurisdiction in violation of the regulation of the legal profession in that jurisdiction; Arizona's Rule 42, Ariz. R. Sup. Ct., ER 5.5(b), prohibiting a lawyer who is not admitted to practice in Arizona from establishing an office or other systematic and continuous presence in the jurisdiction for the practice of law or from holding out to the public or otherwise representing that the lawyer is admitted to practice law in the jurisdiction; Arizona's Rule 42, Ariz. R. Sup. Ct., ER 8.1(b), prohibiting a lawyer from failing to disclose a fact necessary to correct a misapprehension known by the person to have arisen in the matter, or knowingly failing to respond to a lawful demand for information from an admissions or disciplinary authority; and Arizona's Rules 53(d) and (f), Ariz. R. Sup. Ct., requiring a lawyer to cooperate or respond substantively to bar counsel's requests.

Joanne S. Abelson represented the Bar Association. Mr. Trull represented himself.

Reprimanded

Julie A. Vance (WSBA No. 32189, admitted 2002), of Goldendale, was ordered to receive a reprimand following approval of a stipulation by the Disciplinary Board on April 5, 2011. This discipline is based on conduct involving failure to provide competent representation, failure to communicate, and conflicts of interest.

Ms. Vance was appointed to represent Clients A and B on criminal charges arising from a hunting incident. Ms. Vance failed to obtain their written consent to the conflict of interest in her representation of both clients. Ms. Vance also provided each client with discovery received from the prosecutor, without making appropriate redactions or obtaining agreement from the prosecutor, in violation of CRRLJ a.7(g)(3).

The charges against Client A were dismissed without prejudice. Ms. Vance failed to explain to him that the charges could be re-filed against him. Ms. Vance did not obtain written consent to her continued representation of Client B from Client A. She continued to discuss Client B's case in the presence of Client A. During Client B's trial, Ms. Vance called Client A as a witness, without advising him that his interests might be adverse to those of Client B or that he could assert his right against self-incrimination. During his testimony, Client A incriminated himself, which resulted in the prosecutor re-filing charges against him.

Ms. Vance's conduct violated RPC 1.1, requiring a lawyer to provide competent representation to a client; RPC 1.4, requiring a lawyer to explain a matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit the client to make informed decisions regarding the representation; RPC 1.6, prohibiting a lawyer from revealing information relating to the representation of a client unless the client gives informed consent; RPC 1.7, prohibiting a lawyer from representing a client if the representation involves a concurrent conflict of interest unless the lawyer reasonably believes that he or she will be able to provide competent and diligent representation to each affected client, the representation is not prohibited by law, the representation does not involve the assertion of a claim by one client against another client represented by the lawyer in the same litigation, and each affected client gives informed consent, confirmed in writing; and RPC 1.9, prohibiting a lawyer who has formerly represented a client in a matter from thereafter representing another person in the same or a substantially related matter in which that person's interests are materially adverse to the interests of the former client unless the former client gives informed consent, confirmed in writing.

Debra J. Slater represented the Bar Association. Patrick C. Sheldon represented Ms. Vance.

Non-Disciplinary Notices

Suspended Pending the Outcome of Disciplinary Proceedings

Rosaura Del Carmen Rodriguez (WSBA No. 34334, admitted 2003), of Seattle, was suspended pending the outcome of disciplinary proceedings pursuant to ELC 7.2(a)(2), effective July 27, 2011, by order of the Washington State Supreme Court. This is not a disciplinary sanction.

Suspended Pending the Outcome of Disciplinary Proceedings

Timothy Schoenrock (WSBA No. 40029, admitted 2008), of Yakima, was suspended pending the outcome of disciplinary proceedings pursuant to ELC 7.2(a)(3), effective July 13, 2011, by order of the Washington State Supreme Court. This is not a disciplinary sanction.

Suspended Pending the Outcome of Disciplinary Proceedings

Robert E. Stark (WSBA No. 26732, admitted 1997), of Bellevue, was suspended pending the outcome of disciplinary proceedings pursuant to ELC 7.2(a)(3), effective July 7, 2011, by order of the Washington State Supreme Court. This is not a disciplinary sanction. Robert E. Stark is to be distinguished from Robert Stark of Lansdale.

Suspended Pending the Outcome of Disciplinary Proceedings

Edgar James Steele (WSBA No. 23030, admitted 1993), of Sigle, Idaho, was suspended pending the outcome of disciplinary proceedings pursuant to ELC 7.1 (conviction of a crime), effective June 28, 2011, by order of the Washington State Supreme Court. This is not a disciplinary sanction.
ing banks, non-bank commercial lenders, and leasing companies preferred. Qualified applicants should have at least five years' direct experience including business bankruptcy and creditors' rights litigation in state courts. Outstanding writing and oral advocacy skills are required, as well as strong academic credentials and admission in the Washington State Bar. Qualified applicants should submit a résumé and cover letter (referencing Job #1295) in confidence to Mindy Becker, Human Resources Manager, Ball Janik LLP, 101 SW Main St., Ste. 1100, Portland, OR 97204. Applications are also accepted electronically at mbecker@balljanik.com. Ball Janik LLP is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. It is our policy not to discriminate against and to provide equal employment opportunity to all qualified persons without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, age, disability, or veteran status.

Smith Freed & Eberhard is a litigation law firm focused on providing excellent service to our clients. We are currently looking for a professional motivated individual to provide administrative support for our firm. Responsibilities will include answering the telephone and interacting with clients, maintenance of case files, word processing and editing of correspondence and legal documents, preparation of client statements, and performing general office tasks. The successful candidate will have a professional demeanor, a service-oriented attitude, and the ability to work efficiently and independently. Prior law firm or other professional office experience is preferred. Please send your résumé to Kimberly Hubbard, McDougald & Cohen PS., 1411 Fourth Ave., Ste. 200, Seattle, WA 98101 or send via email to khubbard@mcdougaldlaw.com. Principals only. No recruiters and no phone calls about this job. Thank you.

Legal administrative assistant sought for McDougald & Cohen P.S. — We are looking for a professional motivated individual to provide administrative support for our firm. Responsibilities will include answering the telephone and interacting with clients, maintenance of case files, word processing and editing of correspondence and legal documents, preparation of client statements, and performing general office tasks. The successful candidate will have a professional demeanor, a service-oriented attitude, and the ability to work efficiently and independently. Prior law firm or other professional office experience is preferred. Please send your résumé to Kimberly Hubbard, McDougald & Cohen PS., 1411 Fourth Ave., Ste. 200, Seattle, WA 98101 or send via email to khubbard@mcdougaldlaw.com. Principals only. No recruiters and no phone calls about this job. Thank you.

Litigation associate — Stoel Rives LLP is seeking an associate with a minimum of two years' experience to join its dynamic litigation practice in Seattle, Washington. Judicial clerkship is a plus. Exceptional academic record, strong writing skills, and interpersonal skills are required. Membership in the Washington State Bar Association is required. Interested applicants should visit our website at www.stoel.com/attorneys_openings.htm for more information and how to apply. Email submissions to Carina Li, Sr. Lawyer Recruiting Specialist, at cylli@stoel.com are welcome. EOE. Principals only, no recruiters, please.

Full- or part-time litigation attorney with a minimum of two years' workers' compensation experience required. Our small litigation law firm in Bellevue, Washington, offers flexible hours and a family-friendly environment. If you have a proactive and strategic approach to cases, are efficient and well-organized with your time, have a positive attitude, and are hard-working, please apply. Please submit a résumé and cover letter outlining with specificity your workers' compensation experience and compensation expectations to classifieds@wsba.org, referencing Box 743 in the subject line. Applications reviewed in confidence.

Employment litigation associate — Pacific Law Recruiters is executing a search for an associate attorney seeking to take his or her command of litigation and employment law to the next level of accomplishment. Our client, a well-established and respected firm with deep ties to the Northwest legal arena, is seeking a mid-to-senior-level associate to assume a host of duties related to employment law, with an emphasis on litigation and counseling, on behalf of private and public businesses. Prompt consideration will be given to those candidates with a minimum of five years of related experience, coupled with some portable business, and Washington State Bar accreditation. Equally important are an excellent academic record and proficient writing ability. This position provides a strong platform for practice, development, and affords an attractive compensation and benefits package. Interested candidates are requested to submit a résumé and cover letter in strict confidence to Greg Wagner, Principal, at gw@pacificlawjobs.com. Visit our website: www.pacificlawjobs.com.

Ideal arrangement for a solo practitio- ner who wants to create, build, or grow a practice, particularly in the areas of family law and bankruptcy. Established law practice on the west side of Olympia to share space with referral or co-counsel opportunities likely. Please respond in writing to Manager, 1607 Cooper Point Rd. NW, Olympia, WA 98502.
Four-attorney firm with offices in Seattle and Everett seeks an associate for the Everett office with at least five years' experience to handle a broad array of civil, probate, real estate, and business litigation matters. Courtroom experience and ability to independently handle busy caseload are essential. Please email résumé and writing sample to hiring@wmr-law.com.

Lateral associate — trusts, estates, and business: Cosgrave Vergeer Kester seeks a lateral hire to join our business practice group. Primary focus should be on relatively sophisticated trust and estate planning, administration general business, and tax expertise to complement group leader's existing practice. Successful candidate will have exceptional writing and analytical and interpersonal skills, excellent law school academic credentials, and an entrepreneurial approach to the practice. Established client base required. Admission to Oregon Bar required and to Washington Bar preferred. With offices in Bend and Portland, Cosgrave Vergeer Kester is a diverse group united by a commitment to excellence, both professionally and personally. Compensation includes competitive salary, bonus, and full package of benefits. Please send résumé, transcript, and writing sample to Cosgrave Vergeer Kester LLP, Attn: Gloria Martin, 805 SW Broadway, 8th Floor, Portland, OR 97205, email gmartin@cvk-law.com, or fax 503-323-9019. All inquiries will be held in confidence.

The Seattle-based personal injury firm of Adler Giersch seeks a "Rising Star" attorney with a minimum of five years' experience with demonstrated interest in seeking justice and fairness for his/her clients, and successful trial advocacy experience. Attorneys from plaintiffs' injury and defense insurance bars are encouraged to apply. Submissions will be confidential. We started in 1983 and are a successful four-attorney law firm (total of 16 people). We are a word-of-mouth referral practice that emphasizes moderate and severe musculoskeletal trauma and major matters involving traumatic brain injury cases. We are an AV-rated firm. We achieve great results and provide top-tier service to our clients. We offer an engaging, highly functional, and fun work environment as noted by our long-term stakeholders, competitive salary and benefits, performance-based compensation, and professional growth. We are looking for the fifth attorney because we are growing and looking to the future. We need a rising star looking to make the move into an opportunity that seldom comes along: grow professionally, contribute to the success of a law practice, be involved in the management of the firm, practice in a client-centric law firm, get rewarded well for all of it, including a fast-track to partnership, and contribute to the community. The position requires exceptional oral and written communication skills, natural people-person, high emotional intelligence, excellent organizational and time-management skills, and a strong work ethic that is client-focused, team-oriented, and driven by a passion for advocacy and excellence. Ready to make the move? Send your cover letter, résumé, writing sample, and references to Patrice Roney, Legal Administrator, Adler Giersch, PS, 333 Taylor Ave. N., Seattle, WA 98109 or send via email to proney@adlergiernsch.com.

WSBA general counsel — The WSBA general counsel serves as counsel for the WSBA Board of Governors and the WSBA executive director and handles the WSBA's legal affairs. In addition, the general counsel oversees the work of staff supporting the Practice of Law Board, the Disciplinary Board, the Court Rules and Procedures Committee, and the Rules of Professional Conduct Committee. Among other duties, the general counsel is responsible for overseeing the administration of the WSBA Ethics Program and custodianships; provides staff support to the Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection and other WSBA committees and task forces; and is responsible for managing the insurance coverage for the organization and overseeing the member-benefit insurance programs. For details and how to apply, see www.wsba.org/about-wsba/careers/wsba-jobs.

Expert witness/insurance bad faith consultant: Over 30 years' combined experience: former claims adjuster, claims manager, insurance defense counsel, and current plaintiffs' counsel. Consulted for both sides on over 50 cases. CPCU, ARM and J.D. with honors. Contact: dbuiss@hotmail.com or office phone 425-776-7386.

Delegate with confidence: Litigation attorney with 32 years' experience available for contract work, experienced in handling all aspects of litigation. Reasonable rates. Kathleen Boyle: 206-245-6568, k_boyle@comcast.net.

Experienced fire and product liability litigation attorney: More than 20 years' experience in complex commercial and residential fire cases. Available for consultation in evaluating fire-scene evidence to determine the origin and cause, meeting the requirements of NFPA 921, conducting critical discovery including expert depositions, evaluating your expert's opinions, and preparing for a Daubert challenge. For information, call Eileen Stauss at 206-399-2046.


Résumé/career consultations for attorneys — 30-minute sessions — $85. Lynda Jonas, Esq., owner of Legal Ease L.L.C. — Washington's Attorney Placement Specialists since 1996 — works with attorneys only, in Washington state only. She has unparalleled experience counseling and placing attorneys in our state's best law
firms and corporate legal departments. It is her opinion that more than 75 percent of attorney résumés are in immediate, obvious need of improvement. Often these are quick, but major, fixes. Lynda is uniquely qualified to offer résumé assistance and advice/support on best steps to achieve your individual career goals within our local market. She remains personally committed to helping attorneys land the single best position available to them. All sessions are conveniently offered by phone. Please email legalease@legalease.com or call 425-822-1157 to schedule.

Experienced, efficient brief and motion writer available as contract lawyer. Extensive litigation experience, including trial preparation and federal appeals. Reasonable rates. Lynne Wilson, 206-328-0224, lynnewilsonatty@gmail.com.

Clinical psychologist — competent forensic evaluation of individuals in personal injury, medical malpractice, and divorce cases. Contact Seattle office of Gary Grenell, Ph.D., 206-328-0262 or mail@garygrenell.com.

Experienced contract attorney: 18 years' experience in civil/criminal litigation, including jury trials, arbitrations, mediations, and appeals. Former shareholder in boutique litigation firm. Can do anything litigation-related. Excellent research and writing skills, reasonable rates. Peter Fabish, pfab99@gmail.com, 206-545-4818.

Contract attorney available for research and brief writing for motions and appeals. Top academic credentials, law review, judicial clerkship, complex litigation experience. Joan Roth, 206-898-6225, jlrmcc@yahoo.com.


Legal marketing and web design: specializing in legal marketing and offering full-service marketing services. Websites, Advertising, Blogging, Search engine optimization. Social networking. Info@AmendmentM.com; www.AmendmentM.com; 425-998-7257.

Appraiser of antiques, fine art, and household possessions. James Kemp-Slaughter ASA, FRSA, with 33 years’ experience in Seattle for estates, divorce, insurance, and donations. For details, see http://jameskempslaughter.com; 206-285-5711 or jkempslaughter@aol.com.


Dispute Resolution Center works with attorneys to provide certified mediation services; interest-based, facilitative, co-mediators. Sliding scale throughout Snohomish/Skagit/Island. Evening, weekend, and Spanish-language sessions available. Contact 425-212-3931; www.voaww.org/drc.

I buy houses. Refer your clients with confidence. Honest and reliable. Clancy Tipton; 206-947-7514 or catipton1@msn.com.

Experienced contract attorney with strong research and writing skills drafts trial and appellate briefs, motions, and research memos for other lawyers. Resources include University of Washington Law Library and LEXIS online. Elizabeth Dash Bottman; WSBA #11791; 206-526-5777; bjelizabeth@qwest.net.

Medical/legal consultant — Internal medicine/gastroenterology: Theodore W. Bohlman, M.D., licensed, board-certified IM/GL. Record review and medical expert testimony. 208-841-0035; tbohlmman@ mindspring.com.

Long-term care specialist — WSBA member, licensed as independent long-term care insurance producer. Can provide insurance solutions for your estate planning, dissolution, and business clients. Individuals, employee benefit plans, sponsored groups. Contact Helen Boyer, 425-557-5372; helen.boyer@ltcfp.com; or visit www.helenboyer.ltcp.com.

Space Available

Bellevue offices: AV business/EP law firm has offices for small firm or solo practitioners. Great for startup! Relaxed park-like setting near downtown Bellevue. Receptionist, copier/scanner/shredding, conference/seminar rooms, tax library, kitchen, shower, and free parking for tenants/clients, and with easy in and out and freeway access (I-405, I-90, and SR 520). Contact George at 425-990-1572 or g.smith@smithzuccarini.com.

Attractive northeast Lake Union law office has space available immediately for rent. Suitable for self-sufficient sole practitioner or someone needing a Seattle location. Conference room, phone, and Internet available. Call Ralph Maimon at 206-323-0911 or email rmaimon@maimonlaw.com.

Space available for lease or rent: 3,500 square feet turnkey office space, eight computer stations, six-person conference room, 10-person conference room, fax/scanner/copier, and stand-alone copier. Also includes Bindertek filing system with 50-plus binders and wall cabinet. Fully furnished and decorated. Eight parking spaces. Tacomalaw.com and tacomalaw.net available and option to keep family law phone number in existence for 25 years. Great for satellite office or starting your own firm in Tacoma. One-half mile from courthouse — easy walking distance. 253-229-0019.

Sublease law offices available — Northwest views to the San Juan Islands on the 71st floor of Columbia Center, 701 5th Ave., Seattle, WA. Two private offices, one work station, includes conference room and reception service. Call Barbara Jacobson, The Jacobson Group — Commercial Real Estate. 206-343-5636.

Why pay rent? Own your law office. Professional suite for sale includes three offices, staff space, reception area, kitchen, two bathrooms, level sidewalk entrance, and two private parking places. Ample street parking for clients. Located at 8009–8011 Greenwood Ave. N, Seattle, across the street from Greenwood Library. This location has operated as a neighborhood law office since 1993 and will accommodate your small firm for years to come. Tax assessment is $350,000 and is offered for $299,000 due to retirement. Call Robert Carpenter; 360-697-3764. Please do not disturb current tenant lawyer.
Seattle office space (Class A): One very cool and colorful office with beautiful views of Puget Sound on 38th floor of Bank of America Plaza (5th & Columbia) available for sublease. Includes one adjacent work station for support staff, use of conference room, reception, kitchen, telephone service, mail, messenger, etc. Bookkeeping, garage parking, copier, fax services available. Larry, 206-442-1560.

Unique space available (Seattle) — Sound view office in Market Place One, to share with established practitioners. North end of the Pike Place Market, adjacent to Victor Steinbrueck Park and the Seattle Athletic Club. Includes a secretarial station, joint use of the receptionist, conference room, and copyscape/ scanner machine. Ample parking in the building. Contact Alexandra Fast at 206-728-0996.

One office in Wells Fargo Center with an established Seattle commercial and technology law firm. Rent includes receptionist, reception area signage, conference rooms, kitchen/lunchroom, BW/color copiers, scanners, fax. High-speed LAN and Internet available. 206-382-2600.

Federal Way office available in newly remodeled building in the heart of Federal Way’s professional district. Rent includes use of shared conference room, kitchen, DSL, copier, fax, and parking. Secretary station also available. Call 206-399-2046.

Downtown Seattle executive office space: Full- and part-time offices on the 32nd floor of the 1001 Fourth Avenue Plaza Building with short- and long-term lease options. Close to courts and library. Conference rooms and office support services available. $175 and up. Serving the greater Seattle area for over 30 years. Contact Business Service Center at 206-624-9188 or www.bsc-seattle.com for more information.

Turn-key — new offices available for immediate occupancy and use in downtown Seattle, expansive view from 47th floor of the Columbia Center. Office facilities included in rent (reception, kitchen, and conference rooms). Other administrative support available if needed. DSL/VPN access, collegial environment. Please call Amy, Badgley Mullins Law Group, 206-621-6566.

Bellevue office space: Two offices available for sublease in downtown Bellevue. Rent includes shared use of conference rooms, small law library, and kitchen. Options include use of copier and covered parking. Please contact asakai@jgslaw.com.

Belltown (Seattle) law firm offering turn-key sublease. Corner lot building with large windows and beautiful cherry wood interiors. Two professional offices (18’ x 16’ and 14’ x 11’), plus one paralegal office and one staff workstation. The office facilities include furnished reception room with working fireplace, built-in reception desk, furnished conference rooms, library, kitchen, working file room with high-speed copier/fax/scanner, and large basement file storage. Administrative support of high-speed Internet, cable, and VoiceIP is available. Contact accounting@aiken-lawgroup.com.


Executive office at Millennium Tower (Seattle): 630 square feet of Class A office space is available for sublease for $1,300 month. The unfurnished office space has its own private entrance and an adjacent conference room/office. Great location for easy court and library access. Potential for office services (scanner, copier, mail handling, and messenger services) is available. Please contact Heather Stephen, Barker Martin, at 206-381-9806, ext. 132 or heatherstephen@barkermartin.com.

Practice for Sale

Established in Freeland, WA — Respected and thriving trust and estate, elder law, and real estate practice drawing from central and south Whidbey Island. Seller price, terms, training, and work for buyer negotiable. Contact: attorney@whidbey.com.
I became a lawyer because I wanted to be the first in my family to go beyond a four-year degree and into law, as we were refugees from the Vietnam war and I am a first-generation immigrant.

The future of the practice of law is keeping down the expense of going to law school so that it is affordable.

One of the greatest challenges in law today is the sharing of information electronically via the Internet, as clients have more access to information and resources than ever before... for better or worse... only time will tell.

If I were not practicing law, I would become a public speaker and/or educator.

If I could change one thing about the law, it would be to provide funding for the courts to retain additional judges in order to relieve the backlog. Then trials won’t be scheduled so far out and/or get bumped when the trial date approaches.

This is the best advice I have been given: You only get two days to sulk and feel sorry for yourself after you lose a case; after that, you shake it off and it is business as usual.

I would share this with new lawyers: When you start hating the law, it’s time to find a different profession.

Traits I admire in other attorneys: The desire and intent to amicably resolve a case instead of incurring unnecessary litigation expense; courteous signs of respect and professionalism; great oral presentation and/or demeanor in court.

I would give this advice to a first-year law student: Savor the next three years of your life and make lasting connections with your law-school classmates, as they will be your future colleagues; absorb as much information as you can from your classes, as you never know when it may come in handy.

Someone whose opinion matters to me: My mother. Females are not looked at as being the breadwinner and/or employed in a “profession” in Cambodia. It’s therefore important to me to show my mother that females can hold a position in a predominantly male-run profession, and that we can be the sole financial provider in a family unit.

People living or from the past I would like to invite to a dinner party: Maya Angelou and Oprah Winfrey. Maya Angelou because she comes across as such a deep, enriching person that I find inspiring. Oprah Winfrey because she has been such a dominating figure in television, journalism, politics, etc. I would be fascinated to find out how she keeps it all together and continues to be successful after all these years.

I am most proud of this: Running my first marathon in Kona, Hawaii, in 2005.

I am most happy when I’m shopping!

Best stress reliever: Running, dragon boating, biking, hiking, swimming.


What keeps me awake at night: Cases that have significant liability and damage disputes.

Currently playing on my iPod/CD Player/record player: Rascal Flatts’s newest CD, Nothing Like This.

I can’t live without: Sweets such as ice cream, cookies, and cakes. And French fries.

The hardest part of my job: Dealing with aggressive, demeaning, difficult, rude attorneys.

The best part of my job: Winning a case and seeing my clients with tears of joy.

My name is Sok-Khieng Lim and I am a shareholder with the law firm of Davies Pearson in Tacoma. My primary areas of practice are immigration law and civil litigation. I received my J.D. from the University of Arizona College of Law in 2000. I earned my B.S. degree from the University of Oregon in 1996. I am currently a board member of the Tacoma Community House and the Village Pig Project, both of which are nonprofit organizations that help immigrants. I am an active member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, Washington State Association for Justice, and Washington Defense Trial Lawyers. You can reach me at 253-238-5101 or slim@dpearson.com.
Cheaters–Lawyer Edition

When tears come down,
Like falling rain,
You’ll toss around,
And call my name,
You’ll walk the floor,
The way I do,
Your cheatin’ heart
Will tell on you...

— Hank Williams

(Voiceover): Welcome to Cheaters–Lawyer Edition, where we expose client infidelity in all its hideous forms. For today’s investigation, meet Perry Noyd, a 46-year-old lawyer with a general practice. Recently, Perry has begun to worry that one of his best clients, a 50-year-old businesswoman named Scarlett LeDur, may be getting her legal needs met somewhere besides Perry’s familiar office.

Scene: C-LE host Joe E. Gecko interviews Noyd at Noyd’s office.

Gecko: Perry, what first made you think Ms. LeDur might be straying?

Noyd: Well, Scarlett and I have had a faithful lawyer-client relationship for more than 10 years. Ten years! In this day and age, that’s almost unheard of. I mean, look at all the unbundled legal services and LegalZoons and whatnot strutting around. It’s all cheap fees and no long-term commitments. We weren’t like that. Then, a couple of months ago, I heard rumblings Scarlett started a new side business, a latte stand or something.

Gecko: And did your relationship change at that point?

Noyd: Rumor had it she was thinking about hiring someone else to handle the legal stuff — you know, draw up an LLC, put some employee agreements together, the usual stuff I always did for her. I tried calling and emailing her, just to touch base, but she never replied. That’s when I knew something was up. She had been such a loyal client, but this just looked wrong. That’s when I called you guys.

Gecko: Since you contacted us, Perry, we’ve had our detectives following Scarlett. Nothing eventful happened at first. Then, on Day Three of the investigation, she left her office and headed to a business complex a mile or so away. Our detectives followed her. We have video, Perry. It isn’t pleasant.

Noyd: I had a feeling this was coming. It’s OK, though. I need to see it.

Gecko (producing a handheld video monitor): You can see here that Scarlett pulled into the parking lot of the complex, then entered one of the buildings. She went up a flight of stairs and entered the office of “Loor, Entyce & Steele, Attorneys at Law.”

Noyd: Oh no, no.

Gecko: I know this is difficult, Perry.

Noyd: I was afraid something was going on, but I never imagined she would fall for those low-life scum.

Gecko: Our detectives were able to find a vantage point where they could see into a conference room. Are you sure you want to see this, Perry?

Noyd: Yes. I need to know the truth.

Gecko: As you can see, Scarlett met in this room with a man in a suit. (View on video monitor zooms in.) It appears they’re, well, signing documents. There doesn’t seem to be any other explain--

Noyd (thrusting index finger at monitor): That’s my pen! One of the Law Offices of Perry Noyd deluxe rollerball models I gave her every time she came in. She’s using my pen with another lawyer’s documents. I think I’m going to be sick.

Gecko (receiving call on cellphone): She is? Right now? (Turns to Noyd) Perry, I’ve just gotten word Scarlett returned to the offices of Loor, Entyce & Steele, and is there right now. Do you want to confront her? It’s your decision, but I would think that from what you’ve seen, you’d want to ask her how she justifies her actions.

Noyd: I sure do.

(Gecko, Noyd, and camera crew clamber into vans and race to Loor, Entyce & Steel. As the receptionist tries to intercept them, Noyd barges into a conference room, where he finds Scarlett meeting with one of the firm’s partners, Lance Loor.)

Noyd: So this is what I get after 10 years of hard work for you, Scarlett?

LeDur: Perry! What are you doing here? Are you crazy?

Noyd: What am I doing here? What are you doing here, with this late-night-TV-ad slimeball?

Loor: What are you talking about? Our ads don’t run that late.

LeDur: You just don’t get it, do you, Perry? It was over between us long ago. All I ever was to you was a nice little fee, a check that never bounced. After I paid my bills, I never heard from you. You didn’t return my calls, answer my questions. Lance here has already spent more time with me than you ever did.

Noyd: Well, that’s just great. I’ll tell you this much: whatever legal advice you’re getting from this chump won’t be worth the toilet paper it’s printed on. (Gecko takes hold of Noyd and escorts him from the building.)

(Voiceover): We checked back with Perry and Scarlett a couple of months later. And wouldn’t you know it, the two legal love birds decided they couldn’t go on without each other. It probably helped that Scarlett’s new lawyer got disbarred in the meantime for pilfering from client accounts. Next up on Cheaters–Lawyer Edition: the story of an estate-planning attorney who suspects her client just isn’t worthy of trust. ☎️

Bar News Editor
Michael Heatherly
practices in Bellingham. He can be reached at 360-312-5156 or barnews-editor@wsba.org.